



Press release

EXHIBITION
18 Octobre 2020 to 17 January 2021

GALA OPENING
Saturday 17 October 2020 at 5 p.m.

**PRESS CONFERENCE AND VISIT OF
THE EXHIBITIONS**
Thursday 15 October 2020 at 11:15 A.M.

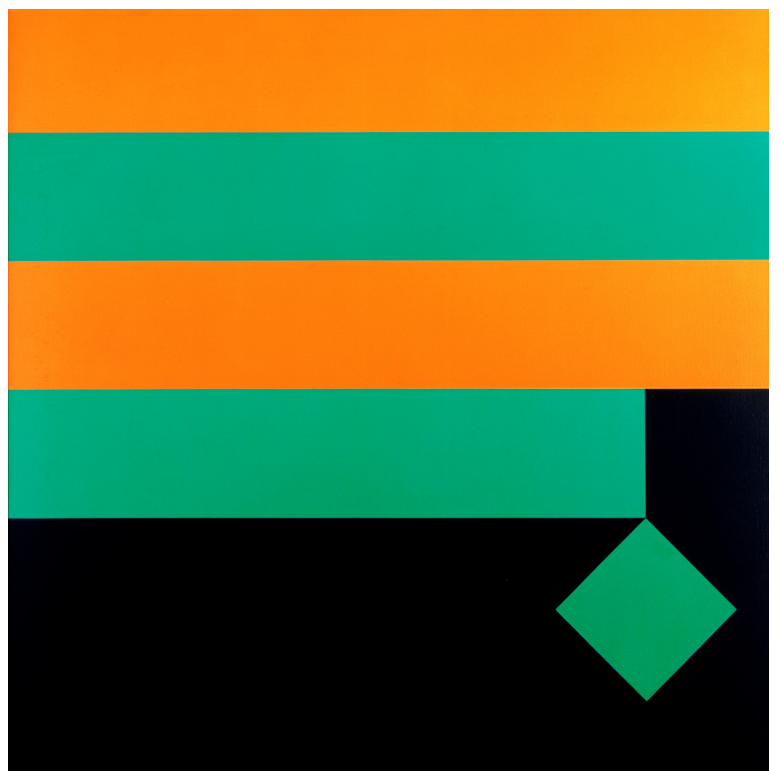
This fall, the La Chaux-de-Fonds Museum of fine arts is proud to announce two new exhibitions :

CAMILLE GRAESER . BECOMING A CONCRETE ARTIST
JEANNE-ODETTE . POINTS DE REPÈRE

The museum is hosting an extensive exhibition on the Swiss artist Camille Graeser, one of Zurich's leading concrete artists. The exhibition presents more than a hundred works of art – drawings, paintings, interiors and architectural projects – which trace the formal evolution of a former designer who turned to be an artist.

Simultaneously, the museum is honoured to present the first retrospective of the artist Jeanne-Odetta. The exhibition looks back over sixty years of creation since her lessons with Elsi Giaque up to recent works that have never been shown before.

The gala opening will be held on Saturday 17 October 2020 at 5 p.m. in the presence of Jeanne-Odetta and the representatives of The Camille Graeser Foundation. Speeches by Théo Bregnard, president of La Chaux-de-Fonds Council and David Lemaire, director and curator of the museum.





CURATORS :

David Lemaire, Vera Hausdorf

CAMILLE GRAESER . BECOMING A CONCRETE ARTIST

How does a furniture designer become one of the principale representatives of Zurich Concrete Art ? In 1917, Camille Graeser opened an office in Stuttgart with three sections : architecture, advertising graphics and design. For several years, he worked with the Deutscher Werkbund Group, creating furniture and interior design. On leaving Germany for Zurich, in 1933, he turned to painting, drawing, sculpture and relief. His previous research work in creating furniture gradually evolved into investigations about painting.

The exhibition, therefore, retraces the steps of his transition to painting which led him to "become a Concrete artist". Camille Graeser started by studying the theory of colours and composition before developing his own formal language within the Allianz group, which he joined in 1937. The Allianz group is an association of Swiss modern artists who started developing theories about Concrete Art. They distinguished Concrete Art from Abstract Art by declaring, "nothing is more concrete or real than a line, a colour or a surface." Little by little, Graeser's painting moved away from observable reality and relied more on mathematical calculations which included geometrical figures. By 1950, he was counted among the circle of the Zurich Concrete artists, alongside Max Bill, Richard Paul Lohse and Verena Loewensberg.

Camille Graeser was born in 1892 in Carouge (GE) and died in Wald (ZH) in 1980.

The exhibition is realized in collaboration with the Camille Graeser Foundation, Zurich. The show is accompanied by the catalog *Camille Graeser. Becoming a Concrete Artist*, published by the Camille Graeser Foundation, under the direction of Vera Hausdorff, Roman Kurzmeyer and David Lemaire.

JEANNE-ODETTE . POINTS DE REPÈRE

The retrospective dedicated to the Neuchâtel artist, Jeanne-Odette, traces her creative career over 60 years. This same period also saw fertile dialogue between textile art and contemporary art.

In 1953, Jeanne Odette's aesthetic interest in tapestry took shape while working with Elsi Giauque, a pioneer of the Textile Arts in Switzerland, and a pupil of Sophie Tauber-Arp. A room in the museum offers a glimpse into the work of Elsi Giauque.

Jeanne-Odette was fascinated by the metamorphosis of matter. She started to experiment in different techniques of weaving, eventually developing her own method, in 1976, which she called "interference". The warp threads, which form the matrix of the tapestry, are pulled across various levels, in between which the weft threads interfere. This gives her tapestries a new kind of depth and lightness. In resonance with her textile creations, the exhibition presents a collection of models. These represent an important stage in the process of making the gigantic tapestries with which Jeanne-Odette and her husband Claudévard have adorned many buildings. At the end of the 1980s, she started varying her materials, by incorporating leftover elements or industrial fabric which she then put to a different use. In contrast to this plastic research, she created a series of drawings and gouaches, assembling textiles and paper which show the graphic approach of the artist as developed in the second half of her career.

Jeanne-Odette was born in Bienne, in 1930. She is currently living in le Cerneux-Péquignot, in the Canton of Neuchâtel.

CURATOR :

David Lemaire

Mediation and events around the exhibitions



GUIDED VISITS

SUNDAY 01 NOVEMBER AT 11:15 A.M.

Guide: David Lemaire. Reserved for members of the Society of Friends of the Museum

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER AT 11:15 A.M.

Guide: Marie Gaitzsch

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER AT 11:15 A.M.

Guide: Gabriel Grossert

LECTURE SERIES (IN FRENCH): THE "SWEAR WORDS" OF CONTEMPORARY ART

(Les gros mots de l'art contemporain)

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER AT 6:45-8:00 P.M.

Concept

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER AT 6.45-8.00 P.M.

Device

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER AT 6:45-8:00 P.M.

Deterritorialisation - Talk with the artist Cristian Chironi in the framework of the *Cartoline /Saluti Affettuosi* project, one of the stages of the project *My House is a Le Corbusier - Villa Jeanneret-Perret*, presented by the Far° Nyon.

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER AT 6:45-8:00 P.M.

Post-

By David Lemaire

LECTURES ON ART NOUVEAU (IN FRENCH)

SUNDAY 08 NOVEMBER AT 11.00-12:30 A.M.

At the 1900 Paris Universal Exhibition: the apotheosis of Art Nouveau

SUNDAY 10 JANUARY AT 11:00-12:30 A.M.

The forgotten ones of the "Style Sapin"

By Marikit Taylor

TEA-TIME MEET THE ARTIST JEANNE-ODETTE

SUNDAY 17 JANUARY AT 2:30 P.M.

CHILDREN ' S WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER AT 10:15 - 12:00 A.M.

Blue square, red circle and yellow triangle

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER AT 10:15-12:00 A.M.

The little designers

SATURDAY 9 JANUARY AT 10:15-12:00 A.M.

The art of weaving

No charge, booking required (ages 6 to 12)

VIENS MANGER CHEZ MOI ,
LES CHAUX-DE-FONNIERS DANS LEUR MUSÉE
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER, AT 12:15 A.M.

Nathalie Ducatel

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER, AT 12:15 A.M.

Christiane Margraitner

TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER, AT 12:15 A.M

Jean-François Lehmann

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

FROM 21 OCTOBER TO 25 OCTOBER, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Sound installations by Alexandre Babel as part of the festival
Les Amplitudes

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER, AT 7:30 P.M.

Concert by the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain (NEC) and the
pre-professional students of the Neuchâtel Conservatory

FRIDAY 15 JANUARY, AT 8:15 P.M.

SATURDAY 16 JANUARY, AT 6:15 P.M.

Concert by Klangbox, invited by the Contemporary Music
Concerts Committee (CMC)

Practical informations

PARTNER

Camille Graeser Foundation, Les Amplitudes, Far°

far° les amplitudes

SUPPORT

Nestlé Foundation for Art, Contrôle des métaux précieux, La
Chaux-de-Fonds

as well as a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous

Fondation Nestlé
pour l'Art
partenariat

GALA OPENING

Saturday 17 October 2020 at 5 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

18 October – 17 January 2020

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ENTRANCE FEES

Full price: CHF 10.-

Concessions: CHF 7.-

Free for children under 16

Free every Sunday morning, 10 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Contact

CONTACT

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