Mucem

Exhibition
Press release

PaySans

From February 10 to August 30,2027
Mucem J4, ground floor (500 m²)

Curator — Édouard de Laubrie, Head of Agriculture and Food, Mucem

Exhibition design — Atelier Clément Azaïs with Marius Belmeguenaï Studio and Orianne Filippozzi.



Motorway blockade at Ville-en-Vermois (54) by protesting farmers, February 2024, photograph by Alexandre Marchi © PHOTOPQR / L'EST REPUBLICAIN / Alexandre MARCHI

"No country without farmers" could recently be read on a placard during the 2024 demonstrations.

This exhibition aims to rebuild the connection between the farming world and people today. To understand French agriculture, we need to look back over time. Spanning 150 years, the exhibition will examine the challenges, achievements, difficulties and trade-union struggles that enabled French agriculture, within a single generation, to become one of the most productive in the world. Yet this performance came at a cost: human tragedies and conflicts, including rural exodus, the disappearance of rural civilisation and the drastic decline in the number of farmers, as well as health and environmental crises. The exhibition will explore changes in the farming world in the context of globalised agriculture and the ways in which it is perceived by different actors in civil society, with the aim of fostering greater understanding and bringing people closer together.

The exhibition will also draw on Mucem's rich collections, which will contribute 74 items out of a total of 230 to 250 works and documents.
Works are also being specially created for the exhibition and produced by Mucem: five drawings by press cartoonist GAB, a work by Gaëlle Doret-Bélorgey, and a work by students from the Lycée professionnel agricole La Ricarde in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, coordinated by artist Nicolas Eres.

Proposed artists — Julien Beneyton, Thierry Boutonnier, Jules Dalou, Gaëlle Doret-Bélorgey, Raoul Dufy, André Fougeron, Yona Friedman, GAB, Marcel Gromaire, Suzanne Husky, Fabrice Hyber, Edwige Lamy, Léon Lhermitte, Christian Malon, Karoll Petit, Pascal Rivet, Damien Rouxel, Nicolas Tubery, Tulyppe

Types of works — Fine art, archives, ethnology, contemporary art.

Prospective lenders — Musée d'Orsay, Musée national d'art moderne, Archives nationales de France, Archives nationales du monde du travail, Musée départemental de la Seine-et-Marne, Archives départementales de l'Aude, Musée de l'agriculture COMPA (Conservatoire du Machinisme et des Pratiques Agricoles), Musée de la Grande Guerre du Pays de Meaux, Musée des Beaux-Arts Denys-Puech, FRAC Les Abattoirs, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne, Musée d'art moderne de Paris, Musées de Dijon, Cabinet des Médailles de Marseille, Piacé le Radieux, Bézard – Le Corbusier, École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, Lycée agricole Pétrarque, Lycée agricole de l'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Collectif TRACES, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Archives du Crédit Agricole

Scientific committee — Ms Evelyne Baron, Chief Curator of the Musée départemental de Seine-et-Marne, Saint-Cyr-sur-Morin, Seine-et-Marne Departmental Council; Ms Agnès Dechy, Project Officer, Regional Training and Development Service, Institutions Support Unit, DRAAF (Regional Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Forestry) PACA; Mr Pierre Del Porto, agronomist and President of the Fédération des Musées d'Agriculture et du Patrimoine rural (AFMA); Ms Vanessa Doutreleau, ethnologist; Ms Marie Fekkar, documentary studies officer and Head of the Agriculture Collection, Department of Environment, Regional Planning and Agriculture (DEATA), Archives nationales; Ms Justine Glémarec, Head of COMPA, Territorial Attractiveness, Eure-et-Loir Departmental Council; Ms Lauriane Gricourt, Director of Les Abattoirs, Musée - Frac Occitanie Toulouse; Mr Bertrand Hervieu, sociologist, adviser to several Ministers of Agriculture and former President of INRA (Institut national de la recherche agronomique); Ms Mireille Jacotin, Chief Curator and Head of the "Public Life" Department, Mucem; Mr Edouard Lynch, Professor of Contemporary History at Lumière Lyon 2 University and member of the steering committee of the Association des ruralistes français; Ms Nadine Vivier, Emeritus Professor of Rural History, University of Le Mans, Secretary of the Association pour l'étude de l'histoire de l'agriculture and Honorary President of the Académie d'Agriculture de France.

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