

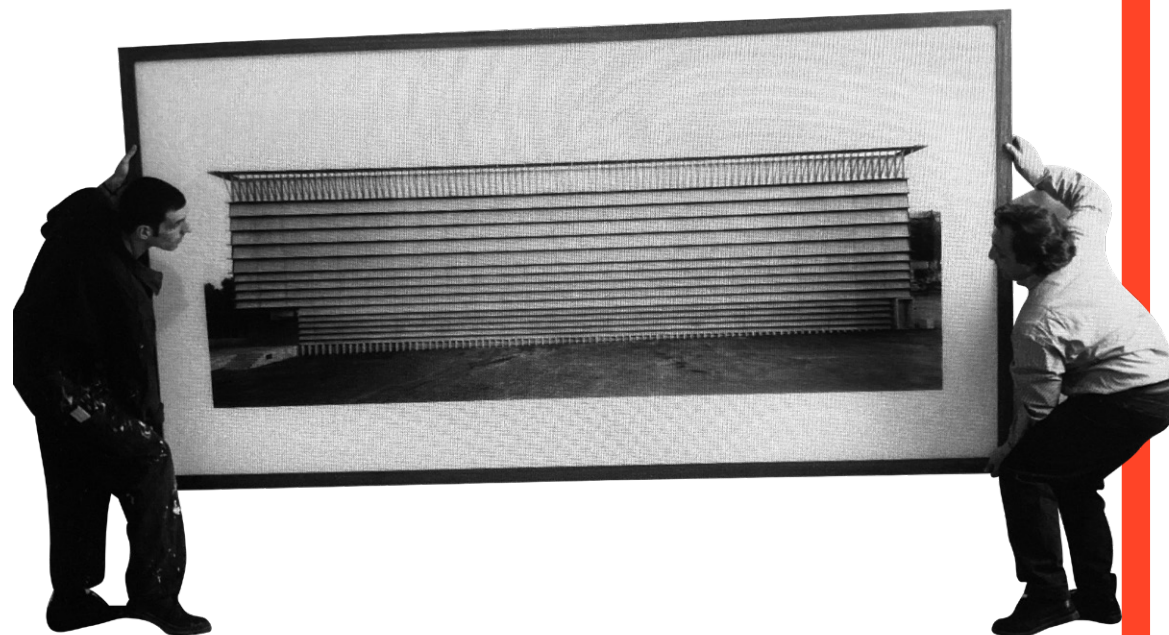
2021 JUBILEE FRI ART KUNSTHALLE

40 YEARS OF ART EXHIBITIONS
AND CULTURAL EVENTS

30 YEARS AT PETITES-RAMES, IN FRIBOURG

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2021, 10:00 AM
AT FRI ART

PRESS CONFERENCE OF JUBILEE
30 YEARS | 40 YEARS

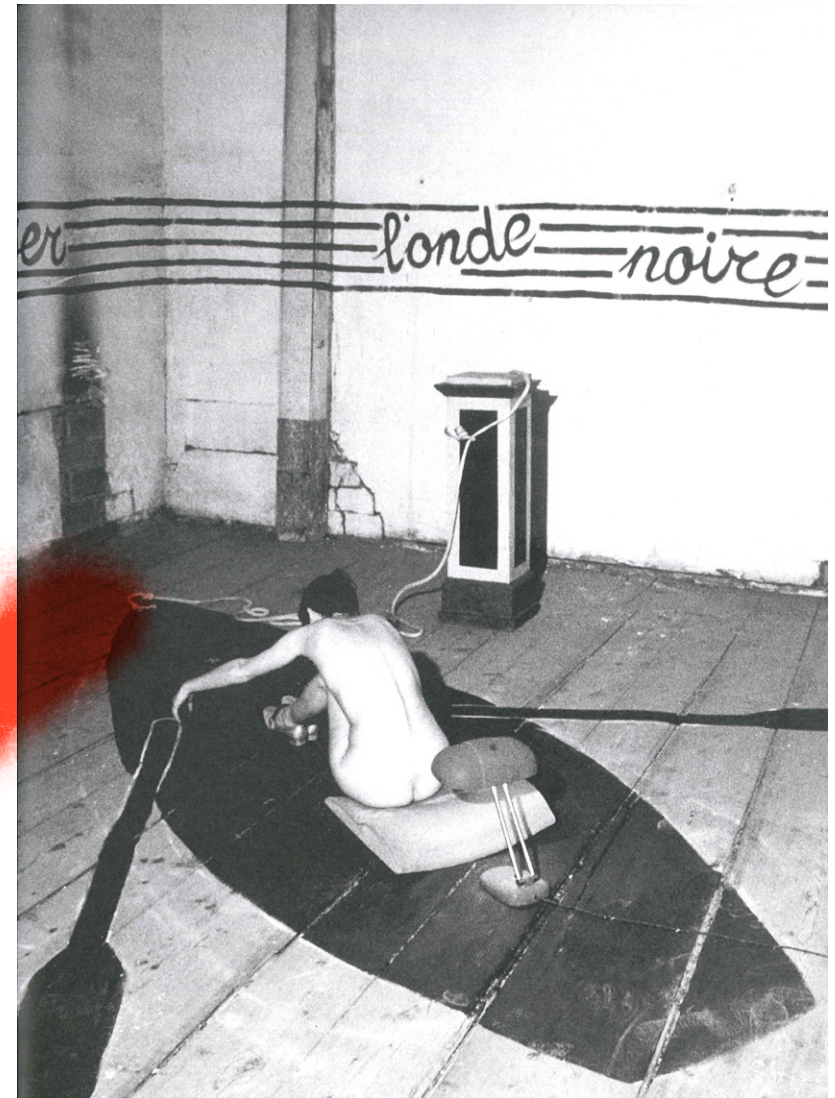


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ACCESS THE PRESS IMAGES OF THE JUBILEE

For more press images: comm@fri-art.ch



Performance in Grand Séminaire, exhibition Fri-Art 81, 1981

IN 2021 THE KUNSTHALLE IN FRIBOURG CELEBRATES A DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

From September to November 2021, Fri Art Kunsthalle celebrates a double anniversary through a multitude of events that link its history to the present!

The first explosive exhibition of the Association, held in 1981, celebrates its 40th anniversary. The Kunsthalle Fri Art, opened in the building of Petites-Rames in 1991, is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

To mark this jubilee 2021, Fri Art will discover its rich history through a series of festive and commemorative events. Since 1981, Fri Art Kunsthalle Fribourg has organized more than 160 exhibitions, 30 extramural projects, as well as a rich program of concerts, performances and events. Since the 1990s, the Kunsthalle has been a key venue for the Swiss art scene. Thomas Hirschhorn, Valentin Carron, Sylvie Fleury, Renée Green, David Hammons and Shirin Neshat have all made their mark here!

In 2021, under the artistic direction of Nicolas Brulhart, Fri Art continues to bring out new talents and to present innovative art forms to its public in an exceptional setting, with ambitious exhibitions of Swiss and international artists such as Hamishi Farah, Giulia Essyad, Calla Henkel & Max Pitegoff, Ketty La Rocca, Dorota Gaweda & Egle Kulbokaite.



Exhibition view, Calla Henkel & Max Pitegoff, *German Theater 2010-2020*, Fri Art, 2020. Photo Gunnar Meier



Exhibition view, Sylvie Fleury, *Comet*, Fri Art, 1997

FRI ART WAS BORN FROM THE VOID, THE SPIRIT OF A KUNSTHALLE
Exhibition in MAHF (Art and History Museum of Fribourg)
27.08 – 17.10.2021

**ACCESS THE EXHIBITION
DOCUMENTATION**

Since March 2020, Fri Art has been rediscovering 40 years of dormant archives of exhibitions and cultural events. The jubilee will reveal this history while progressing in the inventory and valorization of this cultural heritage.

Fri Art wants to make its history more widely known to a local and national population. The fruit of this research, accompanied by the photographic work of Eliane Laubscher, composed of thousands of pictures documenting the life of the Art Center, will be presented to the public from August 27 to October 17, 2021 during an exhibition at the Museum of Art and History of Fribourg (MAHF)!

TELLING THE STORY OF THE ART CENTER...

A SEMINAR AT THE UNIVERSITY

The work on the collections of Fri Art was done in a collective way by involving a new generation of students who dialogued with the founders of the Center. In the spring of 2021, art history students from the University of Fribourg explored the Fri Art archives in a seminar organized by the artistic director Nicolas Brulhart in collaboration with Prof. Julia Gelshorn. The seminar produced a substantial body of research and writing that provides a better understanding of Fri Art's place as a pioneering institution on the European art scene.



Ausstellungsansicht, *Fri Art est né du vide – L'esprit d'une Kunsthalle*, Museum für Kunst und Geschichte Freiburg, 2021

AN EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM

This seminar leads to the exhibition *Fri Art est né du vide, l'esprit d'une Kunsthalle* at the Museum of Art and History of Fribourg (MAHF). Each student presents his or her findings in the museum space, making the seminar an experience that links archival research and exhibition experience.

The exhibition also integrates many surprising found objects that make the history of the place: photographs, videos, flyers, posters, editions... A particular focus has been put on the rich photographic collection of Eliane Laubscher, a personality who was at the heart of the life in the Art Center between 1990 and 2004, where she was also the regular photographer.

The exhibition will present the key moments of this history through a rich panorama of videos, sounds, images and documents presented publicly to discover a unique and important history for the contemporary art scene in Switzerland!

JOSEF FELIX MÜLLER, *DREI NÄCHTE, DREI BILDER*, 1981

Presentation of the artwork

04.09. – 05.09.2021, 14:00 – 19:00 à Fri Art

Exceptional public unveiling at Fri Art of the three monumental paintings that were the object of a seizure in court and then of a long lawsuit following their first exhibition organized by the founders of Fri Art at the Grand Séminaire, in 1981.

Saturday September 4, 5pm

Drinks offered in the presence of the artist and Walter Tschopp.



Josef Felix Müller, *Drei Nächte drei Bilder*, Bild 1, Dispersion auf Baumwolle, 223x310cm, 1981



Josef Felix Müller, *Drei Nächte drei Bilder*, Bild 2, Dispersion auf Baumwolle, 218x369cm, 1981



Josef Felix Müller, *Drei Nächte drei Bilder*, Bild 3, Dispersion auf Baumwolle, 192x283cm, 1981

FRI ART PARTY – MERCURY RETROGRADE

**Saturday September 11, 2021, from 5pm
in Fri Art**

Press conference

Wednesday September 8, 2021, 10am in Fri Art

with the presence of the artistic director Nicolas Brulhart, the administrative director Estelle Negro and the president Clémence de Weck

A BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY

On September 11, 2021, the Mercury Retrograde Jubilee Party will take place. A grand dinner will welcome artists, new partners and friends past and present. The meal will be punctuated by performances, an auction and the presentation of a special edition. A long night of festivities and dancing will progressively take precedence over the meal and the doors of the party will be open to all. Numerous live concerts and DJ sets will keep the walls of the building vibrating until the early hours of the morning.

PROGRAM

Ariel's jazz band (Berlin)
Alice (Geneva)
NÂR (Beyrouth/Vevey)
Saadet Türköz (Zurich)
Nídia (Lisabon)
Claire Van Lubeek (Geneva)
Queer is not a Label (Paris)
TRNSTN X Strecke X WallStreet (Fribourg)
and more...

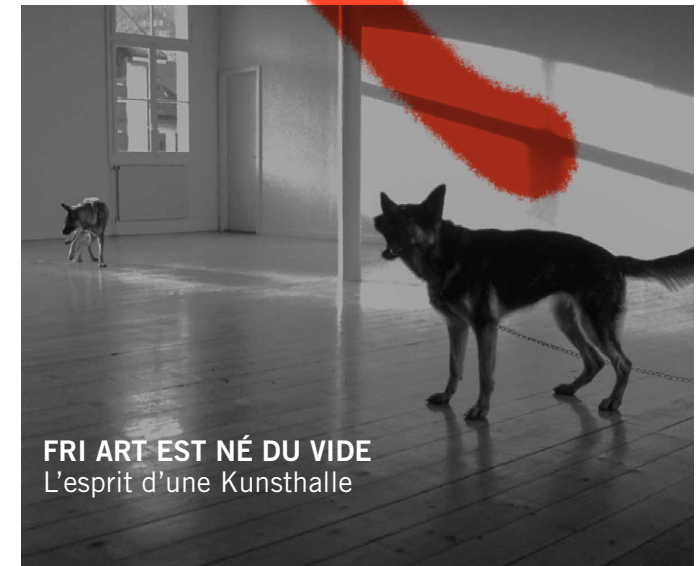
The jubilee celebration will also be an opportunity to see Josef Felix Müller's monumental painting *Drei Nächte, Drei Bilder* (1981).

Timetable and full program: www.fri-art.ch.

PRO FRIBOURG

212 | Trimestriel | 2021-III

www.pro-fribourg.ch



AN EXTRAORDINARY HERITAGE PUBLICATION

The selection and digitization of numerous archival images has made them available to the public for the very first time. They will be the subject of a special issue of the magazine dedicated to Fribourg's heritage, Pro Fribourg, which also includes contributions from Walter Tschopp, Eliane Laubscher, Olivier Suter and Nicolas Brulhart.

The opening of the publication will take place on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition *Fri Art est né du vide, l'esprit d'une Kunsthalle* at the MAHF, on 26.08.2021.

MICHEL RITTER, *AIR POWER = PEACE POWER*

Exhibition in Fri Art Kunsthalle
03.10.2021 – 09.1.2022

Opening

Saturday October 2, 2021, 6pm

AN EXHIBITION OF THE ARTIST MICHEL RITTER

On October 2, 2021, Fri Art will honor its first artistic director by opening the first large-scale exhibition devoted to his work as an artist. Nourished by his travels around the world, the artist takes a tender but also acerbic look at Switzerland. His sensitive use of materials, his sense of media and appropriation place him in contact with the practices of his time. This is a true rediscovery that will consecrate the importance of his work in the Swiss art scene.

In parallel: opening of the exhibition of the artist Ceylan Öztrük, *Matter of non*

Ceylan Öztrük's exhibition is presented as an environment that puts into space a series of problems or aphorisms around the relationship between existence and death. Inspired by quantum physics, as much as by psychoanalysis, *Matter of non* generates an exhibition where sculpture enters into conflict with language to generate a form of vertigo.

A text written by the artist will accompany the exhibition in the form of a fable that attempts to decenter our experience of art beyond the aesthetic.



Michel Ritter, *Untitled*, circa 1977-1979

ROUND TABLE ON THE HISTORY OF FRI ART

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 2pm - 7pm
in Fri Art

A COLLECTION OF TESTIMONIES

On October 16, 2021, Fri Art will host a large round-table discussion that will bring together, on the same day, the words of several generations in a spirit of transmission. On this occasion, the students' presentations will rub shoulders with the testimonies of founding members and personalities who have contributed to the history of Fri Art.

Full program to be discovered soon on: www.fri-art.ch



Michel Ritter & friends, 1994. Photographie: inconnu

AGENDA

27.08–17.10.2021

***Fri Art was born from the void , the spirit of a Kunsthalle
in MAHF***

Opening of the exhibition at the Museum of Art and History of Fribourg. In collaboration with the University of Fribourg, Fri Art tells the story of a first generation of people who fought to create a space for contemporary art. The exhibition features the photographic work of Eliane Laubscher.

September 4, 2021, 5pm in Fri Art

Josef Felix Müller, *Drei Nächte, Drei Bilder*, 1981

Presentation of the artwork

04.09. – 05.09.2021

with the presence of the artist and Walter Tschopp

September 8, 2021, 10am in Fri Art

Press conference for the Jubilee 30 years| 40 years

with the presence of the artistic director Nicolas Brulhart, the administrative director Estelle Negro and the president Clémence de Weck

September 11, 2021, from 5pm in Fri Art

Fri Art Party– *Mercury Retrograde*

On all three floors of the building, a long night will mix performances and music in a festive spirit with many guests. Mercury Retrograde is the theme that has been chosen to better conjure up our common fate during this unique anniversary evening.

October 2, 2021, 6pm

Michel Ritter, *Air Power = Peace Power*

3.10.2021–9.01.2022

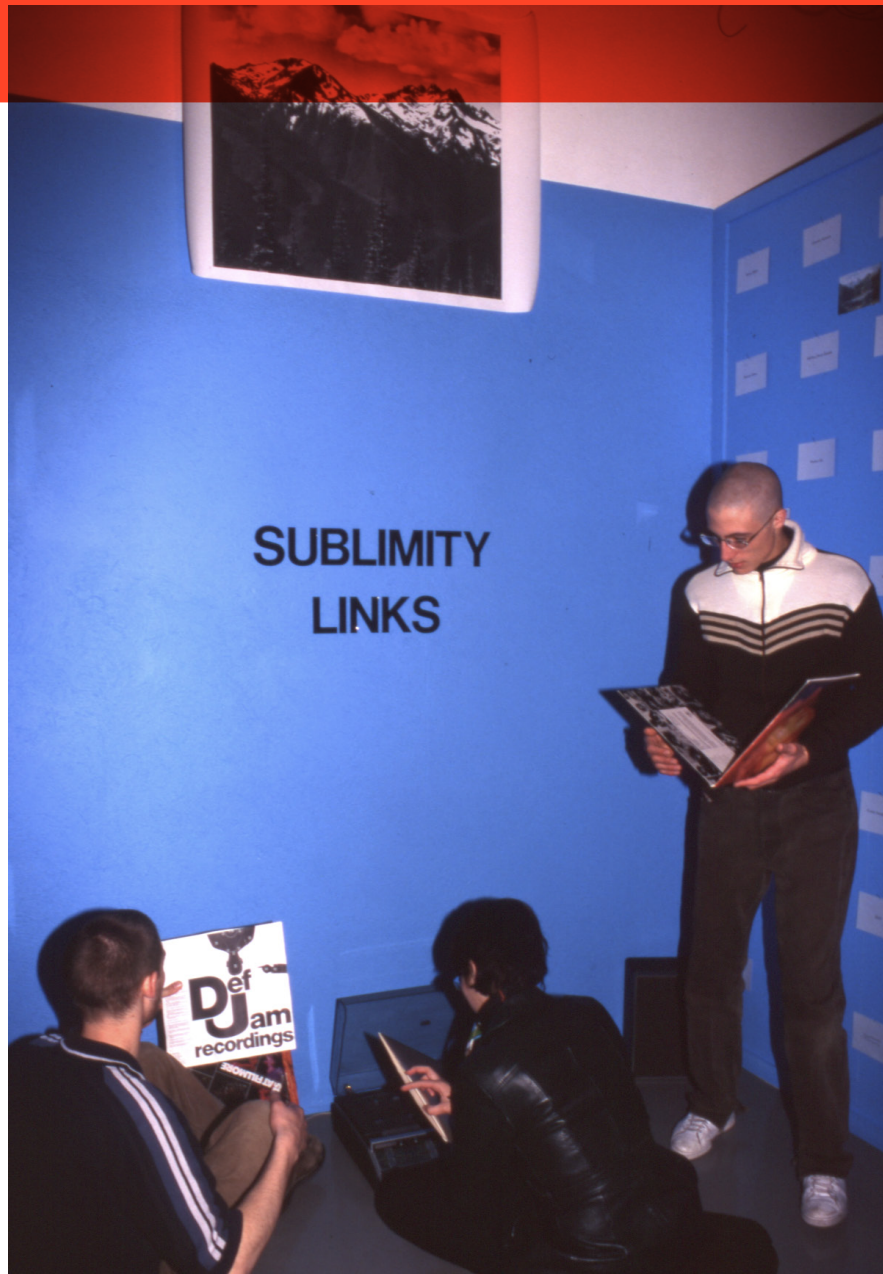
Opening of the exhibition at Fri Art. This first retrospective sheds light on the important work of an artist who was also the first director of the Art Center. Collages on paper, appropriations, films and installations evoke the colonization of the imagination by the media, the narrowness of a country without horizon, the mystery of energy.

In parallel: opening of the exhibition of the artist Ceylan Öztrük, *Matter of non*.

October 16, 2021, 2–7pm

Round table on the history of Fri Art

To close this jubilee, Fri Art hosts a day of discussion in the presence of personalities and artists who have made the history of the place as well as young researchers who have explored the archives of the institution.



Renée green, *Flow*, Fri Art, 1996. Photo & courtesy: Eliane LAubscher

Opening hours

Wednesday to Friday: 12h - 18h

Saturday and Sunday: 13h - 18h

Monday and Tuesday: by appointment (info@fri-art.ch)

Exhibitions dates and complete program: fri-art.ch

Art mediation and school visits: info@fri-art.ch

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Fri Art is supported by:

État de Fribourg

Ville de Fribourg

Agglo Fribourg - Freiburg

Loterie Romande

BCF | FKB

La Mobilière

Pro Fribourg

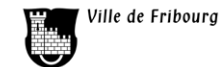
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AGGLO
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