

15th CONTEMPORARY ART BIENNALE OF LYON

ANSELM KIEFER AT LA TOURETTE

Couvent de La Tourette

LA BIENNALE
DE LYON
EXPOSITION
ASSOCIÉE

PRESS KIT

ANSELM KIEFER AT LA TOURETTE

Exhibition curator : Dominican brother Marc Chauveau

Press release -----	3
Anselm Kiefer at La Tourette-----	4
Biography -----	5
Exhibition catalogue -----	8
The Priory of La Tourette -----	9
Past exhibitions-----	10
Publications-----	12
15th Contemporary Art Biennale of Lyon -----	13
Partners -----	14
Useful information-----	15
Access-----	16
Exhibition views-----	17

In 1966, Anselm Kiefer spent three weeks at the priory of La Tourette, where, he later said, he discovered the “spirituality of concrete”. Upon learning that, the Dominican brothers decided to invite the artist back to the priory 52 years later. This is how the artist returned twice in the course of 2018, and accepted the brothers’ invitation to open a dialogue between his work and the architecture of Le Corbusier, which had such an impact on him.

Installation, paintings, sculptures, window displays and books: the wide selection of artworks featured in the exhibition is representative of the originality and diversity of Anselm Kiefer’s work.

ANSELM KIEFER AT LA TOURETTE

It all started when we read about Anselm Kiefer's stay at the priory of La Tourette in 1966, at the age of 21. Wishing to understand Le Corbusier's architecture, the artist spent three weeks among the brothers at a time when the priory was closed to the public.

Anselm Kiefer kept a diary of his stay at La Tourette and has agreed to publish exclusive excerpts of this diary in the exhibition catalogue. In this diary, the artist shares his impressions on the life at the priory with the acute eye of an attentive witness: the pace of the religious life, the spaces where he lives and his cell. He also writes his thoughts on Le Corbusier's work and the unique way in which the architect has integrated the building into the landscape and opened a dialogue with the surrounding nature. Taking the time to immerse in the architecture, experience, understand and appropriate it, Anselm Kiefer later said he discovered "the spirituality of concrete" in this place - a core medium in his own work.

Thrilled by their discovery, the Dominican brothers took the initiative to invite Anselm Kiefer to come back at La Tourette. This is how, in 2018, 52 years after his first stay, the artist came back twice in this place charged with memories, which was also the occasion to meet the brothers of the priory. Anselm Kiefer took many pictures during his two visits; a selection of which is also published in the catalogue, revealing his view on the priory architecture.

Following Anselm Kiefer's visits at the priory and our own visits of his studio in Croissy and Barjac, we started to discuss a selection of his works together. Those were intense and privileged moments with the artist. The true originality of his oeuvre will show through the diversity of the artworks featured ranging from installation, sculptures, paintings, window displays and books.

Anselm Kiefer

1945-1966 — Anselm Kiefer was born in Donaueschingen (Baden-Wurtemberg, Germany). He studied law, languages and Romance literatures.

1966 — He spent three weeks at the Sainte-Marie de la Tourette priory in Eveux, where he lived among Dominican brothers. It was in this priory built by Le Corbusier between 1953 and 1960 that he discovered “the spirituality of concrete”. Upon his return, he decided to embrace a career in art and enrolled in the fine art school of Fribourg-im-Breisgau and Karlsruhe.

1969 — He gave his *Besetzungen* (Occupation) performance in several European cities, for which he mimicked the Hitler salute dressed in his father's military uniform. This was the beginning of his work around the memory of war and Nazism prompted by a desire to break the silence forced on the recent past. This existential work of memory turned into a spiritual quest grounded in literature, philosophy, ancient myths and kabalistic doctrine among other things. His artistic production ranges from painting to photography, books and sculpture.

2007 — Anselm Kiefer's works are featured in private collections as well as major museums all throughout the world. In October, three of his works entered the Louvre collections. The same year, he inaugurated the *Monumenta* held at the Grand Palais in Paris with a work in tribute to the poets Paul Celan and Ingeborg Bachman as well as Louis-Ferdinand Céline.

2009 — On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the Opera Bastille commissioned Kiefer a musical piece entitled *Am Anfang*, made after the biblical texts of the Old Testament. The artist created the concept, the *mise-en-scène*, the sets and the costumes of the piece.

2010 — Nominated at the Chair of artistic creation of the College de France in Paris, Anselm Kiefer proposed to give a course entitled *L'art survivra à ses ruines* (Art will survive its ruins).

2014 — The London Royal Academy of Arts dedicated a comprehensive retrospective exhibition to Kiefer's work, along with the Pompidou center and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France the following year.

2017 — On the occasion of the centenary of Auguste Rodin's death, the Musée Rodin in Paris and the Barnes Foundation of Philadelphia held a Kiefer-Rodin exhibition. For this project, the artist created books, window displays and paintings inspired by Rodin's work.

2019 — For the *Anselm Kiefer* travelling exhibition, a selection of books and woodcuts were presented at the Jan Michalski Foundation for Writing and Literature in Montricher, Switzerland, and then at the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Oslo.

Main exhibitions

1970 — *Bilder und Bücher*, Galerie am Kaiserplatz, Karlsruhe, Germany.

1980 — West German Pavillion, 39th Venice Biennale, Italy.

1984 — *Anselm Kiefer*, travelling exhibition: Düsseldorf Kunsthalle, Germany; Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, France; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel.

1987-1988 — *Anselm Kiefer*, travelling exhibition: The Art Institute of Chicago, United-States; Philadelphia Museum of Art, United-States; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, United-States; Museum of Modern Art, New York, United-States.

1991 — *Anselm Kiefer*, Berlin Neue Nationalgalerie, Germany.

1993 — *Anselm Kiefer. Melancholia*, travelling exhibition: Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan; Kyoto National Museum of Art, Japan; Hiroshima Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan.

1996 — *Anselm Kiefer. Cette obscure clarté qui tombe des étoiles*, Galerie Yvon Lambert, Paris, France.

1998 — *Anselm Kiefer. Works on Paper, 1969-1993*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, United States.

2000 — *Chevirat Ha-Kelim/Le bris des Vases*, Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière Chapel, Paris, France.

2005-2006 — *Anselm Kiefer. Heaven and Earth*, travelling exhibition: Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, United States; Museum of Contemporary Art of Montréal, Quebec, Canada; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, United States.

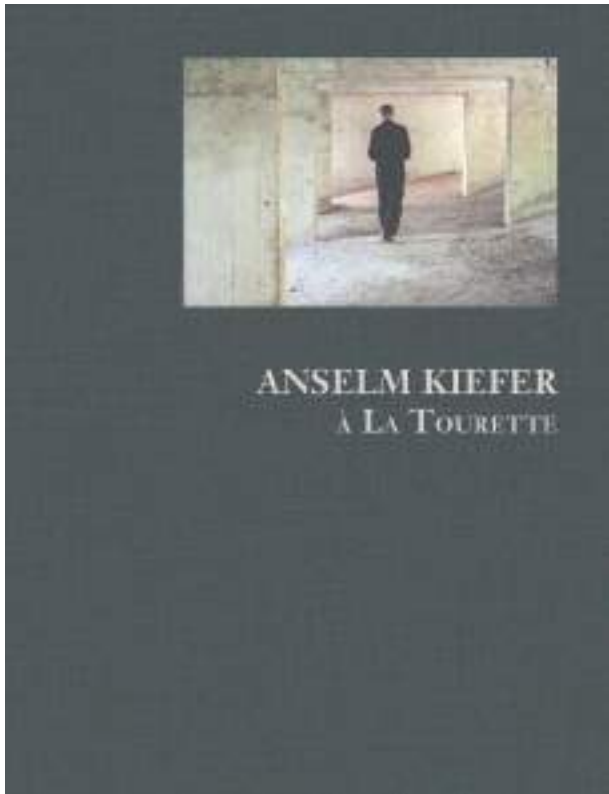
2007 — "Sternenfall/Chute des étoies", Monumenta, Grand Palais, Paris, France.

2012 — *Anselm Kiefer. Die Ungeborenen*, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Pantin/Paris, France.

2015 — *Anselm Kiefer, l'Alchimie du Livre*, Bibliothèque Nationale de France François-Mitterrand.

2015-2016 — *Anselm Kiefer*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.

2017-2018 — *Provocations: Anselm Kiefer at The Met Breuer*, The Met Breuer, New York, United States.



On the occasion of the exhibition, we
are publishing a catalogue entitled:

ANSELM KIEFER À LA TOURETTE

Bernard Chauveau Édition, Paris, 2019

232 pages – 167 illustrations

ISBN 978-2-36306-268-0

price : 35 €

- Foreword by brother Marc Chauveau, exhibition curator
- Excerpts of Anselm Kiefer's diary during his stay at the priory of La Tourette in 1966 (french/german)
- Photographs of the priory taken by the artist during his stays at La Tourette in 2018
- Views of the exhibition *Anselm Kiefer at La Tourette* by Jean-Philippe Simard

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THE PRIORY OF LA TOURETTE

Upon the invitation of Father Couturier and the General Chapter of the Dominicans of Lyon, in 1953, Le Corbusier started designing a priory that would “house a hundred hearts and bodies in silence”, according to the wishes of the community. Implementing the “five points of modern architecture” as well as the “Modulor” codes, the construction started in 1956 and the priory was inaugurated in October 1960.

The priory was listed “Historic Monument” in 1979, as well as “20th century heritage”. In addition, Le Corbusier architectural work was labeled “UNESCO world heritage” in July 2016 as “an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement”. The priory of La Tourette is open to the public and welcomes a wide range of visitors for day visits or longer stays. Over nearly four decades, it has also served as a venue for symposiums on architecture, art, social sciences and philosophy. As of 2009, the priory holds contemporary art exhibitions as parts of the official programming of the Lyon Biennale.

The projects carried on at the priory of la Tourette are totally unique on the French art scene. The purpose of the place brings out its specificity: the unique encounter between Le Corbusier architecture -the epitome of modernist architecture-, contemporary art, religious and daily life. The exhibitions held over the past few years have shown the relevance of this dialogue opened between art and architecture. They have brought a new perspective on the building itself as well as the exhibited artworks.

The convergence between a vibrant spiritual place, the architectural quality of the priory and the artistic excellence of the selected works has turned each encounter into a unique experience. Artworks are not merely exhibited, they truly “inhabit” the priory in an act of presence and communion with the space.

This 12th exhibition dedicated to Anselm Kiefer is also an occasion to celebrate a decade of contemporary art exhibitions held at the priory by the Dominican brothers of La Tourette every year since 2009 :

2009 François Morellet, *La Tourette. Le cinquantenaire, 1959-2009*

2010 Vera Molnar, Ian Tyson and Stéphane Couturier - exposition *Dialogue(s)*

2011 Alan Charlton, *Modulations*

2012 Éric Michel, *Derrière le visible*

2013 Anne and Patrick Poirier, *Mémoire des murs*

2014 Philippe Favier

2015 Anish Kapoor chez Le Corbusier

2016 Geneviève Asse, Jaromir Novotný, Friederike von Rauch, Michel Verjux,
Formes du Silence

2017 Guillaume Bardet

2017 Lee Ufan, *Au-delà des souvenirs*

2018 Exposition : *Le vitrail contemporain. Une proposition faite à la lumière*

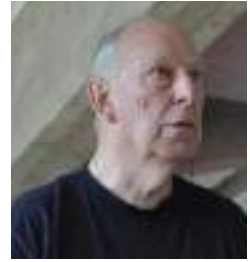
2019 Anselm Kiefer à La Tourette



François Morellet (2009)



Vera Molnar (2010)



Ian Tyson (2010)



Alan Charlton (2011)



Giuseppe Penone et ses
élèves (2012)



Éric Michel (2012)



Anne et Patrick Poirier (2013)



Philippe Favier (2014)



Anish Kapoor (2015)



Geneviève Asse (2016)



Jaromir Novotný (2016)



Friederike von Rauch (2016)



Michel Verjux (2016)



Guillaume Bardet (2017)



Lee Ufan (2017)

In 2009

LA TOURETTE / LE CINQUANTAIRE

François Morellet chez Le Corbusier

Regards contemporains :
Philippe Chancel
Stéphane Couturier
Pascal Hausherr



In 2013

MÉMOIRE DES MURS

Le Corbusier / Anne et Patrick Poirier

Regard contemporain :
Laszlo Horvath

In 2010

LA TOURETTE / DIALOGUE(S)

**Le Corbusier / Vera Molnar
Stéphane Couturier
an Tyson**



In 2015

ANISH KAPOOR CHEZ LE CORBUSIER

In 2011

LA TOURETTE / MODULATIONS

Le Corbusier / Alan Charlton

Regard contemporain :
George Dupin



In 2016

FORMES DU SILENCE

**Le Corbusier /
Geneviève Asse
Jaromir Novotný
Frederike von Rauch
Michel Verjux**

In 2012

DERRIÈRE LE VISIBLE

Le Corbusier / Éric Michel

Regard contemporain :
Franck Christen



In 2017

LEE UFAN CHEZ LE CORBUSIER

Au-delà des souvenirs

15th CONTEMPORARY ART BIENNALE OF LYON



Where water come Together with Other Water

September 18, 2019 / January 5, 2020

Since its first exhibition dedicated to François Morellet in 2009, the priory of La Tourette has been integrated into the Lyon Contemporary Art Biennale, and more specifically to the biennale “focus”¹. For the 13th edition of the biennale, the exhibition entitled *Anish Kapoor chez Le Corbusier* was part of the official programming of the biennale on the theme of modernity. Now among the “partner exhibitions” since the exhibition of the Korean artist Lee Ufan in 2017, the partnership with the Lyon biennale continues for the 15th edition of the event on the occasion of Anselm Kiefer return to the priory of La Tourette.

¹ Created in 2009 as part of Résonance, “Focus” has set for mission to highlight projects carried on in collaboration with various institutions dedicated to young creation.



Contacts

Exhibition curator : Frère Marc Chauveau – marc.chauveau@dominicains.fr

Visit information and reservation : Florence Damey – accueil@couventdelatourette.fr

Communication and cultural mediation : Virgile Caspar – vcaspar@hotmail.fr

For any additional information : +33 (0)4 72 19 10 90 – www.couventdelatourette.fr

Shop open from Monday to Saturday : 10 am to 12:30 am and 1 pm to 6 pm

Opening days and hours

From September 24 to December 22, 2019

Open from Tuesday to Sunday, 2 pm to 6:30 pm or upon reservation

Unguided tours : with mediators present in the rooms.

Guided tours for groups : in the morning, upon reservation from Tuesday to Saturday.

Guided tours for school groups : in the morning, customized tours upon reservation.

Admission

General admission : 8€

Guided tours : 10€

Reduced price (-26 students, job seekers) : 5€

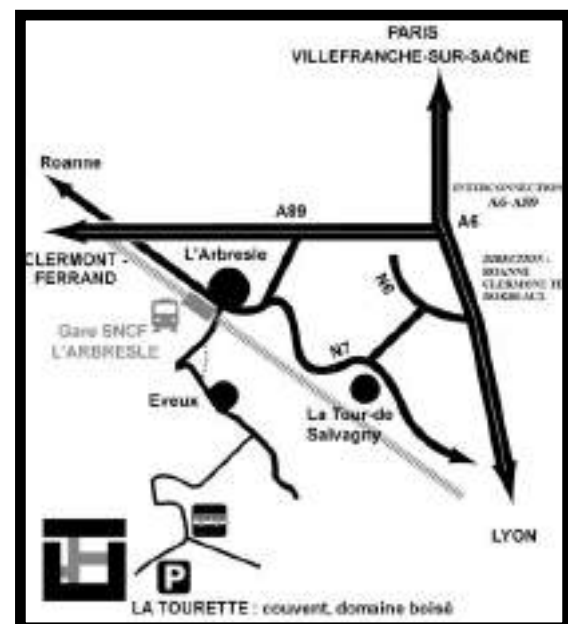
School groups : 3€

The Priory of La Tourette

69210 Éveux

The priory of La Tourette is located in the municipality of Éveux, 1.5km from L'Arbresle and 25km northwest of Lyon going toward Roanne.

- By car : highway A6 then A89 toward Clermont-Ferrand, exit at L'Arbresle, then Éveux.
- By train : connections from Lyon Part-Dieu and Lyon-Perrache train stations. And from the tramway stations Saint-Paul or Gorge-de-Loup. Stop at the L'Arbresle. The priory is a 25-minute walk from the train station.



EXHIBITION VIEWS



Danae, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Danae, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Resurrection, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Resurrection, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Heilige Jerusalem (detail), 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Heilige Jerusalem (detail), 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Heilige Jerusalem (detail), 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Martyred women, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Palmsonntag, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Why there is something rather than nothing ?, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Palmsonntag, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Johannis Nacht, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



Window displays, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



The Origin of the World (detail), 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard



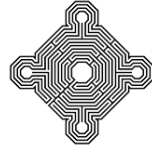
The bronze snake, 2019 © Anselm Kiefer and Jean-Philippe Simard

Please contact us at the email provided above to request high definition visuals.



ORDER OF THE PREACHERS
PROVINCE OF FRANCE

MONUMENT



HISTORIQUE



The Priory of La Tourette

Part of



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



L'Œuvre architecturale de Le Corbusier,
une contribution exceptionnelle
au Mouvement Moderne
inscrite sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 2016

Exhibition views © Anselm Kiefer et Jean-Philippe Simard

Views of the Lyon biennale : Stephen Powers.

Where Water Comes Together With Other Water by Raymond Carver. © Raymond Carver 1985, Tess Gallagher 1989, used by permission of The Wylie Agency (UK) Limited

The Priory of La Tourette

2019