

# VISITORS KIT



Exept for the MBAL, and as a precautionary measure, the 2021 edition of the festival will take place entirely and freely in the open air. The festival will comply with any official regulations concerning Covid 19.

## THE ENCHANTED GARDEN

+ Prairie Chobert

A pasture full of flowers... Here we are in the middle of nature, breathing the fresh air, admiring the surrounding fauna and flora. Alt.+1000, based in this beautiful mid-mountain region, offers each new edition a photographic journey through contemporary landscape images, with a particular interest in the mountains. For a long time considered as a wild space, the mountains became in the 19th century the place of a glorious nature. In the era of the Anthropocene - a concept that is the subject of much debate - our vision of the natural environment is changing, oscillating between inspiration and concern about ecosystems that have been profoundly impacted by human life. The artists gathered by the festival thus question the notion of nature.

*The Enchanted Garden* brings together 90 photographs of flowers. In the early 20th century, Karl Blossfeldt, a German New Objectivity photographer, devoted himself to the creation of a herbarium of pure, almost architectural photographs. In the book that made him famous, *The Wonderful Garden of Nature*, Blossfeldt wrote: « My plant documents are intended to contribute to the restoration of the connection with Nature. » This pasture of flower photographs is part of that legacy. Like trees, flowering plants are an integral part of our environment. They oxygenate our atmosphere, provide pollen, nectar and fruit for animals, and beautify our surroundings. Since ancient times, flowers have been appreciated for their beauty, their properties, their fragrance or their symbolic representation. Artists have always been interested in them, whether they are cultivated or observed in their environment.

To photograph flowers is to take an interest in a supposedly natural landscape element. Let us remember that the garden, the place where we traditionally cultivate flowers, is paradoxically a place that is enclosed, shaped and skilfully designed. Since the Neolithic period, flora has been influenced by humans. Plants migrate. Flowers are cultivated, crossed and hybridized just as territories are modified. The way we look at them is fascinating. Since then, photographs of flowers have been taken by photographers from all over the world. *The Enchanted Garden* focuses on contemporary Swiss art by bringing together over 50 artists. Some of them work directly in nature, others try their hand at still life or use plants to experiment with different artistic directions and explore forms, colours and textures. Others participate in the ecological debate, capture the fragile and ephemeral nature of flowers and question the natural and the artificial. In this exhibition, the artists and their approaches are varied, but one thing unites them: their images amaze, seduce, shake up, surprise and enchant, and show how nature never ceases to inspire.

Curator : Nathalie Herschdorfer

List of artists : Cynthia Mai Ammann, Graziella Antonini, Apian (Aladin Borioli), Jeremy Ayer, Alexandra Baumgartner, Emma Bedos, Myriam Bonaglia, Christelle Boulé, Thomas Brasey, Jacques Brun, Olga Cafiero, Sarah Carp, Gaël Corboz, Julien Deceroi, Reto Duriel, David Favrod, Thomas Flechtner, Nikolai Frerichs, Erwan Froin, Matthieu Gafsou, Catherine Gfeller, Yann Gross et Arguiñe Escandón, Alexandre Haefeli, Nicolas Haeni, Anna Halm Schudel, Aimée Hoving, Benoit Jeannet, Simone Kappeler, Laurence Kubski, Quentin Lacombe, Namsa Leuba, Lisa Lurati, Brigitte Lustenberger, Calypso Mahieu, Douglas Mandry, Mindaugas Matulis, Yann Mingard, Lucas Olivet, Alessia Olivieri, Nicolas Polli, Cyril Porchet, Virginie Rebetez, Philipp Schaerer, Prune Simon-Vermot, Jean-Vincent Simonet, Małgorzata Stankiewicz, Batia Suter, Charlie Tronchot, Patrick Weidmann, Manon Wertenbroek, Olivia Wünsche

## NATUREAL ?

### + Lac des Taillères

The idea of nature spontaneously echoes images of forests and mountains, of landscapes with a green tinge. But is a pasture full of flowers really natural? Have human beings domesticated the panoramas, along with the vegetation and animals that inhabit them? And what about the imagery of the peaks, has it not been patiently shaped? What is natural in the mountains ?

In this group exhibition, which brings together 100 works of 14 Swiss and international artists, the first section questions the very essence of landscapes. Dummy mountains are mixed with real peaks. The photographers play with materials and scales to confuse the public.

The second part of the exhibition focuses on the interaction between humans and animals. What about the bond between a Lappish farmer and his reindeer or a Vaudois farmer and his cows? How far are we able to counteract an instinct, to bring technology into the living?

In the third chapter, the public has a rendez-vous among the trees with the hermits of the wild valleys of Ticino, these men who blend into the landscape. Don't they ?

Curator : Caroline Stevan

List of artists : Yuri Andries, Apian (Aladin Borioli), Juan Arias, Delphine Burtin, Céline Clanet, Charles Delcourt, Jean-Marie Donat, Hilairadou Dunuya-Niekissé et Ismaela Zrydaoré, Jin Lee, Catherine Leutenegger, Odile Meylan, Nelly Rodriguez, Tiina Törmänen



## EDITORIAL

Experience the 6th edition of the Alt.+1000 photography festival in a natural setting !

At the end of summer, the Alt.+1000 photography festival presents its 6th edition in the Neuchâtel mountains. For almost four weeks, the works of contemporary Swiss and international photographers will be exhibited, including **Yuri Andries, Douglas Mandry, Simone Kappeler, Catherine Leutenegger, Cyril Porchet, Thomas Flechtner, Brigitte Lustenberger et Olga Cafiero.**

On the occasion of this new edition, entirely dedicated to nature and spread over three sites between Le Locle and the Vallée de La Brévine, **more than 60 artists** will present their work. Two open-air routes will be proposed in the **Vallée de La Brévine**, on the banks of the bucolic Lac des Taillères and on the gentle slopes of a meadow overlooking the village of La Brévine at a place called Chobert. The third is the famous **MBAL**, the Museum of Fine Arts Le Locle, renowned for its photographic programme.

Aimed at **art lovers** who want to spend a day in the countryside, **families** and **nature lovers**, these photographic walks invite festival-goers to discover the work of contemporary artists in the heart of the Jura landscapes.

After the success of 2019 (more than 10,000 visitors over 3 weeks), the Alt.+1000 photography festival will be held from **29 August to 20 September** in a majestic, real and photographed nature!



### Alt.+1000

Founded in 2008 in the small village of Rossinière by Fanny and Louis Paschoud, the Alt.+1000 festival has been held since its creation in a magnificent landscape at an altitude of one thousand metres. Mountain photography is the DNA of the festival, which brings together the works of contemporary photographers who all deal with the theme of nature and landscape. After four editions in the Pays-d'Enhaut (canton Vaud), Alt.+1000 continues its adventure in 2019 in the canton of Neuchâtel.

## + Alphabetical list of artists

### Yuri Andries (Belgium, 1986)

*The New Silk Road*, a major project of President Xi Jinping unveiled at the end of 2013, is a set of maritime and rail links between China and Europe, a pharaonic project sometimes contested for its imperialist aims. It obviously echoes the ancient Silk Road, the mythical symbol of the emergence of economic and cultural links between Asia and the West. In the footsteps of Marco Polo, the Belgian photographer Yuri Andries documented the start of the project in 2018. An artificial furrow carved through the majestic mountains and national parks of western China.

[yuriandries.be](http://yuriandries.be)

### Apian (Aladin Borioli) (Switzerland, 1988)

Far from the epinal image of a few colourful hives in the middle of a mountain pasture, technology is turning the beekeeping field upside down. The incursion of intelligent hives is transforming the intimate relationship that beekeepers have with their bees, probably the closest relationship we have managed to develop with a species so alien to our own.

*The Intimacy Machine* is a digital archive and a blueprint for a better use of technology in beekeeping practices, an integral part of the Apian project.

[apian.ch](http://apian.ch)

[intimacy-machine.net](http://intimacy-machine.net)

### Juan Arias (Colombia, 1979)

Invited in residence in Valais by SMArt in 2017, the Colombian Juan Arias decided to work on the human-wolf relationship, woven of imaginary and fears and in which instinct, and therefore the natural, holds a great place. Using metaphors, the artist creates a parallel between the wolf and the stranger, the supposedly wild figure bursting into a supposedly civilised world. One of the photographs in the series *Le loup à notre porte* shows the portrait of a migrant drowned in all the images of the *Rapportsur la migration 2016 en Suisse*. The only distinguishing feature is his cap, with the inscription « Obey », which is both a clothing brand and an injunction. Dreaming of domesticating the wolf, like the stranger.

Based on a proposal by SMArt (Sustainable Mountain Art)

[juanarias.co](http://juanarias.co)

### Delphine Burtin (Switzerland, 1974)

Delphine Burtin likes playing with the notions of illusion and perception. In *Géométrie du rocher*, an installation designed for the Alt.+1000 festival, she is interested in the representation of the mountain in its artificial form. From a fake Matterhorn in an amusement park to an alpine setting in the Vincennes zoo, she questions the way we imagine and idealise the peaks and the way we intervene in the landscape. The artificial mountain is in dialogue with our emblematic representations of nature: greatness, eternity and power.

[burtin.ch](http://burtin.ch)

### Céline Clanet (France, 1977)

What kind of relationship do reindeer and herders have in Lapland? How can an age-old way of life withstand the onslaught of globalisation, a territory that is subject to military and industrial covetousness? What remains natural in the migration of a herd when it is done by boat? In the Kola Peninsula, in Russia, and in the Sámi village of Máze, in Norway, Céline Clanet has been travelling for several years to meet the people and animals that inhabit the polar and inhospitable regions.

[celineclanet.com](http://celineclanet.com)

### Charles Delcourt (France, 1977)

The landscape of northern France is entirely manufactured. In the mining basin around the town of Lens, humans have even gone so far as to shape the mountains. These shale peaks, called slag heaps, are the residues of coal mining and sometimes exceed 100 metres in height. In *Face Nord*, Charles Delcourt, a landscape architect by training, has followed them with his eyes, documenting their place in this normally smooth panorama and the new uses they have given birth to. Twenty years after the last mine closures that created them, the slag heaps have become ski slopes or mountain bike trails, places to take a walk or purification stations, vineyards.

[charlesdelcourt.com](http://charlesdelcourt.com)

### Jean-Marie Donat (France, 1962)

For more than 35 years, the artist Jean-Marie Donat has built up a huge collection of photographs found at flea markets and auction rooms. The *Rorschach* series consists of mountainous landscapes reflected in bodies of water. By turning these photographs upside down, nature becomes sculpture; the symmetry created by the mirror of water produces abstract visuals that evoke the famous Rorschach test. In the 1920s, the Swiss psychiatrist of the same name submitted symmetrical blots to his patients, who interpreted them freely. What they see in the abstract shapes is used to evaluate their personality.

Proposed by the Images Vevey festival

[jeanmariedonat.com](http://jeanmariedonat.com)

### Hilairadou Dunuya-Niekissé (Duguland, 2801) and Ismaela Zrydaoré (Mali, 2799)

For the first time in Europe, the images of Hilairadou Dunuya-Niekissé and the research of Ismaela Zrydaoré, *Jurassic Glaciation Mission 2839*, are exposed. Around the year 2335, following the sudden eruption of Vesuvius, the cooling of the Gulf Stream causes a shift in the climate system and leads to a great glaciation that covers the northern hemisphere. This natural disaster causes the Western population to flee to the African continent and Asia. Many refugees perished during this exodus to the south. Five hundred years after this tragedy, a multidisciplinary scientific team from Mali is exploring the glacier-covered European continent for the first time. Their mission is to describe this inhospitable territory and to find the relics of the vanished Western civilisation, both natural and manufactured.

### Jin Lee (USA, 1961)

The American artist Jin Lee explores the points of friction between landscapes and built environments. In *Small Mountains*, a series produced in Chicago between 2006 and 2012, she photographs piles of salt around storage sites, shaped by human use and weather. The play of scale and the tight framing suggest huge mountains. Jin Lee looks for echoes of the beauty and iconic subjects of art history in the triviality of everyday life.

[jinleephphotography.net](http://jinleephphotography.net)

### Catherine Leutenegger (Switzerland, 1983)

At the invitation of the festival, Catherine Leutenegger collected samples on the shores of the Lac des Taillères, as an extension of her work exploring science and new image acquisition tools. These snippets - plants, minerals, animals or manufactured ? - were brought to Lausanne to be scanned in a laboratory at the EPFL using a technology that is unique in Switzerland : X-ray micro-tomography. This scientific device analyses the external and internal properties of objects without altering them. The resulting visualisations, grouped together in the series *Unnatural Studies*, are composed of the juxtaposition of several thousand images with ambiguous scales and forms. Each print is presented where the sample was collected.

[cleutenegger.com](http://cleutenegger.com)

### Odile Meylan (Switzerland, 1972)

In parallel to her work as a press photographer, Odile Meylan works on more personal series. Olivier Longchamp is the neighbour of the farm where she grew up, in the Gros-de-Vaud. She has contrasting memories of this childhood, between the scent of mountains of apples, the sun on the wheat and the discomfort of «smelling like a barn». To reclaim this rural identity, she decided to document the daily life of the farmer next door in 2019. With humour and poetry, she questions our link to the land and to animals.

Sur une proposition de la Nuit de la Photo, La Chaux-de-Fonds

[odilemeylan.ch](http://odilemeylan.ch)

### Nelly Rodriguez (Switzerland, 1981)

They are called mountain hermits. They have chosen to withdraw from the world to live as close to nature as possible. Nelly Rodriguez followed two of them, Paul and Gino, in the most remote valleys of Ticino. With modesty, the artist paints impressionistic portraits of them, by small touches. Mixing built and natural spaces, the *Isole* series shows men trying to blend into the landscape. In parallel, the artist has been working on another series, *Alp Stilleben*, still lifes that evoke the daily life of the mountain pastures.

[nellyrodriguez.ch](http://nellyrodriguez.ch)

### Tiina Törmänen (Finland, 1981)

Since 2014, Tiina Törmänen has been exploring the Arctic highlands of Finland, Sweden and Norway in winter. In the early morning after the polar nights, the sky and the curves of the earth take on strange, supernatural hues. The artist sometimes works at -25°C, at the coldest time of the year, in an environment that she describes as «hostile» and «Arctic desert».

However, her images in the *Tyyni* series («calm weather» in Finnish) seem so gentle... The *Northern light* series, presented in a view-master, shows northern lights and fantastic skies.

[tiinatormanen.com](http://tiinatormanen.com)

## AN ODE TO NATURE + MBAL

In response to a year of rediscovering the landscapes around us, by force of circumstance, MBAL celebrates the mountains as a popular destination for the Swiss, as well as for like-minded visitors from abroad. The natural landscape, a source of inspiration for artists for many centuries, is at the heart of our programming.

The exhibition *Montagne Magique Mystique* draws on the historical photographic holdings of 18 public and private collections in Switzerland, and features prints which have mostly never been previously shown. The exhibition bears witness to the infatuation of the first generations of photographers with the mountain landscape. Corresponding to the first 100 years of the history of photography, the period 1840-1940 shows the fundamental change in attitude towards the high peaks: this wild and dangerous space is suddenly perceived as a place of glorious nature and great beauty.

Today, contemporary practice reveals itself in a deconstruction and questioning of the very notion of landscape. Some artists work directly in nature, others react to ecological concerns or directly seize the plants to experiment with new artistic processes. The MBAL has invited 4 contemporary artists to intervene in relation to this theme : **Mauren Brodbeck** Brodbeck makes her works float in space. The natural landscape allows her to question the intangible. The installation of **Rudy Decelière**, made up of large dry grasses that quiver thanks to magnets and a network of copper wires, is experienced through the sounds and vibrations it generates with paintings from the MBAL collection. **Ester Vonplon** Vonplon creates photographs with photographic paper dating from 1907. Her images take on unexpected forms due to the aging process. Finally, **Anastasia Samoylova** has created a monumental installation for the facade of the MBAL. Her mural piece evokes the Grand Canyon against the backdrop of climate change.

To complete these exhibitions devoted to landscape, the MBAL is publishing an original text by the Italian philosopher Emanuele Coccia. This essay will be on sale at the shops of the MBAL and the festival.

Curator :  
Nathalie Herschdorfer, William A. Ewing  
*Montagne Magique Mystique*

Séverine Cattin  
*Regarder le paysage*

## + PARTNERS

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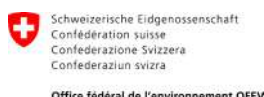
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