



View over the English garden, château de Fontainebleau, © DR

GRANDEUR NATURE

18 artists in the garden

**A contemporary art visit in the English Garden at the Château de Fontainebleau
From 14 May to 17 September 2023**

From 14 May 2023, for the first time, visitors can enjoy contemporary art in the English Garden at the Château. The exhibition outside the walls has been set up in partnership with the Hunting and Nature Museum and the François-Sommer Foundation. It invites visitors to see the exceptional green setting in a new way.

Visitors will enjoy one surprise after another with some 40 works of art in the garden, which was designed by Maximilien-Joseph Hurtault according to the landscaping model under the Napoleonic Empire. A pair of topiary rhinoceroses by François-Xavier Lalanne or some joyful monsters straight out of Françoise Petrovitch's workshop will interact with the unusual trees in this green heritage setting. Dwarves will turn into giants, chairs will climb up to the sky and the white willow will be decorated with curlers. The installations are both ephemeral and filled with fantasy. Some have been specially created for the occasion, helping to bring out the beauty of the English Garden, to take a new look at the perspectives, but also to highlight the garden's importance and fragility.

Christine Germain-Donnat, Director of the Hunting and Nature Museum, and Jean-Marc Dimanche, an independent artistic consultant, are curating the exhibition. They chose the 18 artists for the unique and personal links they have forged with nature. They have worked to integrate the works to perfection in this green theatre, working hand in hand with the Château gardeners. The public, from visitors out for a stroll to lovers of art and heritage, are invited to a surprising art hunt and a chance to (re)discover the garden as a playground all summer long.

For this first event, the Château de Fontainebleau and the Hunting and Nature Museum wanted to organise a visit in a fun spirit, with a touch of Surrealism, with a little nod to Belgium, the guest country at the Festival of Art History that will have the climate as its theme (2, 3 & 4 June).

As an echo and an introduction to the visit, the MonkeyBird artists will be taking over the fences in Boulevard Magenta, near the Gate of Honour, for an artistic event with the support of the Seine-et-Marne department. The event will enjoy the exceptional support of the Seine-et-Marne departmental council, as part of its season of "Incroyables jardins ! Émotions et découvertes au fil des saisons" (Incredible Gardens! Emotions and discoveries over the seasons).

With works by Julien Berthier, Gilles Barbier, Christophe Charbonnel, Carole Chebron, Céline Cléron, Martine Feipel & Jean Béchameil, Jean-François Fourtou, Yochikazu Goulven Le Maître, Elsa Guillaume, Sébastien Jouan, Katarzyna Kot, Gerard Kuijpers, François-Xavier Lalanne, Laurent le Deunff, Présence Pantchounette, Françoise Petrovitch, Philippe Ramette and Philémon Vanorlé (La Société Volatile), with the participation of MonkeyBird artists.

CURATORS

General curators:

Christine Germain-Donnat, Director of the Hunting and Nature Museum, and Jean-Marc Dimanche, independent artistic consultant.

Associate curators:

Thierry Lerche, head of the gardens department at the Château de Fontainebleau

David Millerou, head of the educational department at the Château de Fontainebleau

Anaïs Dorey, head curator for sculptures at the Château de Fontainebleau

AROUND THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition has been organised out of doors for the first time to highlight the landscape heritage of the Château de Fontainebleau. Nature is in fact one of the central themes of the annual programme, since the theme of the 12th Festival of Art History, taking place on 2, 3 and 4 June, will be the climate. Visitors can also rediscover the splendid but fragile plant decoration of the English Garden during a Land Art workshop and contemplational visits. These activities are a way for visitors of all ages to set their artistic creativity free during a sensitive and inspirational visit to the garden. With their game booklets children, as well as adults, can explore the exhibition at their own pace.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening days and times

The exhibition is open in the English Garden of the Château every day from 14 May to 17 September 2023.

The Château is open every day from 9.30 am to 6 pm, except Tuesday.

Prices

€4 for the exhibition in the garden | €16 with admission to the Château | Free for visitors under 26.

A pass (€15) is also available, providing unlimited access to the garden throughout the exhibition

How to get to the Château de Fontainebleau

By road from Paris: Porte d'Orléans or Porte d'Italie, then the A6, Fontainebleau exit.

Train: Gare de Lyon (main lines), Fontainebleau / Avon station, then bus line 1 to Les Lilas, get off at Château.

Information et réservations on www.chateaudefontainebleau.fr

CONTACT PRESSE

Anne Samson Communications

Clara Coustillac | clara@annesamson.com | +33 (0)1 40 36 84 35 | +33 (0)6 58 93 63 06

Aymone Faivre | aymone@annesamson.com | +33 (0)1 40 36 84 32

Château de Fontainebleau

Angeline Hervy | angeline.hervy@chateaudefontainebleau.fr | +33 (0)1 60 71 59 13

Justine Saillard | justine.saillard@chateaudefontainebleau.fr