



CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN
LA SYNAGOGUE DE DELME

PIERRE-OLIVIER ARNAUD & DENIS SAVARY

Josy's Club

EXHIBITION FROM JULY 1ST TO OCTOBER 1ST 2023



From Wednesday to Saturday, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Admission free.

Guided tour every Sunday at 4 p.m.

It was through an exchange of artworks that Denis Savary and Pierre-Olivier Arnaud first got in touch and started a discussion. These exchanges continued during the *Ballard in Albisola* exhibition held in late 2021, organised by the MAMCO at the home of the artist Asger Jorn in Italy¹. There, the artists created a collaborative artwork, a kind of collage that almost assumed the form of a garden sculpture, by bringing together objects found on the exhibition site. In other words, the encounter of a viscous vase the colour of “Heineken” glass; bunting in shades of grey; black and brown earthenware tiles; the base of an armchair; and a limestone concretion, as the origin of an entire exhibition project, held sometime later.

1 *Ballard in Albisola*, collective exhibition organised by the MAMCO (Geneva) at Casa Jorn, (Albissola) from September 3rd to December 19th 2021.

Denis Savary practises the art of sculpture based on a multifaceted and transhistorical approach, focusing on the vocabulary of forms, their origins, and the stories that accompany them, shaped by the passage of time. His visual language is firmly rooted in the practice of filmmaking, which the artist has developed from the outset. This practice adopts a simple protocol: recording the heterogeneity of reality in static shots, seen through the camera’s viewfinder.

Pierre-Olivier Arnaud mainly uses the photographic medium to create images whose subjects and black-and-white finish blur their geographic and temporal origins. Deploying artworks in limited prints, the artist experiments the exhaustion and slow disappearance of images, the loss of aura, thus highlighting a form of vacuity and latent entropy, notably through shots of plants, architecture, or unidentified objects.

Although Denis Savary and Pierre-Olivier Arnaud do not form a duo of artists, they share the pleasure of a psycho-geographic drift towards forms and their history, whether these stem from art, architecture, graphic design, literature or cinema. They like to fossick for them as these are embodied within urban space, often “in the wild”, generated by chance circumstances. They practice an art of specific appropriation, to compile and work on authorless artistic or architectural gestures (found on a stroll in the city or a search on the internet or in a book), forming the basis of a vocabulary derived from an informal, DIY modernity reinvested by subjectivities, with all that entails in terms of clumsiness, spontaneity and sincerity. Borrowing as much from late modernity as from what they call a vernacular “brutalism”², the artists seek the traces of complex affects and ambiguous zones or grey areas, pertaining to a certain way of living in the moment.

2 Brutalism is an architectural style that comes from the modern architecture movement, which was very popular from the 1950s to the 1970s before gradually falling into decline, although various architects are still inspired by the principles of this current. It notably stands out through the repetition of certain elements such as windows, and through the absence of adornments and the raw, natural character of concrete.

At the Synagogue de Delme, Denis Savary and Pierre-Olivier Arnaud invite the visitor to *Josy’s Club*, a space plunged into a half-light, becoming the receptacle of these finds taken from various wanderings and constituting a true reappropriation of urban space by the imagination. Inspired by the works of J.G. Ballard

such as the *Concrete Trilogy* or *The Burning World*³, the exhibition reveals itself like a dry garden, in which each sculpture or pictorial element is symptomatic of grey areas. This arid, drab landscape reflects the peripheral variants of a modern, mapped-out thought, but in a spirit that is truly alive, because it is not ghosts or ruins that are up for discussion here. The artists highlight a very lively and proliferating tendency of this early twenty-first century. Without falling into nostalgia or a certain fetishism for modernism, this project focuses on its deformation and traces within the present age; on its state of advanced decay, from which no alternative exists capable of resituating it within this world that, while living in an eternal present also cultivates a certain appetite for retro-futurism. The artists are interested in modernism's aesthetic deployment in urban space, based on what people do and create with it, from indistinct foundations, using apparently non-artistic gestures, more akin to DIY, but contributing to modifying and evolving the forms and aesthetic of the city.

3 J.G. Ballard's *Concrete Trilogy* includes *Crash!* (1973), *Concrete Island* (1974) and *High Rise* (1975).
J.G. Ballard, *The Burning World* (1964).

BIOGRAPHIES

Pierre-Olivier Arnaud (born in 1972) graduated from École supérieure d'Art et Design, Saint-Étienne. He lives and works in Lyon.

His work has been shown in solo exhibitions at Home Alone, Clermont-Ferrand; La Tôlerie, Clermont-Ferrand; Skopia Gallery, Geneva; Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse; Art: Concept, Paris; Optica, Montreal; In Extenso, Clermont-Ferrand; Le Cap, Saint-Fons; Evergreene, Geneva; MAMCO, Geneva; Giti Nourbakhsch Gallery, Berlin; Florence Loewy, Paris; CNAC – le Magasin, Grenoble; Neon, Lyon; Le Verso, Saint-Etienne; Galerie Rosa Turetsky, Geneva... as well as on the occasion of collective exhibitions at the CAN Center d'art de Neuchatel; Mauve, Vienna; Casa Museo Asger Jorn, Albissola; High Art, Paris; FRAC Normandy, Rouen; L'onde, Vélizy-Villacoublay; Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg; Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rouen and Frac Normandie, Rouen; Frac-Normandie, Caen; Frac Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand; Frac Ile de France – Le Plateau, Paris; Institut d'art contemporain, Villeurbanne; Confort moderne, Poitiers; La villa du Parc, Annemasse; MAMCO, Geneva; FRAC Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, Marseilles; La Gallery, Noisy-Le-Sec; La Station, Nice; Shanaynay, Paris; Carlier-gebauer Gallery, Berlin; CNEAI, Chatou; Essays and Observations, Berlin; Galerie des Galeries, Galeries Lafayette, Paris; Musée d'art moderne de Saint-Etienne; La Salle de bain, Lyon; Galerie Art & Essai, Université Rennes 2, Rennes; Cité du Design, Saint-Etienne; Kunstakademie, Stuttgart; Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai; La Générale en Manufacture, Sèvres; École Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Lyon; Glassbox, Paris; Sheffield University, Sheffield; Couvent de la Tourette, Centre culturel de rencontre, l'Arbresle; Kawasaki City Museum; Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles; Espace Van Gogh, Arles; Mai de Reims, Reims...

Denis Savary (born in 1981) graduated from École cantonale d'Art de Lausanne (ECAL). He lives and works in Geneva.

His work has been shown in solo exhibitions at centre d'art contemporain, Geneva; Fonderia Artistica Battaglia, Milan; Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, Sankt Gallen; Galerie Maria Bernheim, Zurich; Musée des Beaux-Arts, La Chaux-de-Fond; Xippas Gallery, Geneva; Centre culturel suisse, Paris; Villa Medici, Roma; Le Confort Moderne, Poitiers; MAMCO, Geneva; *Cyclop* de Jean Tinguely, Milly-la-Forêt; Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneva; Kunsthalle Bern; Galerie Xippas, Paris; La Ferme du buisson, Noisiel; Centre Pasquart, Bienne; Evergreene, Geneva; Galerie Xippas, Athene; Jeu de Paume, Paris; Musée Jénisch, Vevey; Galerie Sima, Nuremberg... as well as on the occasion of collective exhibitions at Musée cantonal des beaux-arts, Lausanne; Casa Museo Asger Jorn, Albissola; Museum Villa Stiassni, Brno; FRAC des Pays de la Loire; Istituto Svizzero, Roma; Leopold Museum, Vienna; Kunsthaus, Zurich; Institut Francais, Athenes; centre d'art contemporain – la synagogue de Delme; Biennial of Contemporary Art of South America, Buenos Aires; Geneva Lux Festival, Geneva; Kunsthaus Glarus; Villa du Parc, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Annemasse; Swiss Institute, New York; Galleria Continua / Le Moulin, Boissé-le-Châtel; FORDE, Geneva; Centrale pour l'art contemporain, Brussels; Los Angeles municipal art gallery; Kunsthaus Aargau; Musée d'Orsay, Paris; Fondation Ricard, Paris; Helmhaus Zürich; CAPC, Bordeaux; Zacheta, National Gallery of Art, Varsovie; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Fri-art Kunsthalle, Fribourg.

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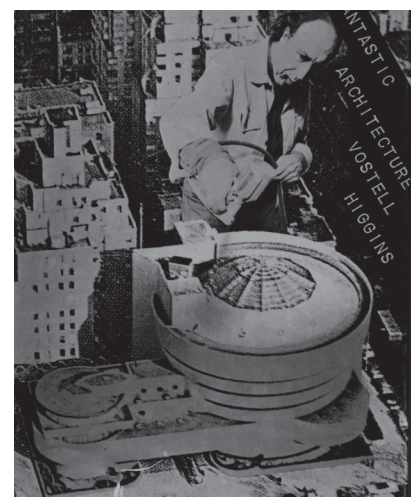
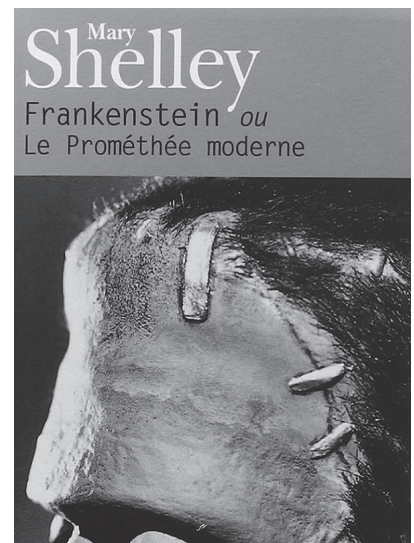
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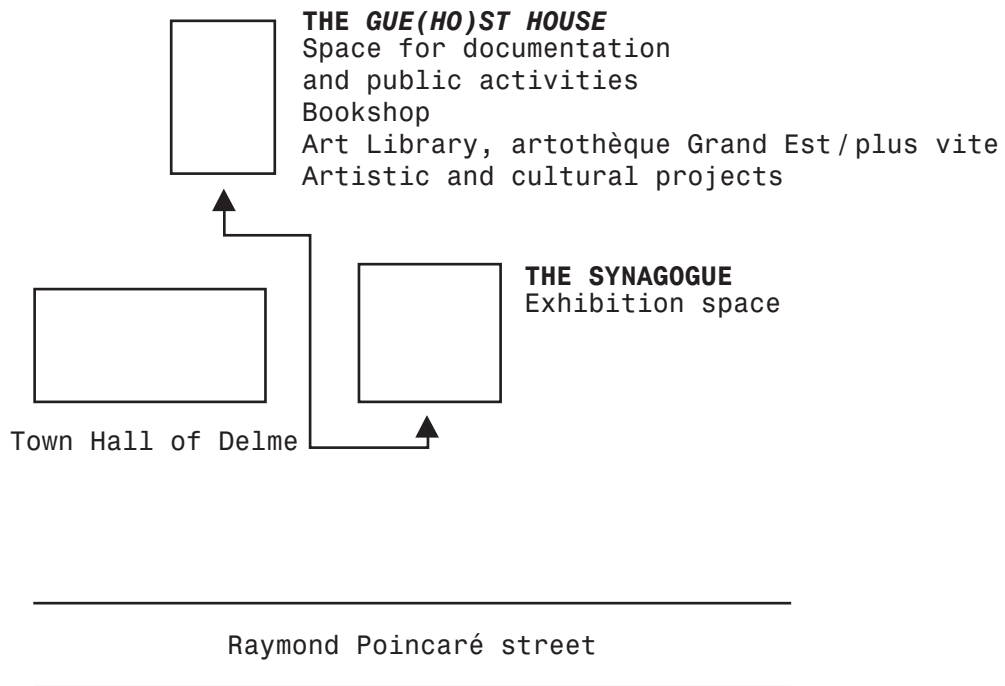
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TO CONTINUE THE TOUR



PUBLIC PROGRAM

TEACHERS MEETING

Teachers will be welcomed by Camille Grasser, head of Public Programs, and Dorian Masiello, representative teacher, for an introduction to the exhibition *Josy's Club*.

Thursday July 13th 2023 from 2 to 3.30 p.m.

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

Saturday July 8th 2023 at 3 p.m, as part of the closing day of the CAC's 30th anniversary.

Free, admission not required.

WEEKLY TOUR

Guided tour of the exhibition *Josy's Club*.

Every Sunday at 4 p.m.

Free, admission not required.

URBAN ROUTE – SUBJECTIVE PROCESS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAISON DE L'ARCHITECTURE DE LORRAINE

Walking is central in Denis Savary and Pierre-Olivier Arnaud artistic process. They pace up and down cities, observing facades, shop windows and urban furnitures, paying attention to certain elements, marginal, belonging to an in-between, between past and present. The exhibition aesthetic comes from an iconographic base the artists have composed from their wonders in urban space. *Josy's Club* unveils a singular way to consider, interpret and include visitors in the city.

Following a commented tour in the exhibition and in relation to the artists project, the Maison de l'architecture de Lorraine offers a subjective stroll, giving prominence to brutalist architecture, vernacular constructions, to banal and trivial.

Saturday September 16th 2023, from 1.30 to 5 p.m (to be confirmed).

Free, admission at 03 87 01 43 42 or publics@cac-synagoguedelme.org

maisondelarchi-lorraine.com



MEETING WITH PIERRE-OLIVIER ARNAUD AND DENIS SAVARY

If Pierre-Olivier Arnaud and Denis Savary have singular practices, they have in common an interest for existing images and forms they distort and charge with unattended meanings. At the Synagogue de Delme, they offer visitors a timeless and sensitive journey. What fictions are displayed in this “dry landscape”?

The exhibition becomes a physical space for projection and imagination.

During the meeting, the artists will evoke their respective process and how they worked together for *Josy's Club*.

Saturday September 30th, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Free, admission at 03 87 01 43 42 or publics@cac-synagoguedelme.org

WORKSHOPS

BOUT'CHOUX TOUR > FROM 1 TO 3 YEARS OLD

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EARLY CHILDHOOD RELAY OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE SAULNOIS

Discovery of the current exhibition *Josy's Club* through a sensitive approach of the artworks: observation, listening, experimentation.

An exploration filled with emotions and sensations!

Wednesday September 6th 2023 from 10 to 10.45 a.m.

Free. Admission required: rpe@cc-saulnois.fr or 03 87 01 17 88

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! Little ones and bigger ones can come and share a convivial moment playfully discovering works of art.

Saturday July 22nd 2023 from 3 to 4.30 p.m.

Free. Admission required on 03 87 01 43 42 or publics@cac-synagoguedelme.org

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

Led by a mediator and artist Katia Mourer, these workshops allow children to discover the current exhibition through a playful, concrete approach to the exhibited works.

On Wednesdays, July 12th, August 2nd and September 13th 2023 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Free. Admission required on 03 87 01 43 42 or accueil@cac-synagoguedelme.org

PLAY-WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERCOMMUNAL MÉDIATHÈQUE LUDOTHÈQUE DE DELME > CHILDREN AGED 7 AND UP

Play-workshop about the exhibition *Josy's Club*.

Wednesday September 13th 2023 from 9.30 to 11 am.

Free. Admission required on 03 87 01 39 91.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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From Wednesday to Saturday, 2pm - 6pm
and Sunday 11am - 6pm.

Admission free.

Guided tour every Sunday at 4pm.
The CAC will be open on July 14th 2023.

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

Camille Grasser
publics@cac-synagoguedelme.org
+33(0)3 87 01 43 42

CONTACT

CAC – la synagogue de Delme
33 rue Poincaré F-57590 Delme
T +33(0)3 87 01 43 42
info@cac-synagoguedelme.org
www.cac-synagoguedelme.org

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swiss arts council

prohelvetia

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PARTNERS

The CAC – la synagogue de Delme obtained the label « Contemporary art center of national interest ».

The art center is a member of d.c.a/association française de développement des centres d'art, Arts en résidence – French national network, BLA! association nationale des professionnel·le·s de la médiation en art contemporain and Plan d'Est – visual arts pole Grand Est.

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