

# BEAUX-ARTS DE PARIS

Press release



## Chère Melpomène

from April, 9<sup>th</sup> to June, 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

« Dear Melpomène,

*We address you, muse of tragedy, who once sat at the back of the Palais des Beaux-Arts. Once a plaster statue several meters tall, you have now become a ruin. From the residue of your dust, we seek to transcend the archetype of the muse and evoke a fresh, nuanced breath, to fill the interstices of established norms. Between inspiration and expiration, between what is spoken and what remains silent, this breath embodies our profound desire for social justice. »*

*Chère Melpomène* is a call for change – an invitation to subvert classical myths and convey stories closer to our daily lives. The exhibition invites us to listen, feel, and breathe together in a poetic exploration of what connects us.

Using a methodology inspired by Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's book *Dictée* (1982), in which each of the nine muses of Greco-Roman antiquity is subject to a poetic drift paying tribute to women martyrs who sought emancipation, this exhibition sublimates reality by rerouting the figure of Melpomène.

What relationships should we nurture between species – both animated and inanimate beings? Theresa Hak Kyung Cha invited us to prioritize our senses, intuition, and attention to our environment to reconnect with the multiple breaths of life and revive our sense of community.

The exhibition invites us to explore our personal tragedies and the stories we can tell about them. It is an incantation to bring about spiritual and political relationships, to "magise" our struggles, to develop our imagination, and to maintain hope. The works presented embody a desire for resistance and solidarity, sharing speculative cosmogonies to convey the plurality of the memories that shape our contemporary society and honor our individuality.

*Chère Melpomène* poses a hundred works from the collections, students and their atelier instructors, leaders, and international artists, presenting a transhistorical display, from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Most have never been exhibited before – recently acquired by the School or specially produced for the exhibition – while others have not yet circulated in the institutional world.

In conjunction, during the late opening hours on Wednesday evenings, an enriching program of complementary events will create space for performance, writing, and literature.

Finally, a booklet gathering contributions from the students allows for a reflection on the collective development of the project and offers multiple avenues of interpretation for visitors to reflect on beyond the exhibition.

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## — CURATORS

Mélanie Bouteloup and Armelle Pradalier, co-directors of the “Artists & Exhibition Professions” program, Giulia Longo, Curator of Prints and Photographs at Beaux-Arts de Paris, with students in the program : KENZA AGBO, Adèle Anstett, Martin Bas, Héloïse Bayard, Léonard Berthou, Pauline Boudaoud, Mathilde Cassan, Mathilde Chabaud, Elisa Leïla Durand, Éloïse Frye De Lassalle, Klara Jakes, Clément Justin Hannin, Zoé Le Bacquer, Shumeng Li, Zahra Mansoor, Timothée Perron, Zoé Siau, Kit Szasz, Lara Ulusoy.

## — ARTISTS

Soraya Abdelhouaret, Océane-Maria Adjovi, Giovanni Altieri, Shelim Alvarado, Dyan Daniel Assogo, Eugène Atget, Azzeazy, Gianfranco Baruchello, Baya, Romain Bernini, Pierre-Amédée-Marcel Béronneau, Michel Blazy, Félix Bonfils Et Atelier, Rosa Bonheur, Wanda Elisabeth Bouleau-Rabaud, Jean Bhowanagary, Luciano Castelli, Norbert Chautard, Arthur Coquille Hopfner, Henri Cueco, Storm De Hirsch, Princesse Diakumpuna, Amahiguere Dolo, Guillaume Benjamin Amant Duchenne De Boulogne, Aysha E Arar, Mimosa Echard, Laura Esparch, Frederik Exner, Nina Fiorentini, Diego Garcia Lara, Guillaume-Sulpice Dit Paul Gavarni, Clémence Gbonon, Fengyi Guo, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Roger Hardy, Suzanne Husky, Fanny Irina, Svay Ken, Kätthe Kollwitz, Shengqi Kong, Adrien Lagrange, Emmanuelle Lainé, Amadeo Luciano Lorenzato, Gherasim Luca, Frédérique Loutz, Rose Lowder, Antoinette Lubaki, Turiya Magadlela, Joshua Merchan Rodriguez, Pierre Molinier, Céleste Moneger, Zora Neale Hurston, Aryle Nsengiyumva, Christel Pereira, Lizelor Perez, Enzo Perrier, Romain Pommelet, Jonathan Potana, Pierre Petit, Chloé Quenum, Axel Ramat, Lou Rappeneau, Akshay Rathore, Man Ray, Odilon Redon, Paul Richer, Sofia Salazar Rosales, Juliana Seraphim, Seumboy, Marcel Storr, Shooshie Sulaiman, Eden Tinto Collins, Marion Verboom, François Verdier, Yizhi Wan, Isabelle Waternaux, Yue Yu, Anna Zemankova et anonymes.

## — PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Chère Melpomène

Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

Beaux-Arts de Paris

13 quai Malaquais, Paris 6

Wednesday to Sunday, 1pm-7pm

2€, 5€ or 10€ it's up to you!

Nocturnes on Wednesday evenings : detailed program to follow on [beauxartsparis.fr](http://beauxartsparis.fr)

Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

#beauxartsparis

The “Artists & Exhibition Professions” program is supported by



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# — AMONGST THE EXHIBITED WORKS



Petit Pierre, *Statue de la Melpomène*  
Albumen paper, 26 x 19 cm  
© Beaux-Arts de Paris, Grand Palais RMN / Thierry Ollivier



Céleste Moneger, *Toujours pas New-York*  
Video, screenshot



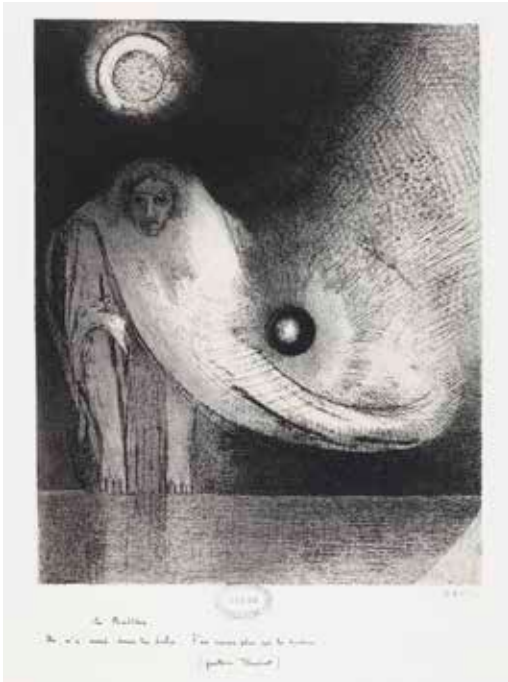
Akshay Rathore, *White thing creeping in black 02*, 2022  
Felt pen and aerosol on cardboard, 78 x 97 cm



Clémence Gbonon, *The curtains*  
Oil on canvas



Guillaume-Sulpice Gavarni dit Paul, *La Peinture*, 1839  
Lithography  
© Beaux-Arts de Paris, Grand Palais RMN / Jean-Michel Lapellerie



Odilon Redon, *Le Buddha*, 1895  
Lithography on chine appliqué, 60 x 42,5 cm  
© Beaux-Arts de Paris, Grand Palais RMN / Thierry Ollivier



Henri Cueco, *Autoportrait aux feuilles de pissenlit*, 2002  
Acrylic on canvas, 55,3 x 46,5 cm



Chloé Quenum, *19 juillet 2019, 2022*  
Courtesy of the artist and galleria Martina Simeti,  
Milan © Aurélien Mole



Yue Yu, *((.)) entre 8188 lèvres depuis 400 ans*  
Glazed stoneware, ash glazes (oak, hornbeam, beech,  
birch, fir and ash), forged steel, 1,20m x 1,20m x 2,50m



Romain Pommelet, *En marche*, 2023  
Shoes, metal bracket, leatherette, foam, clamps,  
plywood, variable dimensions



Fanny Irina, *Offrande*, 2023  
Oil painting and pastels on canvas, 86 x 86 cm



Frédérique Loutz, *sans titre*, 2019  
India ink and colored pencil, 170 x 135 cm



Jonathan Potana, *Mouvement Primaire*, Centre d'Art Ygrec - ENSAPC, 2024  
Chameleon in suspended formole with copper wire on bicycle and stones, 5 x 1,3 m © Objet Pointus



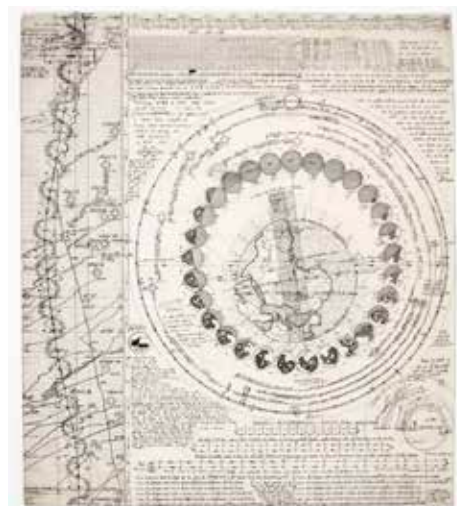
Marion Verboom, *Céphalon 2*  
© Nicolas Brasseur



Océane Maria Adjovi, *L'origine de nos actes*, 2024  
Oil on canvas, 162 x 130 cm



Shengqi Kong, *Crocodile boy*, 2022  
Oak, 16 x 16 x 28 cm © ADAGP Paris 2025, Shengqi Kong



Roger Hardy, *Sans titre*, non daté  
India ink on tracing paper