

centre  
de  
création  
contemporaine  
olivier  
debré

**fabien verschaere**  
la géographie du totem

14 december 2019 - 3 may 2020

opening on friday 13 december 2019, 6-9 pm



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## immerse yourself in the fantastic world of fabien verschaere!

The exhibition will be presenting recently completed and previously unseen works, combining imaginary characters and self-portraits.



*Pinocchio Star*, 2018, 76,5 x 57 cm, aquarelle sur papier, courtesy de l'artiste

With Fabien Verschaere, a drawing is the immediate expression of an idea, thought or affect, serving as a departure point for creation of performances and installations. As in automatic writing, the artist deploys a constantly revisited glossary of shapes and characters. In his works, menacing skeletons rub shoulders with joyous vanities, grinning clowns with diabolical angels and disguised princesses with resolute prizefighters, and it is by no means unusual to find the artist's self-portrait behind one or other of them.

Using a continuous line forming a rich magma of shapes, Verschaere creates a space that is full to the brim, saturated, teeming with details yet never forgetting the overall composition, which has an increasing tendency to contain itself in a single form. These seemingly closed images appear to self-generate and may even throw off restraint and start taking up yet more space.

For this new solo exhibition at the CCC OD, Verschaere deploys a symbolic geographical map on which works produced in recent years dialogue with previously unseen creations. He extends his world to fill the transparent galleries visible from outside the CCC OD.



*Magic Bean*, feutre et aquarelle sur papier, 20 cm de diamètre, 2019, courtesy de l'artiste

On the occasion of the first day of the exhibition, the artist will be on hand to meet the public Saturday 14 December at 4 p.m. at the CCC OD.

## « La géographie du totem » an innovative proposal

### The artist intentions



“Definition of geography:

Etymology: Greek geo +graphein/description of the Earth

Definition of totem:

Etymology: Ojibwa doodem/common representation of a being or an animal or plant species, sometimes an object that embodies the spirit of the ancestors and acts as an emblem for a family, tribe or nation.

It’s all a question of travelling, our lives, our choices, our drawings are all due to the idea of motion, not the movement that makes us put one foot in front of the other, but the reflection that leads us to think thanks to an all-embracing consciousness.

Human action is no more than organisation, inasmuch as our minds are connected to another consciousness, to external influences. Details come from a whole, which I often refer to as the constructive void.

I’m aware of pictorial movements. Those that are figurative often have a habit of bringing a story along with them or wanting to depict a subject in a space, the contextual mind. What is there of saintliness in the art of our time if it is not the proposal that the craftsman makes of the traveller. I’ve often found myself rereading Deleuze and Spinoza. Art is not an idea, the idea doesn’t exist anyway. Everything is around us.

When I was in Africa, I loved the mystification of everyday life. Everyday life becomes legend. My work is not a synthesis of anything; on the contrary, it is the reproduction of everything I observe and then transform. There is an element of fetishism in the exhibition. I exhibit old works alongside new creations.

An exhibition is like a ceremony, a mass, a shamanic dance where everything has meaning. Preparatory drawings, watercolours, installations, everything is connected. Artists are part of the world's balance, like religious teachers. That's why I accumulate subjects in my work, like an alphabet recorded in my mind. I like to call it my subjects' hard drive. The space is filled, I leave no room to breathe so that onlookers can feel free to forget the work and find themselves able to enter it. The work is not contextual: there is no context, only a mythological creation of characters who meet one another, discuss and debate.

The geography of the totem is a universal journey, a wish for mental movement. Our feet may be on the ground but our minds explore themselves thanks to the organisation of our everyday visions. Art is formation of a spiritual identity. My body seeks itself, as in Castaneda's books, animal psychotropism, without religion. Whoever we are, we must believe in what we construct. Obvious animism, my mind stretches skywards as the fox runs off to hide.

The soul is a landscape, there is only mind. From images of my childhood to my adult travels, the only concept in my work is that of being an organiser of metaphorical images. For each creation, I opt for a proposal that onlookers will have to turn into their own stories. It is in this context that geography and the totem come into play. Neither angel nor demon, simply our reality."

Fabien Verschaere - october 2019

## in the black gallery « la géographie du totem » a brand new exhibition

The starting point of this solo show of Fabien Verschaere are the trips he made in recent years in Asia and it transports us into the symbolic map of his inner world.

Inspired by the iconography and mythology of the countries he visited, this new project mixes previous works reenacted alongside recent works and on site productions. This range of works made according to various techniques and on several mediums, plunges us into the continually evolving thought of the artist, in an organic and abundant way.

Driven by a vital energy, infused with philosophy and poetry, this unprecedented exhibition gives an essential place to writing. A self-writing that nevertheless allows everyone to confront his own questions.



## dans les galeries transparentes « le théâtre des ombres », a 85m long monumental fresco



A long dance composed of ghostly shadows completely enfolds the Black Gallery from the outside. It seizes us even before entering. Visible in the Transparent Galleries, this monumental frieze seems to come alive as we wander around the ccc od, like a film roll set in motion. The silhouettes of these characters make up a form of alphabet, a merry band of subjects that compose the grammar of Fabien Verschaere. This procession embarks us in a great ceremony, an initiatory journey that leads us to the entrance of the Black Gallery.



## fabien verschaere

born in 1975 in vincennes (france)  
lives and works in paris



A graduate of the National Higher School of Fine Arts in Paris in 2000 and Nantes School of Fine Arts in 2001, Fabien Verschaere won the Dena Foundation Art Award in 2001. His works have been exhibited in France and abroad, including at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the Lyon Museum of Contemporary Art, and in Seoul, South Korea.

His highly idiosyncratic work is characterised by a universe peopled with hybrid creatures, monsters and chimeras born of his unbridled imagination.

Fabien Verschaere is represented by Brugier-Rigail and Valérie Delaunay galleries, Paris.  
The artist's website : [www.verschaerefabien.com](http://www.verschaerefabien.com)

### solo shows (selection)

2019

La géographie du totem, Centre de Création Contemporaine Olivier Debré - CCCOD, Tours, France  
Everyday is your Birthday, Ilmin Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea

2018

Listen to my eyes, Galerie Brugier-Rigail, Paris, France  
Ordre et Chaos, Espace Jean Legendre, Compiègne, France  
Le Souvenir du Lendemain, Galerie Valérie Delaunay, Paris, France

2017

Racing Car in Paradise, BMW-Mini Chartres, France  
Le Voyage Immobile, Galerie RX Le Marais, Paris, France

2016

Présentation d'oeuvres réalisées avec le savoir-faire de la manufacture Elie Bleu à la Librairie des Arts du Royal Monceau, Le Royal Monceau, Paris, France

2015

Muxuland, Galerie Im Traklhaus, Salzburg, Austria

2014

The Small Theater of Muxuland, Musée d'Art Moderne, Saint-Étienne, France

2013

Solo Show, Docks Art Fair, Galerie RX, Lyon, France  
The Novel of the Shegué King, Galerie RX, Paris, France

2012

Exposition d'une édition de sérigraphies, Galerie Brugier-Rigail, Paris, France  
Le Sur-Mesure de Fabien, Galerie Domeau & Pères, La Garenne-Colombes, France  
Aktion, Galerie Traversée, Munich, Germany

2011

Lost & Found, Galerie RX, Paris, France

2010

Sweet Inspiration, organisée par la Galerie Enrico Navarra, Galerie Adler, Paris, France



2009

Fantasy World, The Bui Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam  
Eat Me, Galerie Strasbourg en collaboration avec le CIAV, Strasbourg, France  
Pass me the pepper, works on paper, Galerie Metropolis, Paris, France

2008

Pour partir en Beauté, Galerie Metropolis, Lyon, France  
Xmas Party, Musée national d'art contemporain de Bucarest, Romania

2007

Babe, I'm on fire, Parker's Box Gallery, New York, United States of America  
Hong Kong After Midnight, Art Statements Gallery, Hong Kong, China  
After Seven remix, Baltic, Center for Contemporary Art, Newcastle, England  
Apocalypse please, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France  
Seven Days Hotel, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon, France

2006

Copycat, Galica arte contemporanea, Milan, Italy  
Das Märchen im Glashauss, Institut français, Munich, Germany

2005

La sirène du Mississippi, Centre de Création Contemporaine - ccc, Tours, France  
Show me what you don't want, Galerie Traversée, Munich, Germany  
Sexy Fairy, Galerie J.B.B., Mulhouse, France  
Kidding Park, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France  
Emergency Culture, Galerie To-b-art, Saint-Barthélémy, France

2004

Keba, Centre de Création Contemporaine - ccc, Tours, France  
Coming Soon, règlement de contes à Muxuland, Espace Paul Ricard, Paris, France  
Kasper Time, Campus Galerie der British American Tobacco, Bayreuth, Germany  
Shooting for fun, Art Statements Ltd, Hong-Kong, China

2003

Coming in Coming out, Contemporary Art Centre Luigi Pecci, Prato, Italy  
I've got you under my skin, Galerie Draiocht, Dublin, Ireland  
A Novel for Life, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
Once upon no time, 49 nights for a poem, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France

2002

No Idea, Centre de Création Contemporaine, Tours, France  
New Chinon, Hôtel de Ville, Chinon, France  
Juste pour Voir-Dessin(s), Ecole Nationale d'Art et de Design, Limoges, France  
National Museum, Kinshasa, Congo  
Paris-Brooklyn (with Saâdane Afif), Parker's Box, New York, United States of America

2001

En outre, Centre Culturel Français, Turin, Italy

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## the centre de création contemporaine olivier debré



Maurizio Nannucci, *Listen to your eyes*, 2010, FNAC 10-1055, collection du CNAF, 2018-2020

jardin  
françois 1<sup>er</sup>  
37000  
tours

In the heart of the Loire castles region, the recent art centre endows the city of Tours with with a prestigious creative space of international reputation. Its 4500m<sup>2</sup> building, which owes its elegance to its light and spacious rooms, was designed by one of the most innovative architectural consultancy firm: the Aires Mateus agency. It comprises four exhibition spaces, two auditoriums, a café and a bookshop.

The centre provides a place for people to meet and share real artistic experiences. It is from that perspective that this season's programme is based on the dialogue between the work of Olivier Debré, major figure of the 20th century painting, and recent visual art creations.

Each exhibition results in a personalised accompaniment suited for both children and adults, conferences, meetups, and varied cultural events. The CCCOD is now depository of a donation from the painter Olivier Debré, which presents a unique opportunity for the arts centre; the historical funds create a gateway that connects yesterday's and today's creation.

The arts centre is located at a strategic crossroads in the city of Tours, which is in the middle of the Porte de Loire area and at the junction of three ensembles; the buildings from the 1950's reconstruction, orchestrated by the architect Pierre Patout, the historical centre, typical of the Loire heritage, and the renovation of the city's entrance, from which the centre represents the first achievement.

The CCCOD is the milestone of a remarkable artistic journey. From the moment the visitor gets off the TGV train imagined by Roger Tallon, one of the greatest buildings designed by Jean Nouvel stands in front of his eyes. The 15 km long tramway, dressed up by Daniel Buren, leads him to the centre's refined and elegant building in just a few minutes.

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www.cccod.fr

## 2019-2020 programme



### *les nymphéas d'olivier debré*

until 5 january 2020

white gallery

An obvious nod to a series of very large paintings by Claude Monet, this exhibition suggests embracing Olivier Debré's work through the question of the format. More than simply being inspired by the natural surroundings, the artist's large formats assume complete immersion in a mental and colourful pictorial landscape.

**new display from 13.03.2019** Additional works will enhance the exhibition during 2019. With this new display, the graphic strength of the works on paper comes face-to-face with the colourful expanses of the monumental canvases from the donation.



### *alain bublex // an american landscape (theme song)*

5 october 2019 - 8 march 2020

nave

In the Nave, the artist presents his latest video work in a monumental diorama. In this way, he questions the idea of the landscape, its representation and its relationship with notions of identity and nation.



### *massinissa selmani // le calme de l'idée fixe*

8 november 2019 - 26 january 2020

galleries

The artist works from political and social newspapers to create absurd stagings. Inspired by documentaries, stagings and narration, Massinissa Selmani focuses on the encounter of these mediums, often contradictory, and on the trimming, to insist on the way the actuality is made up.



### maurizio nannucci // *listen to your eyes*

2018-2020

rooftop of the CCC OD

Borrowed from the national collections (CNAP), «Listen to your eyes» is a work by the Italian artist Maurizio Nannucci. This malicious injunction, written in neon tubes and visible on the roof of the art center, hovers over the city at dusk. The work interacts with the building of the CCC OD, iconic element of the Reconstruction of Tours, magnified by the intervention of the architects Aires Mateus.

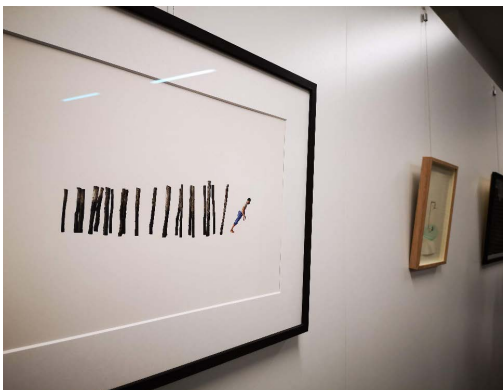


### mathieu dufois // *dans l'ombre le monde commence*

from 15 february 2020

galleries

In 2018, the CCC OD began a residency programme with the Fayoum Art Center, located in the heart of the village of Tunis in the Fayoum oasis in Egypt, and the artist Mathieu Dufois. The Fayoum Art Center is a non-profit organisation founded by the Egyptian artist Mohamed Abla and dedicated to connecting local, regional and international artists through artistic creation. *Mathieu Dufois in partnership with the Institut Français d'Égypte and the Fayoum Art Center.*



### off-site

### *signes personnages* // touring group exhibition

with olivier debré, mathieu dufois, fabien méréle and massinissa selmani  
2019-2020

With the notion of a turnkey exhibition bringing together ten or so works, the CCC OD proposes a reflection on contemporary drawing, a currently very dynamic field of creation, to twenty-two villages in Tours Métropole. This dissemination project is based on a dialogue established between ink on paper from the Debré Donation, preserved at the CCC OD, and graphic works commissioned from three local artists.

all the informations on [www.cccod.fr](http://www.cccod.fr)

## partners and patrons

### the exhibition partners

We thank the galerie Brugier-Rigail, the Fondation des Artistes and the ShinHan, Arches, Marin Beaux Arts, À Fleur de Pierre and Elie Bleu societies.

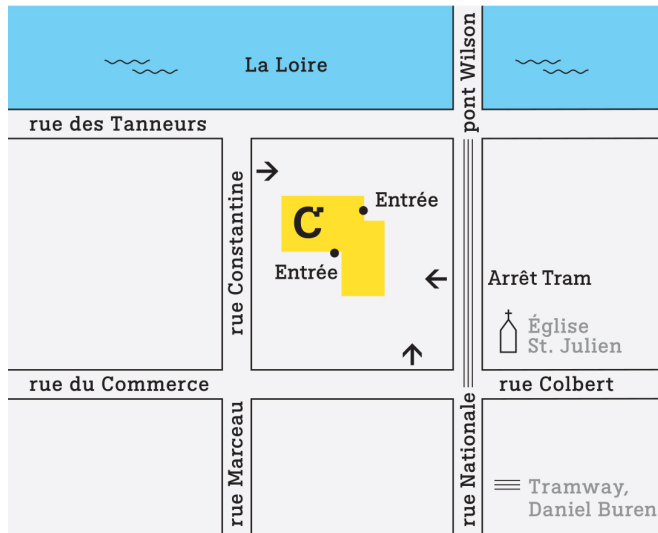
### cultural and educative partners



### the patrons in 2019-2020



## practical informations



### access

Jardin François 1er  
37000 Tours  
T +33 (0)2 47 66 50 00  
F +33(0)2 47 61 60 24  
contact@ccc.od.fr

train station 70 minutes from Paris by TGV train  
by motorway A10, exit Tours Centre

### facilities

#### bike park

car parking spaces Porte de Loire, place of the Résistance and street of the Commerce on-site amenities available : lifts, magnetic induction loop, disabled toilets, pushchair parking, baby change area, wheelchairs

### en accès libre

#### le café - restaurant

Référence de la bistronomie tourangelle, le Café Contemporain propose une carte créative et de saisons. Dans un cadre cosy, les restaurateurs Thomas et Julie adaptent leurs offres à toutes les faims : pour un déjeuner, un goûter, un brunch le dimanche ou même un apéritif le jeudi soir en nocturne.

#### la librairie - boutique

Bookstorming-Paris vous propose à la librairie du ccc od un large choix d'ouvrages spécialisés en art, architecture et design, ainsi que des livres et jeux pour la jeunesse, cartes postales et goodies...

### opening hours

summer season (20th may - 16th sept)  
tuesday - sunday from 11am to 7pm  
late night thursday until 9pm

### entry fees

4 € (reduced price)  
7 € (full price)  
9 € (with multimedia guide) free access under 18

### CCC OD LEPASS

unlimited access to exhibitions and events valid for 1 year  
27 € single pass  
45 € duo pass  
12 € for students / 7€ PCE

Le CCC OD est un équipement culturel de Tours Métropole Val de Loire.  
Sa réalisation a été rendue possible par l'effort conjoint de l'État et des collectivités territoriales.



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