

CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER  
OF NATIONAL INTEREST

ANNEMASSE <sup>FR</sup>  
PARC MONTESSUIT

EXHIBITION  
12/10 - 22/12 2024  
OPENING  
SATURDAY 12/10  
5 PM

20 YEARS OF THE  
PREPARATORY CLASS  
AT THE BEAUX ARTS  
DU GENEVOIS

PRESS RELEASE  
***Voies d'évasion***

*The artistic journeys of former EBAG  
preparatory class students*

**Villa du Parc**

# **Voies d'évasion**

***The artistic journeys of former EBAG preparatory class students***

**Featuring: Tanguy Benoit, Yann Stéphane Bisso, Marie Chemin, Rémi de Chiara, Manon Delajoud, Léon Felix, Julien Fournival, Yaël Kempf, Léonard Rachex, Diane Rivoire, Billy Roch, Eliot Ruffel, Neige Sanchez and Ludivine Zambon**

**Graphic design: Ismaël Abdallah and Constance Jacob**

**Curator: Garance Chabert**

This year the EBAG (Ecole des beaux-arts du Genevois) in Annemasse is celebrating the twentieth birthday of its public preparatory class for French and international art schools.

To mark the occasion, the Villa du Parc contemporary art centre is presenting work by fifteen EBAG alumni in an exhibition entitled *Voies d'évasion* (Escape routes).

This project has two goals: to spotlight selected artists, boosting their early careers, and, through the diversity of standpoints manifested in these works on display, to encourage thinking about the reality of professional artists and the challenges they face today. It also underscores the strong links between the EBAG, art schools in the region and the Villa du Parc.

What does it mean to be an artist today, and how, in both personal and educational terms, do you become one? How do you start out on this journey, based on both an excellence in training that can open many paths and a determination to find your own way? How can training allow you to transform your needs, desires and intuitions into an artistic practice that can be shown and shared, one that has real meaning in today's world?

The works in this exhibition, for the most part produced or selected for this specific context, reveal the trajectories followed by these artists as their practice developed and they grew into full adulthood, the situations and emotions they went through, the critical filter of their reading and encounters, and their close attention to the world, both disquieted and engaged, and ultimately restorative.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

**TANGUY BENOÎT**  
**LIVES AND WORKS IN GENEVA**  
PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2015  
[tanguy-benoit.com](http://tanguy-benoit.com)

Tanguy Benoit attended the HEAD (Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design de Genève), where he obtained a bachelor's degree in visual arts, majoring in construction (of sculpture, objects, installations, etc.) in 2019, and in 2021 a master's in design, majoring in space and communication.

A transdisciplinary artist concerned with the political significance of landscapes portrayed by the mass media, he explores fields as diverse as film, video games, design and academic media studies themselves.

His work has been seen in group shows such as Festival NuméricA, (La Turbine, Annecy, 2024) and We Crave Blood (Rawart Gallery, Tel Aviv, 2023).

**RÉMI DE CHIARA**  
**BORN 1987 - LIVES AND WORKS IN LYON**  
PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2005  
[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/remidechiara)

A graduate of the Ecole Supérieure d'Art et de Design de Saint-Etienne, for three years he attended a workshop held by the ADERA, a network of art schools in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

His practice in drawing and installation art deals with the concepts of traces and their erosion. He has shown at the Angle Art Contemporain in Haute-Savoie and participated in collective exhibitions, notably in Lyon, Grenoble and Firminy (as part of the Lyon biennial's Résonance programme).

Some of his lithographs have been acquired by city of Lyon for its "art library".

He has become interested in teaching and sharing skills, and gives visual arts workshops at the URDLA in Villeurbanne, the Villa du Parc in Annemasse and the Espace Arts Plastiques in Vénissieux.

**YANN STÉPHANE BISSO**  
**BORN 1998- LIVES AND WORKS IN GENEVA**  
PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2016  
[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/yannstphanebisso)

Yann Stéphane Bisso obtained a master's in visual arts at the HEAD (Haute Ecole d'Art et de Design de Genève) in 2022.

His painting centres a field of tensions, inspired by his reading of the Caribbean Édouard Glissant on diaspora culture and his own understanding of the concept of "creolisation". He thus brings to light his personal reflections on rootedness, identity and our understanding of time and place. In 2021, he took part in the group exhibition Lemania at the CAC in Geneva. In 2023, he was awarded the Helvetia Art Prize and was shown at the Basel Art Fair. In 2025, his work will be on view at Geneva's Halle Nord art space. He has been nominated for the La Mobilière prize

**MARIE CHEMIN**  
**BORN 1993 - LIVES AND WORKS IN LAUSANNE**  
PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2012  
[mariechemin.com](https://www.mariechemin.com)

After studying photography and film at the Beaux-Arts de Bordeaux and Concordia University in Montreal, she graduated from the ECAL/HEAD master's programme in cinema. Her work as an artist revolves around new modes of narration at the border between the real and the virtual. She founded the Anecdotes writing collective in Lausanne.

**MANON DELAJOUR**  
**BORN 1993 - LIVES AND WORKS IN GENEVA**  
PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2012  
[Linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/manon-delajour)

After completing a master's degree in spatial design at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Art in Dijon, she became project manager for the apaar sàrl landscape and architecture agency in Geneva. She was responsible for the design and on-site construction supervision of the Parc des Minoteries in Geneva, the Parc de l'Etang in Vernier and the pedestrian and bicycle path in Carouge.

**LÉON FÉLIX****BORN 1999 - LIVES AND WORKS IN LAUSANNE**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2017

[www.leonfelix.ch](http://www.leonfelix.ch)

In 2022, he obtained a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design from the ECAL, Lausanne's cantonal art school. His work is deeply linked to his father, Pierre-Yves Félix, a furniture maker who introduced him to manual labour.

This intergenerational transmission led him to interrogate the relationship between learning and inheritance, and the links between design and craft. His main interest lies in environmental questions.

In 2023, his research project Terra, a passive air-conditioning system inspired by mashrabiya, won recognition and support by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Design Awards and the Vitra Design Museum. Today, he divides his time between his practice and a job as a craftsman at the ECAL.

**YAEL KEMPF****LIVES AND WORKS IN DUSSELDORF**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2012

[www.yaekempf.com](http://www.yaekempf.com)

In 2016 she obtained a bachelor's degree in painting from La Cambre, followed by a diploma from the Dusseldorf Kunstakademie in 2020.

Yaël Kempf explores the complex relationship between culture and nature through immersive installations. She combines organic elements like mushrooms and animals with industrial consumer goods.

By integrating signs, symbols and innovative video techniques, she creates a clash of eras and forms that reveals the contradictions of our contemporary reality. Recently, she was the recipient of the NRW+ grant, which offers a one-year residency in Munster. In 2024, she presented the solo exhibition *Annunciation* at the Essen Kunsthaus and received support from the Visuelle Kunst Junge Szene programme for her project *La Faim du Tigre* (The Tiger's Hunger) In 2023, she was awarded the Deutsche Bank Atelier-Stipendium

**JULIEN FOURNIVAL****BORN 1997 - LIVES AND WORKS IN ANNEMASSE AND GENEVA**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2017

[Instagram](#)

Julian Fournival obtained a national art diploma from the ENSAD in Nancy and then a Work.Master degree at the HEAD in Geneva in 2024.

With his installations, sculptures, writing, textiles, performance/readings and sometimes painting, he tries to create narrative spaces, often auto-fictions, within which several types of notions and stories gravitate.

These include the position in contemporary art circles of those who have fled their original social class, masculinity in rural and/or working-class environments, refuge, the bedroom, work, going back and forth, violence, trauma and the narratives that can be generated between personal and political space.

**LÉONARD RACHEX****BORN 1996 - LIVES AND WORKS IN MARSEILLE**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2014

[Instagram](#)

Léonard Rachex graduated from the EESAB (École européenne supérieur d'art de Bretagne) in Quimper in 2020. His artistic approach attempts to problematize the figure of the artist and the idea of authorship.

He likes to play with reality, blurring the line between the true and the false. To set up these fictional games, he often resorts to humour and absurdity. This enables him to establish a poetic dialogue. The figure of the other also comes into play through collective work. To explore the figure of the artist, he divides his practice into several fictitious personas, his own (Léonard Rachex), that of his artist alter ego (Adrian Cadet), and a more entrepreneurial one (©Léon'art).

Between 2021 and 2023, he had residencies in France, Italy and Benin.

**DIANE RIVOIRE****BORN 1996 - LIVES AND WORKS IN GENEVA**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2014

[Instagram](#)

In 2020 she obtained a master's degree in Visual Arts with honours from the HEAD. In 2022, she attended the GENERATOR 9 training course offered by the 40m3 art centre in Rennes. Diane Rivoire's appropriationist practice involves paintings, objects, texts and performances, sometimes serious and sometimes whimsical. Her work is inspired by lived experiences and borrows its references from pop culture. Between 2018 and 2023, she took part in a number of group exhibitions, including the 2023 *Target Flowers* organized by Martin Bonnaz at the Espace HIT in Geneva and *Beauregard Flottant* at the FRAC-Bretagne, which will acquire one of the artworks in the show.

**BILLY ROCH****BORN 1999 - LIVES AND WORKS IN GRENOBLE**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2017

A 2021 graduate of the EESAB (Ecole supérieur d'art de Bretagne) and in 2023 of the Grenoble ESAD (Ecole supérieure d'art et de design), his work has appeared in several group shows, notably at the Galerie ESAD in 2022 and the 2021 exhibition *Beaux Quartier – Sculpture interactive* in Grenoble, where he won the student prize.

**LUDIVINE ZAMBON****BORN 1992 - LIVES AND WORKS IN PARIS**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2011

[www.ludivinezambon.com](http://www.ludivinezambon.com)

A 2016 graduate of the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-arts in Lyon, Ludivine Zambon draws on her life history and the rural Alpine environment where she grew up to tell intimate stories through collective bodies. She invokes myths, translates rituals and the figure of the anti-hero to construct narratives that border on the documentary. She has presented her work and that of her collective at exhibitions and screenings, among them 100%, an exhibition at La Villette; *Le jardin des Argonautes*, at the Lyon

Biennale d'art contemporain; and *Première étoile, dernier flocon (Versant vidéo)* at the Villa du Parc contemporary art centre in Annemasse. In 2022, she was awarded the *Mondes Nouveau* grant by the Ministry of Culture.

**ELIOT RUFFEL****BORN 2000 - LIVES AND WORKS IN PARIS**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2017

[www.eliotruffel.com](http://www.eliotruffel.com)

Elliot Ruffel graduated with a bachelor's degree in visual arts from the HEAD in 2021 and then attended the ESADHAR in Le Havre where he obtained a master's in creative writing in 2023. Currently he is studying for a master's in photography and video at the ESAD in Paris. Creating narrative forms where photography, video, found objects and writings echo each other, his practice is situated in interstices, both in terms of the subjects he tackles (in between childhood and adulthood, in between personal and collective narratives/territories) and the ways in which he approaches them (documentary/fiction, intermedia). Like a sampling of reality served up for fiction, he interweaves traces of what was, what could have been and what could be.

In 2024, his first novel *Après ça* was published by Editions de l'Olivier.

**NEIGE SANCHEZ****BORN 1992 - LIVES AND WORKS IN GENEVA**

PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2012

[www.neigesanchez.com](http://www.neigesanchez.com)

A 2016 graduate of the Vevy school of photography, in 2021 Neige Sanchez received a master's in visual arts at the HEAD (Geneva) and the Vienna fine arts academy.

Her work explores critical theories regarding the structural violence inherent in the history of photography and specifically the history of the representation of what are called "minorities", with a focus on queer communities. She interrogates the possibility that the production of images can be a tool for emancipation. Since 2022, she has been the co-director of an independent art space called eeeee! in Nyon. Between September 2022 and February 2023 she continued her work in a residency at ABA (Air Berlin Alexanderplatz), an artistic and research programme sponsored by Pro Helvetia.



Julien Fournival, *Dans le dos face au jardin*, 2024, crédit photo: Zoé Aubry



Eliot Ruffel, *Ca nous rend plus vivant*, 2021



Yael Kempf, *Missile*, 2019



Neige Sanchez, *A Room for Abstraction*, 2021



Félix Léon, *Valet*, 2020



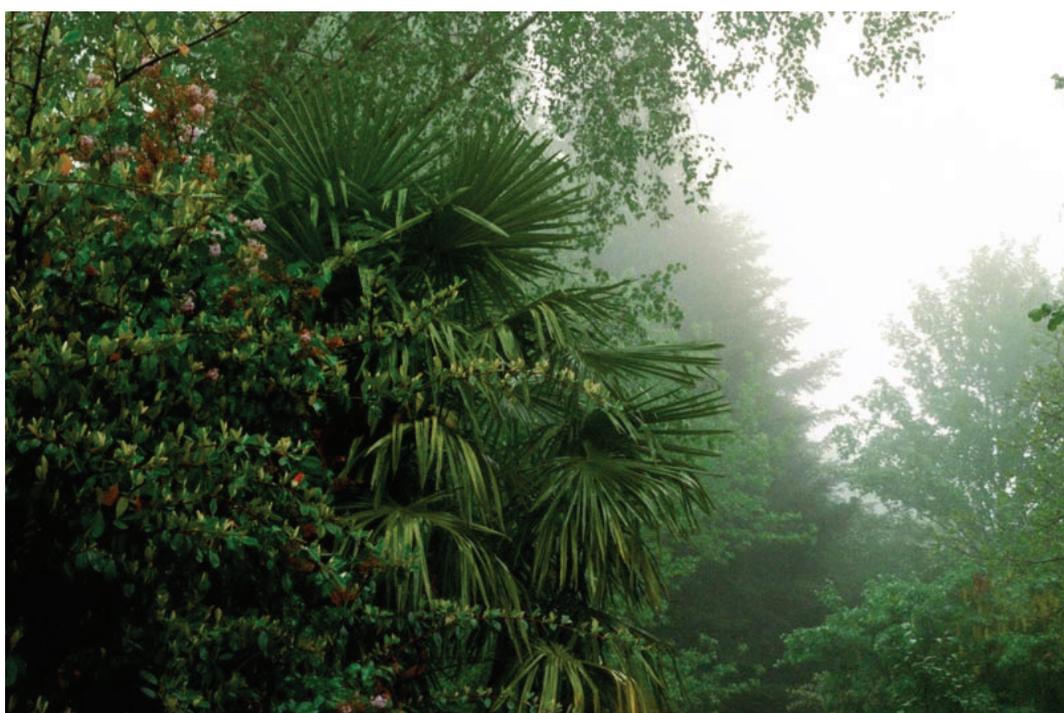
Manon Delajoud, *Parc public, Vernier, apaar\_Genève*



Tanguy Benoit, capture d'écran du *Jeu vidéo*, 2021



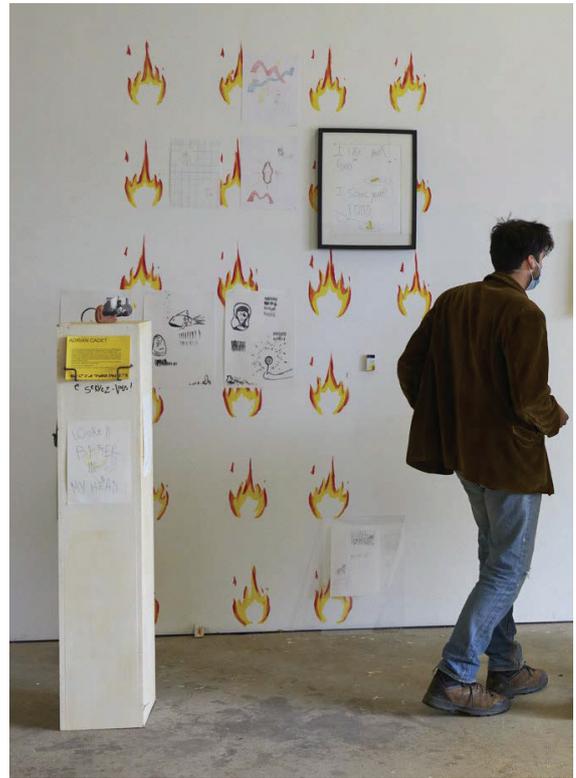
Rémi De Chiara, *Paysage Pli-Faille*, 2019-2020



Ludivine Zambon, *Laver les pierres*, installation photographique, 2022



Diane Rivoire, *Marilyn, Mafia et Moi*, 2023



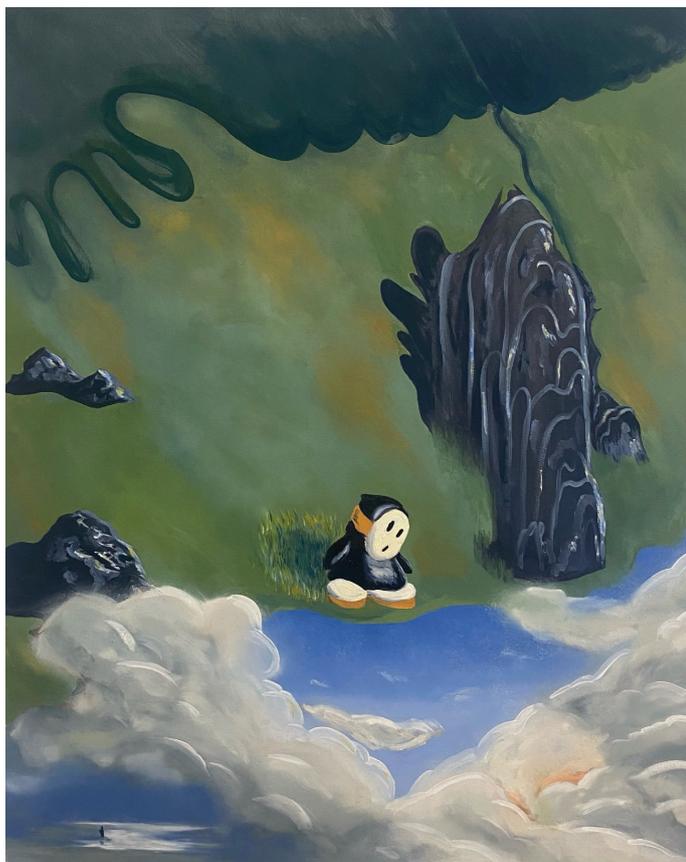
Léonard Rachex, *Que du Plaisir*, 2020



Billy Roch, 2023



Marie Chemin, *Le fantôme de Marioupol*, 2022



Yann Stéphane Bisso, *Shy guy*, 2023

EXHIBITION VOIES D'ÉVASION  
THE ARTISTIC JOURNEYS OF FORMER EBAG PREPARATORY CLASS STUDENTS

13 OCTOBER - 22 DECEMBER 2024

Curator: Garance Chabert

Opening Saturday 12 October, attended by the artists  
5:30 - Performance by Diane Rivoire

Communications Officer: Eudoxie Korus-Humblot  
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Ouvert du mercredi au dimanche de 14h à 18h et sur rendez-vous

*In partnership with the EBAG (Ecole des Beaux-Arts du Genevois), an establishment under the administration of Annemasse Agglo*



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