

Press release
2011 : International Year of the Forest

"d'abord les forets.../ opus 2"

July 3 / October 9 / 2011

Allemagne / Argentine / Belgique / Brésil / Canada / Chine / Espagne / France / Iran
Italie / Japon / Mali / Mexique / Portugal / Russie / Sénégal / Suède / Taiwan / Uruguay / Usa

Robert Harrison opens his work

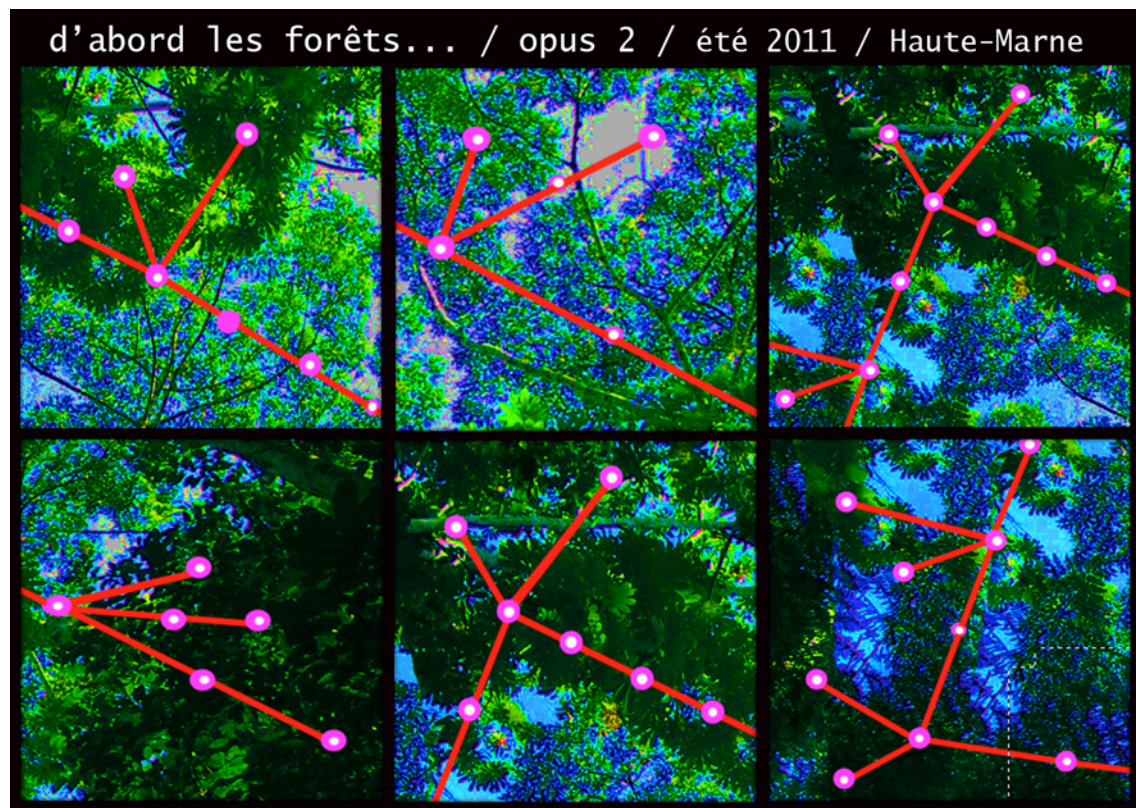
"Forests: an essay on the Occidental Imaginary"

by the following quotations by Giambattista Vico

(a Napolitan humanist, author of 'The New Science', who died in 1735):

"Human things succeed each other by the following order:

**"first the forests, after that the huts, thence the village, next the cities and
finally the academies"**



The event "d'abord les forets... opus 2" also aims to promote the National Park in advance by holding an international artistic and cultural forum. The International Year of the Forest in 2011 offers an exceptional opportunity to put from its outset on the international agenda the National Park between Champagne and Burgundy.

The manifestation is composed of the following events:

- 1. The artistic itinerary along the valleys of Aube and Aujon** between Langres and Chateauvillain. This itinerary allows us to discover the multiple facets of contemporary artistic creations. The artworks will be exhibited in barns, churches, washhouses, farmyards, pigeonlofts, fields, village squares....
- 2. "The Invisible Exhibition":** around 100 works are hidden within the department of Haute Marne. In order to find these works, it is essential to be able to walk, to be patient and to be equipped with a GPS.
- 3. "The exhibition of the treasures of the valleys of Aube and Aujon"** will be held between 4th September and 2nd October 2011 at the Abbaye d'Auberive.
- 4. Two "Magics nights in the forest"** in the company of artists of all disciplines (dance, music, performance) and **4 evenings** of films and concerts in the open air.

1

The artistic circuit of the valleys of Aube and Aujon

Sculptures, sound installations, photographs, paintings and videos

The towns/villages taking part: Chateauvillain, Marmesse, Orges, Dancevoir, Arc en Barrois, Vauclair, Auberive, Faverolles, Aubepierre, Cour-l'Eveque, Rouvres, Giey-sur-Aujon, Saint-Loup-sur-Aujon, Langres.

These exhibitions allow us to discover the multiple facets of artistic creations as well as the wonderful landscape and sites of the valleys of Aube and Aujon.

We wish to encourage exchanges and dialogues between people who tend too often to be unaware of each other, to create new solid ties, and to breath new life into villages by multiplying occasions when people can meet.

Because the ways of creation are multiple, improbably and unpredictable, we have opened the commissionership to 7 independent curators of different aesthetic and cultural horizons and nationalities (Patrick Beaulieu, Montréal / Krn Dermineur, Dakar / I-Wei Li, Berlin, Taipei / Thomas Pigache, Berlin / Margherita Balzerani, Paris / Alice Schÿler Mallet, New York / Yoris van den Houtte, Bruxelles / Pierre Bongiovanni, Maison Laurentine).

2

The Invisible Exhibition

The Invisible Exhibition is made up of 100 works scattered or hidden in the nature, from 4th July to 10th October 2011.

The exhibitions cover all the departments of the Haute-Marne and part of the future National Park between Champagne and Burgundy, namely the forest zones of oak and beech trees.

The artworks can be miniscule or big, they should be autonomous in energy, and ready to resist weather conditions.

Every artwork is attached (in latitude and longitude) to an important site.

Details are given out to the public via an internet site.

The visitors discover the exhibitions on foot with the help of a GPS.(? en anglais?)

Each work is accompanied by a notebook so that the visitors can get to know about the author and find the relevant information about the work, and also to write down their impression for the future visitors to read. Visitors are invited to write down their impression on the internet site.

3

The treasures of the valleys of Aube and Aujon

The exhibition, which constitutes up to 100 treasures lent by the inhabitants of the 2 valleys, will be held in the Abbaye d'Auberive from Sunday 4th September to Sunday 2nd October 2011.

On this occasion, the families will be able to meet up around a big picnic and a 'revival celebration'. In order to value the human patrimony of the local people, both natural and professional, la Maison Laurentine will ask families of different villages to choose an object to which they hold particular attachment and which tells a bit of their history.

The exhibition will be held in the prestigious cellars of the Abbaye d'Auberive (which is especially restored and opened to the public for the occasion).

- Each treasure will be accompanied by a description, either written or audiovisual.
- The exhibition can be equally seen on the internet via a dedicated multimedia and interactif site (<http://www.tousvoisins.tv>) from 4th September 2011.

4

Two "Magics nights in the forest" in the company of artists of all disciplines (dance, music, performance) and **4 evenings** of films and concerts in the open air.

About the « Maison Laurentine »

La Maison Laurentine, company law 1901, is situated in Aubepierre-sur-Aube, in the heart of the future « Parc National des Forêts ». It is an art centre which is dedicated to themes of nature and the forest.

La Maison Laurentine proposes the following:

- To welcome artists (contemporary art, multimedia, contemporary writing, music and performance), and to welcome researchers for days of creativity and research;
- On-site exhibition of artworks;
- Production, promotion and diffusion of intellectual and artistic works around the questions of art / nature / forests / land;
- To put into place an international network of artistic talents (artists, producers, curators, critics, collectioners, and amateurs of art) in order to promote and encourage the diffusion of creativity and contemporary ideas through exhibitions, trainings, workshops, debates and meetings;
- The work of the researchers will concern the relation between humanity / animality, wild /domesticity, bizareness/normality;
- La Maison Laurentine wishes to experiment new ways in economic models, cultural dynamics and artistic practices.

Philosophy

The inhabitants

The inhabitants are neither the public, nor the audience; they are neither market targets, nor clients. They are natural partners with whom to define common grounds, also to share emotions/feelings, skills, experiences and visions. We are therefore talking about aiming to work with the people (including children, adults and elders, whether residents or tourists), and not directed at the people.

The artists

Artists are not atypical creatures who are meant to broaden our sphere of entertainment. They are bearers of questions and emotions which they wish to divulge to other people and with whom they try to engage in singular and intimate dialogue. Art exists in order to invite us to discover the mysteries of being with all its intense and rich fragile beauty. And beauty, by nature, is accessible to all and each.

Technology

Technology offers the opportunity/potentials of discovery, and compels us to put to use its logic into conversations, arguments and debates.

Crisis and solidarity

Need for solidarity should not just be reserved for periods of torment, crisis or destitution/despair. We should know how to experience it even on the least spectacular mornings of our existence.

Contact

Pierre Bongiovanni 33 6 83 69 72 78 pierre.bongiovanni@gmail.com www.laurentine.net