



VISITOR'S GUIDE

ZUZANNA CZEBATUL

THE SINGING DUNES

EXHIBITION

FROM FEBRUARY 29TH TO MAY 31ST 2020

Zuzanna Czebatul operates mainly in the field of sculpture, creating pieces that blur the lines between commercial product, architectural relic, and artistic production. Her work investigates complex relationships between the viewer and the viewed. She produces her own materials and creates works that deal with different themes representing strength or weakness, depicted in their opposed forms and with a certain sense of humor and kitschy eroticism. Her installations appear in turns collapsed, destroyed, deflated, or fragmented, and question concepts such as monument, public edifice and symbolic architecture. Reality and artificiality appear in her work in a constant dialogue in which she exposes the fluidity or flexibility of politics, the art market, or the human body. Thus, her work often addresses power structures, ideologies and politics and asks the question: how do we want to live?

For her exhibition *The Singing Dunes* at CAC Synagogue de Delme, the artist uses the phenomenon of "the singing dunes"¹ and the eternal movement of sandy deserts as a metaphor for nomadism, the transformation of knowledge and civilizations, migrations, the alternation of constructed forms, and the evolution of beliefs. A monumental *in situ* work made of concrete and created in dialogue with the synagogue's architecture, spreads on the ground floor. Inspired by the *opus sectile* technique², which was popular in public buildings and private homes of the ancient and medieval Roman world, this tiled floor depicts the synagogue's original architectural elements (the Torah ark, the windows and the columns at the entrance) caught in a maelstrom that ends up spiralling into a hole. Between quicksand and psychedelic vision, this creation constitutes a monumental, luxurious floor, worthy of the building's decorative features, which have long disappeared³. At the same time the work recalls the movement and inherent fluctuations that accompany the passing of time, altering and transforming forms, knowledge and culture.

The metaphor takes its course upstairs, where a collection of sculptures represents vestiges of a pseudo Egyptian antiquity, excavated from the desert. Replete with historical inconsistencies and with fantasized visions of ancient Egypt⁴, these fragments, once reconstructed, are meant to replicate a female sphinx from the blockbuster movie *The Ten Commandments* by Cecil B. DeMille (1923), one of the most expensive productions in the history of Hollywood. This epic staged an entire, constructed city as a film set that, because it was difficult to store in studios, was deliberately buried in the California desert, until its remains were rediscovered by archaeologists in the 1960s. Thus presented, these (fake) sculptures reproduce the specificity of an archaeological



excavation, as if they have just been dug out of the sand, while mimicking the situation of a museum display, where these vestiges ended up eventually. Staging an archaeology that is just as artificial as the rediscovered film set, Zuzanna Czebatul places several historical strata on the same level: Egyptian antiquity, the Jewish exodus, Hollywood cinema, contemporary archaeology, and current human migrations. Their proximity, embodied by the physical and metaphorical presence of sand in the exhibition, evokes a seemingly endless postmodernity, as well as the way history and ideologies fluctuate alongside power shifts. Zuzanna Czebatul confronts us with our contemporary era's "desert of the real"⁵, where the origins of power are not as natural and neutral as they appear: they usually spring from multiple fictions produced arbitrarily. From time immemorial, culture has been concealing the ideology of the day. It is up to each of us to identify it.

1. The sound produced by the friction of sand grains during the movements of dunes in the desert.
2. An ancient artistic technique where marble, mother of pearl or glass were cut and inlaid into walls and floors to make a picture or pattern.
3. The synagogue was blown up with dynamite by the Germans in 1944, leaving only the outer walls.
4. In Egyptian Antiquity, female sphinxes did not exist. There were only sphinxes that had strictly male physical traits.
5. Expression by Jean Baudrillard, extracted from *Simulacra and Simulation*, Semiotext(e), New York, 1983 [1981].

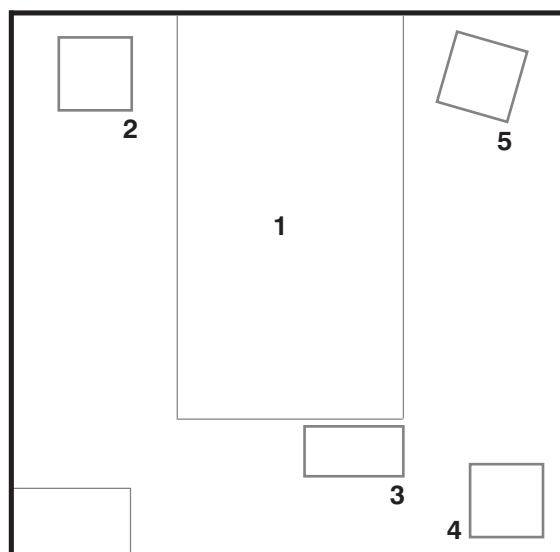
BIOGRAPHY

Zuzanna Czebatul was born in 1986 in Międzyrzecz (Poland). She studied at Städelschule, Frankfurt and Universität der Künste, Berlin. She lives and works in Berlin.

Her work has recently been presented in solo exhibitions at GGM1 City Gallery, Danzig; IG Metall Haus, Berlin; CCA Futura, Prague; CCA Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw; 83 Pitt Street, New York ; Mélange, Cologne; Piktogram, Warsaw; Gilmeier Rech, Berlin; Bad Reputation, Los Angeles; Mini/Goethe-Institut Ludlow 38, New York... and featured in group exhibitions at Somerset House, London; Kunsthalle Lingen; Kunsthalle Bratislava; Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw; Exile Gallery, Berlin; Tenderpixel, London; Contemporary Art Museum, St.Louis...



FLOOR PLAN



The Singing Dunes floor plan

Works in the exhibition :

Ground floor :

1. **Vortex (New Day Coming), 2020.**
Concrete and pigment, 12 x 10 m.

First floor :

2. **Their New Power (Back), 2020.**
Polystyrene, acrylic and sand,
60 x 150 x 105 cm.

3. **Their New Power (Chest), 2020.**
Polystyrene, acrylic and sand,
150 x 50 x 150 cm.

4. **Their New Power (Head), 2020.**
Polystyrene, acrylic and sand,
160 x 110 x 120 cm.

5. **Their New Power (Paws), 2020.**
Polystyrene, acrylic and sand,
140 x 140 x 50 cm.

We invite you to continue the visit at the *Gue(ho)st House* where you could find videos on the film *The Ten Commandments* by Cecil B. DeMille (1923) available along with a selection of books about the artist's project.

TOURS

GUIDED TOUR BY BENOÎT LAMY DE LA CHAPELLE, DIRECTOR OF THE ART CENTER

As part of the contemporary art Week-end of the Grand Est.

Event canceled and postponed, if possible.

Free, reservation not required.

TEACHER MEETING

Teachers will be welcomed by Camille Grasser, head of visitor services, for an introduction to the exhibition *The Singing Dunes* and modalities of visit-workshop.

Thursday, 12 March 2020 at 5 pm.

WEEKLY TOUR

Guided tour of the exhibition *The Singing Dunes*.

Every Sunday at 4 pm.

Free, reservation not required.

DUO-VISIT « SITES OF POWER AND MIGRATIONS: A MOVING SOCIETY » IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TOURISM'S OFFICE OF SAULNOIS

The visit-duo crosses knowledge and disciplines around a common theme.

The movement of sandy dunes as a metaphor for nomadism, migrations, transformations of knowledge and beliefs in Zuzanna Czebatul's exhibition echoes the local territory, the Saulnois, land of passages and migrations.

Following the visit of the exhibition, Aline Delavallade, tour guide at the Tourism Office of the Saulnois, invite us to explore the glorious past of Vic-sur-Seille, capital of Bishops of Metz in the XIIIth century, which had more than 5000 inhabitants at that time. The tour will allow to discover the great architectural richness of this ancient fortified city as well as evoke the relationship between architecture and power, stronghold and movements of populations.

Saturday, May 16th from 2.30 pm to 5 pm.



**SHARED PERSPECTIVES: ARCHEOLOGIES, FROM REAL TO IMAGINARY
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MUSEE DE LA COUR D'OR IN METZ**

This year, the Journées Européennes des Métiers d'Art (European Days of Crafts) are the opportunity to forge links between the Musée de la cour d'or in Metz and the Contemporary Art Center in Delme, through the project artist Zuzanna Czebatul develops in her exhibition « The Singing Dunes ». Rénilde Lecat and Camille Grasser, respectively in charge of the education and public programmes at the Museum in Metz and at the Art Center in Delme, propose a guided tour regarding different types of archeologies and the art of representing them.

They will mention the issues and the evolutions of ancient construction techniques, such as Opus Sectile and mosaic, by putting them in perspective view with our contemporary era. By bringing together archaeological objects and artefact artworks, the visit offers the opportunity to think on what belongs to the archaeological field or not. Which vestiges deserve to be exhumed? What is or is not our heritage? Where does the heritage of the XXth century begin?

Event canceled and postponed, if possible.

WORKSHOPS

“BIG IDEAS SMALL HANDS” WORKSHOPS > FOR CHILDREN AGED 6-11

Led by Camille Grasser, head of visitor services, and artist Katia Mourer, these workshops allow children to discover the current exhibition through a playful, concrete approach to the exhibited works.

Wednesdays, 27 May 2020 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Free. Reservation required.

VISITE BOUT'CHOUX > FROM 1 TO 3 YEARS OLD

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PARENTS CHILDCARE ASSISTANT RELAY OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE SAULNOIS

Discovery of the current exhibition *The Singing Dunes* through a sensitive approach of the artworks: observation, listening, experimentation.

An exploration filled with emotions and sensations!

Event canceled and postponed, if possible.

Free. Reservation required: rpam@cc-saulnois.fr / 03 87 01 17 88.

PLAY-WORKSHOP IN PARTNERHSIP WITH THE MÉDIATHÈQUE DE DELME > FOR CHILDREN AGED 7 AND UP

Event canceled and postponed, if possible.

Free. Reservation requested. Contact the Médiathèque: 03 87 01 39 91.

HAND-IN-HAND WORKSHOP > PARENTS AND CHILDREN AGED 5-12

For children aged 5 to 12 accompanied by their parents. The art centre is offering a workshop for children and their parents! Little ones and bigger ones can come and share a convivial moment playfully discovering works of art.

Saturday, 30 May 2020 from 3 pm to 4.30 pm.

Free. Reservation required.



INFORMATIONS

PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS

From Wednesday to Saturday, 2pm - 6pm
and Sunday 11am - 6pm.
Admission free.
Guided tour every Sunday at 4pm.
The CAC will be closed on May 1st 2020.

CONTACT

CAC - la synagogue de Delme
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ACCESS

FROM PARIS (by train 90mins):
TGV Est, get off at Metz or Nancy
FROM METZ (by car, 30mins):
D955, formerly route de Strasbourg
FROM NANCY (by car, 30mins):
N74 towards Château-Salins
then D955 towards Metz

CONTACT EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

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THANKS

The CAC – la synagogue de Delme and Zuzanna Czebatul would like to thank Esther Mikuszies and Julia Viering as well as the entire team of the Goethe Institut in Nancy; Anna Biłos and Natalia Barbarska at Polish Institute in Paris; students from ESAL-Metz, interns on the installation: Julie Ibrahim and Olivier Petitprez; Valentin Wattier for his precious help; Adam Tailleur, student from the collège Saint Joseph La Salle Auxerre; the municipal employees of Delme for their patience and for allowing us to use their workshop for a month; SISTROM; Dyckerhoff; Jean-Jacques Dumont; Philippe Brunella and public program services at Musée de La Cour d'Or in Metz; Tourism's office of Saulnois.

PARTNERS

Since 2019, the CAC - la synagogue de Delme obtained the label «Contemporary art center of national interest» by the french Ministry of Culture.

The CAC - la synagogue de Delme receives the support from :



The exhibition is supported by the Institut Polonais, the Goethe Institut Nancy and Dyckerhoff.



The art center is a member of d.c.a / association française de développement des centres d'art, Lora - Lorraine Réseau Art contemporain and Arts en résidence - French national network.



