

Michele Ciacciofera
sans commencement
et sans fin

until
13 09 2021



MUSÉE
D'ART CONTEMPORAIN
DE LA HAUTE-VIENNE

— château de Rochechouart

Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art is delighted to welcome Michele Ciacciofera for an exhibition occupying the entire castle space, his first solo show to take place in a French museum.

Michele Ciacciofera (b. 1969 in Sardinia) creates work that is graphic and sculptural, often deployed in extensive programmatic ensembles concerned with memory and archaeology, a sense of history and passing time.

Sans commencement et sans fin [No Beginning and No End] refers to the name of a collected edition of philosophical Essays written by Michel de Montaigne throughout his life. In the present exhibition at Rochechouart Michele Ciacciofera presents a compilation of more than a hundred works made over the last ten years. Some of them are emblematic pieces, reactivated specially for this occasion, in particular his impressive Janas Code installation which featured in the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017.

The works are displayed on all three floors of the museum accessed via the castle's spiral staircase, sending visitors on a winding journey that fuses organic and inorganic artefacts, and mixes fragments with fossils, politics, writing and archival records.

Michele Ciacciofera has organised the exhibition to set up a network of interconnecting resonances, each piece linked by overarching issues of knowledge and our relationship to the sands of time as they incessantly deposit new layers of the past.

Emerging amongst forms and signs of ritual and magic are letters that evoke cuneiform writing and human figures suggestive of Mycenaean goddesses. Such profusion of historical references tends to compress the past until it begins to merge with the present, making us aware of an underlying collective unconscious, a common vision and way of thinking that mankind has always shared.

Born in Nuoro, Sardegna, 1969, moved to Palermo where he grew up and at university graduated in Political Science. Afterwards, he returned to Sardegna for an apprenticeship with the painter and architect Giovanni Antonio Sulas. He has since then lived and worked in Siracusa, Sicily since 1990, and in Paris since 2011 where he now lives and works.

Ciacciofera has always been invested in the relationship between human existence and the natural world. Using a variety of artistic approaches, including installation, sculpture, painting, drawing, theater, video and sound, he freely combines media and methods in his exploration of nature, history, mythology and humanity.

Conceptual artist at heart, he is concerned first and foremost with the subject, narrative and feeling that he wishes to convey, with the materials — drawn from a host of sources — following the concept. He constantly calls upon his background in political science, keen interest in environmentalism, and fixation with individual memory, folding in research, activism, and his own subjective reality to create poetic experiences.

Recent major exhibitions of works by Michele Ciacciofera have included shows at the Museo Marino Marini (Florence), the 57th Venice Biennale and at Documenta 14 (Athens & Kassel) in 2017.

The artist is represented by several galleries; Michel Rein (Paris/Brussels), Vitamin Creative Space (Guangzhou), Voice Gallery (Marrakesh) and Senesi Contemporanea (London).

Coinciding with the exhibition at Rochechouart, a catalogue is to be co-produced with Zaman Books featuring articles by Emanuele Coccia, Valérie Da Costa, Sébastien Faucon, Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung and Morad Montazami. (Publication date; June 2021).

Born on the island of Sardinia and raised in Sicily, Michele Ciacciofera has always been invested in the relationship between human existence and the natural world.

Using a variety of artistic approaches, including sculpture, painting, drawing, sound, installation, video and theater, he freely combines media and methods in his exploration of anthropology, nature, history, mythology, politic, and humanity.

In 2017 in *The Density Of the Transparent Wind*, he used sound to interrogate the Mediterranean, tracing ways in which it defines and shapes human experiences, borders and social lives.

His 2016 installation *Janas Code*, incorporates old tables, tapestry, ceramic, fossils, drawings, honeycombs and other materials. This work is a magic mental reconstruction of an archeological site linked to the neolithic funeral structures he studied at length in Sardinia. Here these are recoded as the houses of the fairies of popular legend now transmitted solely through art and literature.

A conceptual artist at heart, Ciacciofera is concerned first and foremost with the subject, narrative, and feeling that he wishes to convey, with the materials, drawn from a host of sources — following the concept. He constantly calls upon his background in political science, keen interest in environmentalism, and fixation with individual memory, folding in research, activism, and his own subjective reality to create poetic experiences.

Michele Ciacciofera
sans commencement et sans fin

until
13 09 2021



Musée d'art contemporain de la Haute-Vienne
Château de Rochechouart



Michele Ciacciofera
sans commencement et sans fin

until
13 09 2021



The Musée d'art contemporain de la Haute-Vienne was opened in 1985 in the chateau de Rochechouart on the initiative of the Haute Vienne département council. It includes a major collection of contemporary art works and offers a range of exhibitions.

Located within the chateau de Rochechouart, the museum differentiates itself through a permanent dialogue between contemporary creation and historical heritage. From the museum's early years onwards, permanent works have been commissioned from international artists (Giuseppe Penone, Dora Garcia, Yona Friedman, Richard Long).

Linked to the creation of a museum within the chateau de Rochechouart, three fundamental themes have prevailed in forming the museum collection: history, landscape and imagination. Over the years, the museum has acquired a remarkable collection which today includes more than 500 works by international artists.

The contemporary collection was completed with the development of an exceptional resource library based around Dada artist, Raoul Hausmann. Raoul Hausmann (1886 - 1971) is one of the founders of the Dada movement in Berlin, which completely redefined, during the First World War, both the forms art took and what it aimed to achieve. Raoul Hausmann was a pioneer in collage techniques, one of the inventors of photomontage and an initiator in sound poetry. In 1933 the artist was compelled to flee Nazi Germany. After travelling throughout Europe, he found refuge in the Limousin area of France, where he stayed until his death in 1971.

Each year, in parallel to the contemporary collection and Raoul Hausmann Resource Library, the museum organises themed or monographic exhibitions dedicated to the most current contemporary art (Jochen Lempert, Babette Mangolte, Anthony McCall, Simone Fattal, Carolee Schneemann, Laure Prouvost...)



10

P 1 Michele Ciacciofera, The
Density of the Transparent Wind II,
2020, preparatory drawing, water-
color on paper,
credits of the artiste

For the others visuals :

Michele Ciacciofera, Sans
commencement et sans fin,
vue d'exposition, Chateau de
Rochechouart, 2021.
credits of the artist.
Photo : Aurélien Mole

Contact presse

Alambret Communication

Perrine Ibarra

perrine@alambret.com

+ 00 (0) 1 48 87 70 77

Olivier Prigent, chargé de communication

olivier.prigent@haute-vienne.fr

+03 (0) 5 55 03 7 7 91

Musée d'art contemporain de la Haute-Vienne

Chateau de Rochechouart

Place du Chateau

87600 Rochechouart, France

Tél. : 05 55 03 77 77

contact.musee@haute-vienne.fr

www.musee-rochechouart.com