

M 7  
B  
L A

**PRESS VERNISSAGE**  
**13.10.2023, 11AM-18PM**

**ANIMAL INSTINCT /**  
**INSTINCT ANIMAL**  
**13.10.2023 – 25.02.2024**



© 2023, Musée des Beaux-Arts Le Locle. Graphisme : Maria Gallardo.

M 7 MUSÉE DES  
B BEAUX-ARTS  
L A LE LOCLE

Marie-Anne-Calame 6  
CH-2400 Le Locle  
+41 (0)32 933 89 50  
mbal@ne.ch www.mbal.ch

M  
B  
L  
A

# ANIMAL INSTINCT / INSTINCT ANIMAL

**13.10.2023 – 25.02.2024**

Why do turtles rush to the sea as soon as they leave their nests, and spiders spontaneously weave webs ? Mysterious, imperceptible and fascinating, the animal instinct has always stirred the curiosity of artists.

The MBAL is delighted to present the collective exhibition *animal instinct / instinct animal*, which offers an atypical journey into the animal condition. Through an original dialogue between masterpieces from the animal collection of the MBAL and MUZOO, La Chaux-de-Fonds, and a selection of works by invited contemporary artists, the exhibition explores the blurred boundaries between the innate and the acquired, wilderness and domesticity, nature and culture, submission and freedom, science and fiction.

The journey begins close to the sky on the 3rd floor, where a few bees hovering, not knowing where to go. Inspired by the book *Les merveilles de l'instinct chez les insectes* by naturalist Jean-Henri Casimir Fabre (1914), the MBAL invited the Swiss collective APIAN to present a new site-specific installation combining videos, documents and artifacts on the behavior of bees, disrupted by pesticides.

On the 2nd floor, in the footsteps of Jorge Luis Borges' imaginary beings, artist Irène Grundel's intriguing blue bird, made of wood, plaster and wax, dominates the room and turns into a furry structure, which contains a cabinet of curiosities. These real and dreamlike creatures from the museums' collections, including works by Chagall, Le Corbusier and Hainard, as well as wonders of modern Inuit art, mingle with Pamela Rosenkranz's snake symbolism and the technological unconscious of Emilio Vavarella's animal filmmakers.

The exhibition continues with Patrick Goddard, who invites us to share a conversation with his philosophical dog, endowed with more reason than instinct. Taxidermy in Gaza's bombed-

# MBAL

out zoos as a desperate solution to war resistance is at the heart of Roman Selim Khereddine's video piece.

Assembled by Marta Bogdańska on the 1st floor, photographic archives of animals exploited by the army and their revolt explore the relationship of domination between human beings and animals and mingles with MBAL's permanent collection.

On the ground floor, science, experience and fiction come together in two fascinating projects : a video by BE-AR(T) collective presents an anti-human repellent for bears, while animals from the MUZOO's zoo unveil the results of their artistic workshop with their caregivers.

In the Marie-Anne Calame room, children express themselves and reflect on three top predators : the lynx, the wolf and the bear, in collaboration with the Swiss magazine *La Salamandre*.

Federica Chiocchetti

# INVITED ARTISTS

COLLECTION MBAL

COLLECTION MUZOO

APIAN

BE-AR(T)

MARTA BOGDAŃSKA

PATRICK GODDARD

ERIK KESSELS

ROMAN SELIM KHEREDDINE

PAMELA ROSENKRANZ

LA SALAMANDRE

EMILIO VAVARELLA

## PRESS VERNISSAGE 13.10.2023

From 11.00 am to 6.00 pm, press tour of the exhibition with Federica Chiocchetti, director of the MBAL, Séverine Cattin, assistant curator, and the invited artists.

From 6.30 pm, public opening followed by an aperitif and an animalistic DJ-set by La Collective.

## CONTACTS

COMMUNICATION MBAL

Fanny Blanc

+41 (0)32 933 89 53

[fanny.blanc@ne.ch](mailto:fanny.blanc@ne.ch)

MEDIA RELATIONS

Caroline Bourrus

+33 (0)6 12 21 55 00

[cb@carolinebourrus.com](mailto:cb@carolinebourrus.com)

## INFORMATIONS

Museum of Fine Arts - Marie-Anne Calame 6,  
CH-2400 Le Locle - +41 (0)32 933 89 50 - [mbal@ne.ch](mailto:mbal@ne.ch) -  
[www.mbal.ch](http://www.mbal.ch) - [@mbalelocle](https://www.instagram.com/mbalelocle)

Wednesday-Sunday : 11 am–5 pm

First Sunday of the month : free admission



ERNST GÖHNER  
STIFTUNG

MUZOO

