

VISITOR'S GUIDE

MATTEO RUBBI VOYAGES DANS LA MER PERDUE

EXHIBITION
FROM 6 MAY TO 24 SEPTEMBER 2017

During the Jurassic period 150 to 200 million years ago, the continents and seas were not where they are today. Lorraine was then situated where the Sahara is currently located, in the shallow margins of an ocean called Tethys, near Pangaea, the sole continent of that era. The Lorraine landscape was a warm, shallow sea, dotted with small, biologically rich coral islands.

A lost sea and a raging sun are the two main characters of a story set in the commune of Delme. Matteo Rubbi was interested in the Saulnois region, and wanted to recreate it in its prehistoric version, when it was covered by a hot sea frequented by strange fish and birds. *Voyages dans la mer perdue* [Journeys in the Lost Sea] is an exhibition conceived and developed on-site at the CAC – Synagogue de Delme, through a series of workshops involving the local population. Matteo Rubbi's projects are inspired by the contexts and people he meets during his travels. He assembles them for workshops, lunches or walks in the night. History and mythology are pretexts to meet, share and recreate something common. In Delme and its surroundings, it was with the participation of schools, associations, media libraries and rural households that he developed his project in collaboration with other artists. Participants re-appropriated a local history in the form of a constellation of gestures and perspectives, drawings and sounds. The exhibition gradually became a place of metamorphoses and fictions staging fantastical animals.

Whether the aim is to recount the creation of the universe, understand the theory of everything or the periodic table of elements, Matteo Rubbi's work offers a navigation between the micro and macro, the infinitesimally small and the infinitely large. He likes to bring about impossible meetings, and causes marvellous things to spring out of banality. Playing with temporal interpolation, the past suddenly reappears so that the future comes terribly near. This return to origins is never nostalgic since it connects the contemporary world with other realities, and places things in perspective in order to better contradict certain fixed boundaries: the sun is a hot air balloon, Pluto a grain of sand and Venus an apple seed¹. The festive, participatory dynamic of the projects takes shape in order to reveal the invisible, the vanished, the distant. By using simple materials and through collective involvement, he summons faraway lands that are sometimes hard to imagine. Yet everything is or was real, and this presumed unreality is what the artist responds to through action. Reinventing, reconstructing, recreating origins offers new visions of our present time.

From the scientific manifesto to the adventure novel, the narrative dimension of Matteo Rubbi's work is the stuff of everyday life, giving everyone the possibility of inventing rules to non-existent games, personifying the planets of our solar system, reconstructing a historic ship and creating cosmic scenery. As one of the characters explains in Voltaire's *Micromégas*: "[Our sun] trends towards red, [...] and we have thirty-nine primary colours. Of all the suns I have approached not one resembles another, just as on your planet each and every face differs from all the others²". With a solar energy, Matteo Rubbi assembles imaginary and impossible spaces in which the viewer is invited to find a place, where utopia and heterotopia find themselves linked together. But if the radiance of the tiny revolutions engendered is not always visible, the journeys he offers show the possibility of collectively producing unique cosmogonies, like a reunited sea and sun, an eternity found again.

Marie Bechetoille

¹ Matteo Rubbi, *Planetario*, 2010 - 2014.

² Voltaire, *Micromégas and Other Short Fictions*, Penguin, 2002, p. 22.

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1980. Lives and works in Milan.

Matteo Rubbi received a diploma in the fine arts from the Brera Academy in Milan in 2004. In 2007, he co-founded Cherimus, an artistic association based in Sardinia which established new relations between the contemporary art world and regional initiatives. In 2009, he participated in the "Pavillon du Palais de Tokyo" residency program. In 2012 he was selected for a residency at the ASU Art Museum in Phoenix, United States. He won the eighth edition of the Furla Prize in 2011 for "his ability to interact with viewers and establish new relations between the exhibition space and the public place in a generous spirit of commitment. His work involves various cultural domains from a conceptual and material point of view and displays an acute sense of experimental adventure [...] ". In 2015, he was chosen for the Lucas Artists Program Visual Arts Fellowship Award and will take part in the Artists Residency Program at Montalvo Arts Center, California. In 2016, he was selected to create an artwork in Milan for the first public park dedicated to contemporary art (ArtLine). He is currently working with *Cherimus* on *Ciak! Kibera*, a joint cultural project between Sulcis (Sardinia) and Kibera (Nairobi, Kenya).

www.matteorubbi.info / www.studioguenzani.it / www.cherimus.net /

VOYAGES DANS LA MER PERDUE, 2017

The exhibition is an *in situ* installation composed by:

Soleil [Sun], 2017

Paper, oil pastel, nylon thread, sellotape
6 meters in diameter

In collaboration with the primary school and secondary school of Delme.

Mer [Sea], 2017

Sound installation, 20 minutes, played on a loop

In collaboration with the musician Francesco Medda, the primary school and secondary school of Delme.

Animaux [Animals], 2017 - work in progress

Costums (Visible from the opening: Edna Gee, *Dancing Urchin*)

In collaboration with artists, such as Derek Di Fabio, Edna Gee, Isa Griese, Carlo Spiga, Formes Vives, local and international associations (*Cherimus*) from drawings made during workshops involving the students of Delme and Château-Salins.

Étoiles [Stars], 2017

In situ intervention

In collaboration with the artist Alain Colardelle.

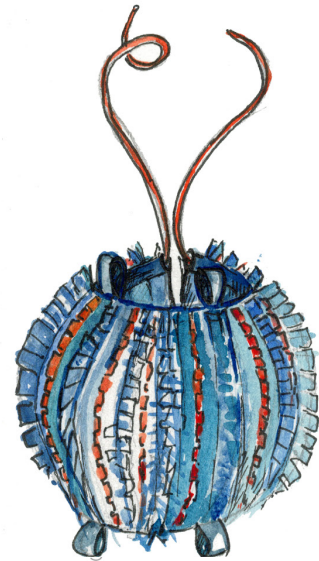
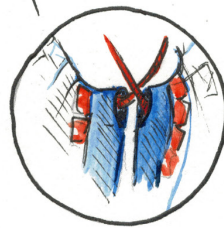
Dancing Urchin



1. Pull the cord to tighten the urchin around your waist.

2. Pull the cord over the shoulders and through the loops at the back to help keep the costume in place.

3. Sway and shake like the ocean.



1. Hang it over your shoulders like a mantle.

2. When you sit down, you can pull your head in like a snail.

1. Hang it vertically over your head.

2. Pull the cords through the ribbon loops to create straps to hold on to.

3. Wiggle like a worm.



RELATED EVENTS

Event attended by the artist and related to the fire of the Saint-Jean in Delme.

Saturday 10 June 2017

Meet up with the artist Matteo Rubbi for an exceptional event on June 10th related to the fire of Saint-Jean in Delme.

“BIG IDEAS, SMALL HANDS” WORKSHOP > FOR CHILDREN FROM 6 TO 11 YEARS OLD > 2-5 pm

Wednesday 31 May 2017

Wednesday 5 July 2017

Wednesday 13 September 2017

Animated by Camille Grasser, head of educational program, and Katia Mourer, artist, this workshop allows children to explore the current exhibition through a playful and practical approach of the works on display. Free, upon reservation.

“HAND IN HAND” WORKSHOP > FOR FAMILIES > 3-5 pm

Saturday 16 September 2017

The art centre is offering a workshop for children and their parents! Whether you're young or not so-young, come and have fun playfully discovering works and being creative in connection with the exhibition “Voyages dans la mer perdue”.

For children aged 5 to 12 accompanied by their parents. Free, upon reservation.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening hours

Wednesday-Saturday: 2-6 pm.

Sunday: 11am-6pm. Free entrance.

Guided tour every Sunday at 4 pm.

Closed on 14 July 2017

LOCATION AND ACCESS

Cac - la synagogue de Delme

33 rue Poincaré F-57590 Delme

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www.cac-synagoguedelme.org

CONTACT EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

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From Paris (by train 90 mins):

TGV Est, get off at Metz or Nancy

From Metz (by car, 30 mins):

D955, formerly route de Strasbourg

From Nancy (by car, 30 mins):

N74 towards Château-Salins

then D955 towards Metz

PARTNERS

CAC - la synagogue de Delme is a member of d.c.a. / French association for the development of centre d'art, LoRA - Contemporary Art Network, and the Arts en résidence - French national network.



The CAC - la synagogue de Delme receives the support from the Ministry of Culture and Communication - DRAC Grand Est, the Moselle Department Council, the Grand Est Regional Council, the Communauté de Communes of Saulnois and the Commune of Delme.



THANKS

Preschool Le Blé en Herbe of Delme, primary school Joseph Nicolas of Delme, secondary school André Malraux of Delme, Agricultural high-school of Château-Salins, library of Delme, foyer rural of Delme.