Mucem

Exhibition
Press release

Upside Down,
Inside out with the Collection of the Centre Pompidou

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Centre Pompidou
From June 23, 2027 to January 10, 2028
Mucem J4, Level 2 (1,200 m²)

Curators
Marie-Charlotte Calafat, Director of Research and Collections, Mucem
Xavier Rey, Director of the National Museum of Modern Art – Centre Pompidou



Pierre Buraglio, *Masquage*, [1979–1980], tracing paper, Mnam-Cci/Centre Pompidou © ADAGP, Paris, 2026
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What if the reverse revealed more than the front?

With "Upside Down, Inside Out with the Collection of the Centre Pompidou", Mucem and Centre Pompidou invite us to reverse our perspective. Traces of making, hidden gestures, unseen sides of works: the exhibition explores what we never look at and yet what says so much about the creative process.
From popular objects to modern and contemporary art, the reverse side becomes a space of revelation, invention and subversion. Showing the back, exhibiting works in reverse, turning conventions on their head: these gestures reveal creative processes and challenge our visual habits. From Paul Gauguin to Vassily Kandinsky, from Surrealism to contemporary art, the exhibition moves through the avant-gardes and traditions of the "world turned upside down", where chance, accident and reappropriation open up new paths.
The Centre Pompidou will celebrate its 50th anniversary at Mucem. To mark the occasion, the exhibition will bring two major institutions into dialogue and offer an unprecedented sensory and intellectual experience, in which turning artworks over means rethinking the museum itself.

Centre Pompidou collection
From Marcel Duchamp to Vassily Kandinsky, Pierre Buraglio, Ghada Amer and Jean Tinguely, the Centre Pompidou collection shows how the reverse side can become a powerful engine for creation. Displayed from both front and back, André Breton's Studio Wall is a highlight, revealing the hidden workings of a Surrealist world.

Mucem collection
The Mucem collection, meanwhile, reveals everything the front conceals: gestures, uses, techniques, mechanisms, personal stories and social conventions. Reversible clothing, shadow puppets, fairground targets, moulds, devotional objects and images of the "world turned upside down" tell another history of objects through their hidden sides.

Lenders
MAC VAL - Musée d'Art Contemporain du Val-de-Marne, Musée d'Orsay, Musée national Picasso-Paris and Musée de Grenoble.

Artists featured
Ghada Amer, Yto Barrada, Georg Baselitz, Neïl Beloufa, Zoulikha Bouabdellah, Pierre Buraglio, Sophie Calle, Marc Chagall, Marcel Duchamp, Luciano Fabro, Paul Gauguin, Laurent Goldring, Philippe Gronon, Susan Hefuna, Rebecca Horn, Vassily Kandinsky, Anish Kapoor, Bouchra Khalili, Yves Klein, Annette Messager, Piet Mondrian, Bruce Nauman, Giulio Paolini, Pablo Picasso, Daniel Spoerri, Jean Tinguely.

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The "Upside Down" exhibition is co-organised by Mucem and Centre Pompidou
Mucem × Centre Pompidou 50