

Centre
de la photographie
de Mougins

Backhaus
Jessica

Press kit

Nous irons
jusqu'au soleil:
Jessica Backhaus

2.03 –
2.06.2024

Curators:

François Cheval
and Yasmine Chemali

Opening
on Friday 1st.03
2024
18:30

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jusqu'au soleil:
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The Mougins Center of Photography is an institution dedicated to still and moving images, tasked with promoting and exhibiting the many trends in contemporary photography. Open to all forms of photographic modernity, the Center, as a municipal institution, boosts the cultural and tourism sector of the town of Mougins, seeking to enhance the region and foster international communication. From its opening on July 3rd 2021, its mission is to support the creation and experimentations of artists of all profiles: from France or overseas, up-and-coming or established. This support takes various forms including producing, exhibiting, publishing and residencies. Other local authorities in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region (PACA), including those of Marseille and Nice, are already demonstrating a dynamic approach to photography by way of varied exhibitions or thanks to proactive publishing houses and diverse residency programs. The Mougins Center of Photography will complement these activities by providing a similar service for contemporary photography.

**Nous irons
jusqu'au soleil :**

Jessica Backhaus

Jessica Backhaus takes coloured sheets of paper and, without any semblance of fragility, throws and arranges them into bright series of works. It must be acknowledged that Jessica Backhaus is a talented colourist. She orders compositions as if they were architectural models, striving for the most glowing colours, each complementing the other. In the photographs, there is a profusion of hues, with all the different greens, blues, yellows and reds, as well as folds which merge with the shadows. With a constant sense of vigour, the broad expanses of colour offer infinite diversity. The paper is the background colour and the surface is the colour! The interplay of colours in 'Cut Outs' is simply an analysis of the relationships that space weaves with the coloured blocks, between the shapes and the effect of the sun. The hybridity of colour and volume offers far more than a simple examination of the two-dimensional. Both create, as a consequence of the series, an evolving narrative of colour: a story in the making, laden with expressive joy, at times eye-catching, following only its own rules. The categories of light and dark, matt and glossy, dense and soft, spacious and modest and wide and narrow are not in opposition. There was no mention of fragility because photography itself is solid. She has mastered light and other elements to create these surprising spatial structures. Jessica Backhaus does not draw with colours; she sculpts them. There is no attempt to simplify here; on the contrary, the autonomy of the colour photographed is explored, forever freed from the constraints of the subject. However, make no mistake; colours do not become pure abstractions or imaginary visual depictions by disassociating themselves from objects. The effects of colour are realities that are often indescribable yet very much present. The coloured sheets of paper, treated in depth, whose complexity we can grasp visually, have a life of their own. Such is the role that the photographer has given herself, to recount to us the infinite vitality of coloured vibrations freed from custom and to encourage an experience of colour independent of conventions of any kind.

François Cheval

Biography

Jessica Backhaus

Jessica Backhaus was born in Cuxhaven, Germany, in 1970 and grew up in an artistic family. At the age of 16, she moved to Paris, where she later studied photography and visual communication. Here, in 1992, she met Gisèle Freund, who became her mentor. In 1995 her passion for photography drew her to New York, where she assisted photographers, pursued her own projects and lived until 2009. Now based in Berlin, Jessica Backhaus is regarded as one of the most distinguished voices in contemporary photography in Germany. Her work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including at the National Portrait Gallery, London, the Martin-Gropius Bau, Berlin, the Marta Herford Museum and the Kunsthalle Erfurt. To date, she has ten publications to her name; *Jesus and the Cherries* (2005), *What Still Remains* (2008), *One Day in November* (2008), *I Wanted to See the World* (2010), *One Day: 10 Photographers* (2010), *Once, Still and Forever* (2012), *Six Degrees of Freedom* (2015), *A Trilogy* (2017), *Far Away but Close* (2019) and *Cut Outs* (2021). All books are published by Kehrer Verlag, Heidelberg (Germany), except *Far Away but Close*, that was published by Another Place Press, Scotland.

Her photographs are in many prominent art collections, including the Taunus Sparkasse and the Art Collection Deutsche Börse (Germany), the ING Art Collection (Belgium), the Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, USA), and the Margulies Collection (Miami, USA).

Jessica Backhaus is represented by Robert Morat Galerie (Berlin), Galerie Anja Knoess (Cologne), Petra Becker/International Art Bridge (Meggen, Switzerland), Robert Klein Gallery (Boston), Bridgette Mayer Gallery (Philadelphia), Micamera Gallery (Milan), Carlos Carvalho Arte Contemporânea (Lisbon) and Wouter van Leeuwen Gallery (Amsterdam).

Serie

Cut Outs

2018-2021

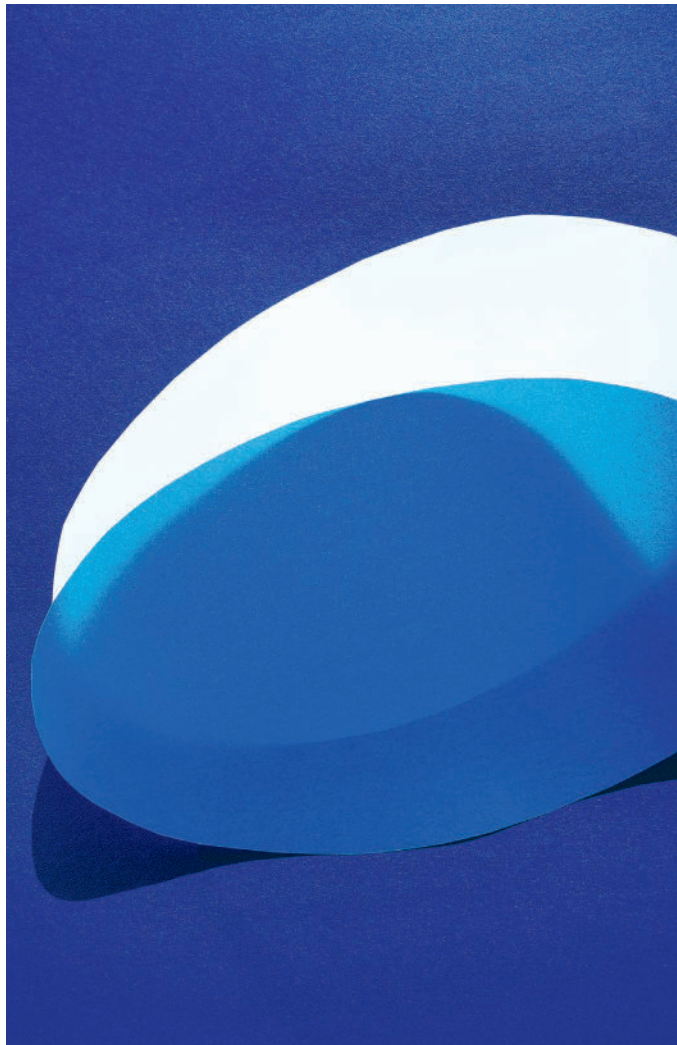
Jessica Backhaus

In the series 'Cut Outs', Jessica Backhaus' compositions resemble scenes of transparent cut-out papers placed, defenseless, under the intense heat of sunlight. The cut-out shapes then start to improvise an experimental choreography. A theater of shadows and hybrid forms, with the artist herself as the sole audience and the photographic recording as the sole witness.

Jessica Backhaus explores a visual reality where elements dissolve into pure movements, vibrations, shadows, and saturated colors.

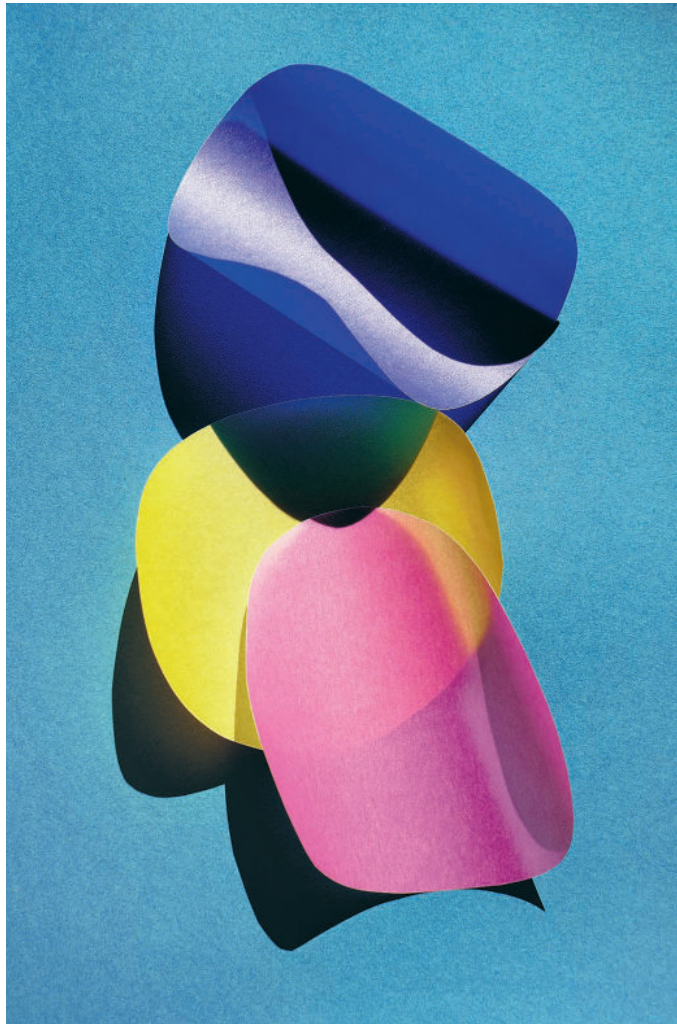
Cut Out 11
2020
Archival pigment print
112,5 × 75 cm





Jessica Backhaus

Cut Out 14
2020
Archival pigment print
112,5 × 75 cm



Cut Out 46
2020
Archival pigment print
112,5 × 75 cm

Serie

The Nature of Things

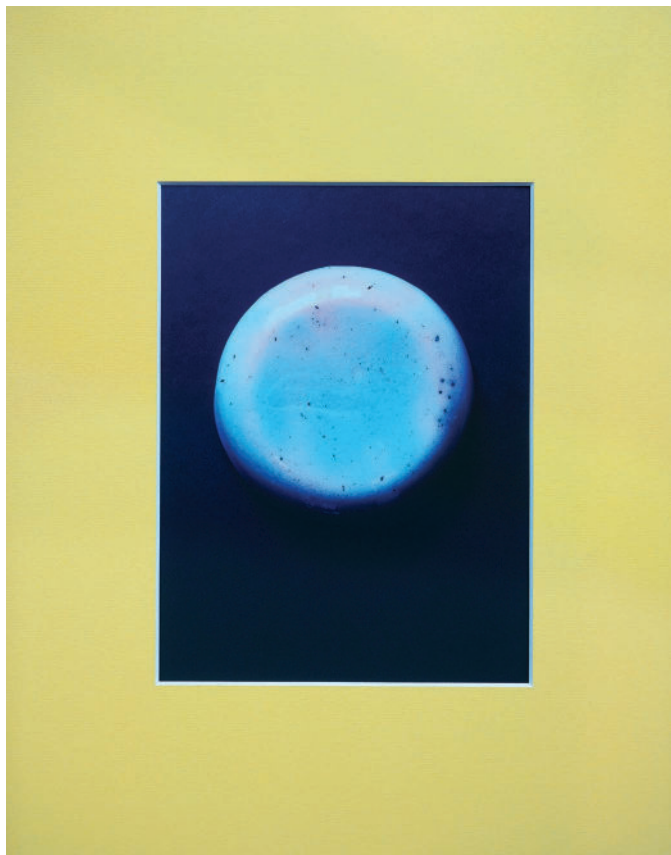
2021-2023

Jessica Backhaus

An orange soap exposed to the sun, a spiral of paper with clumsy outlines, a car body covered in dust, a shy lemon in the shade of foliage...

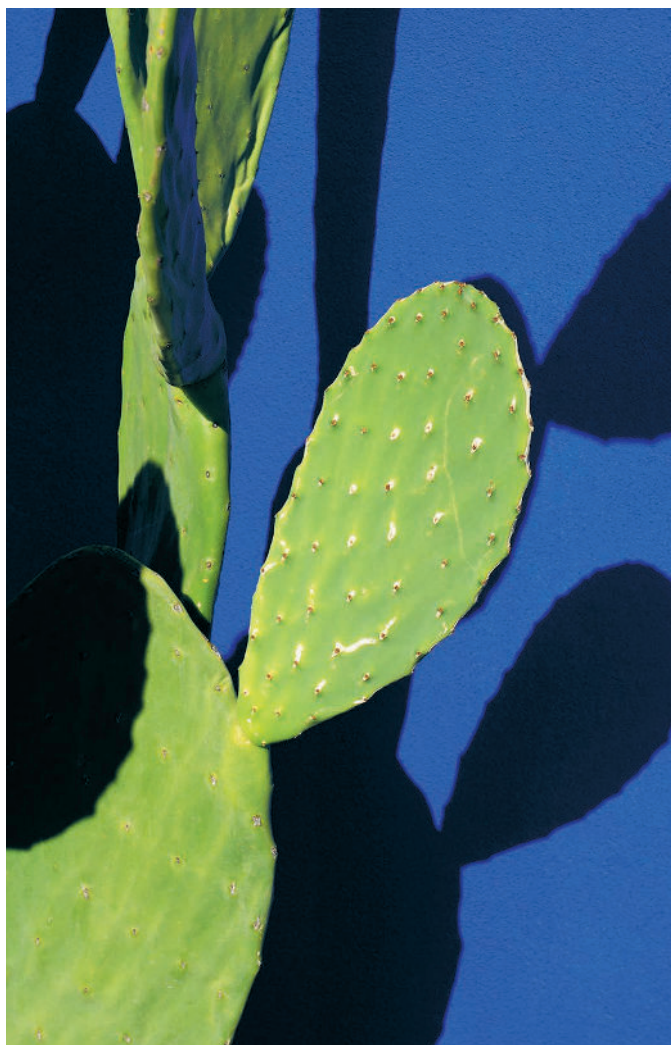
Everyday objects, for Jessica Backhaus, are imbued with poetry. A hidden poetry that the photographer unveils to allow contemplation of its primary function, of what it is. Through the contrast of colors and her masterful use of material, 'The Nature of Things' invites dreaming and wonder.

Moon
2022
Archival pigment print
50 × 40 cm

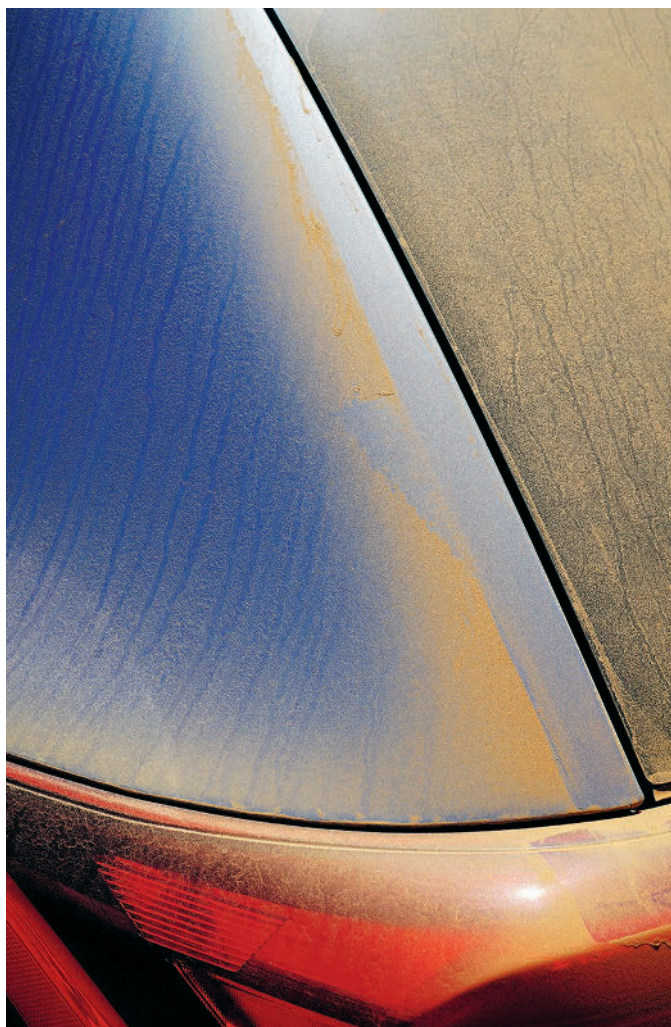


Jessica Backhaus

Cactus
2021
Archival pigment print
90 × 60 cm



Dust
2022
Archival pigment print
90 × 60 cm



Cahiers #7

Point sublime: Anna Niskanen
 +
 Nous irons jusqu'au soleil: Jessica Backhaus

Authors:

François Cheval
 András Páldi
 Robert Demachy
 and Constant Puyo
 Anna Niskanen

Publishing:
 November 2023
 Bilingual French/English
 144 pages
 29 €
 Isbn: 979-10-90698-56-7

On sale
 in the Mougins
 Center of Photography
 store.

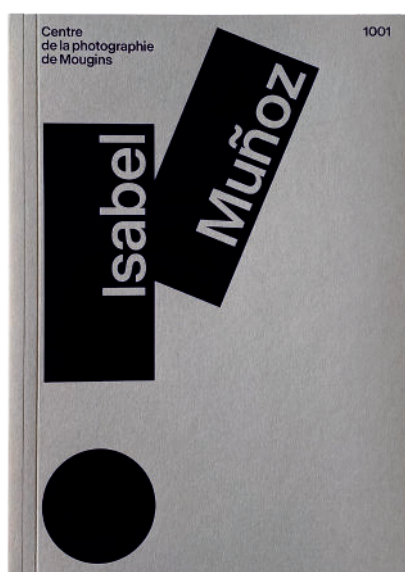


The Cahiers #7 of the Mougins Center of Photography represent a paean to light.

In 'Point sublime' and 'Nous irons jusqu'au soleil', we witness the convergence of two photographers who harness the vibrancy of rays to communicate profound messages. Jessica Backhaus's meticulously curated selection of coloured papers elegantly complements Anna Niskanen's cyanotypes imbued with essences and natural pigments discovered therein. This synthesis beckons us into the realm of pictorialist heritage, prompting contemplation upon the passage of time.

Previous

publications:



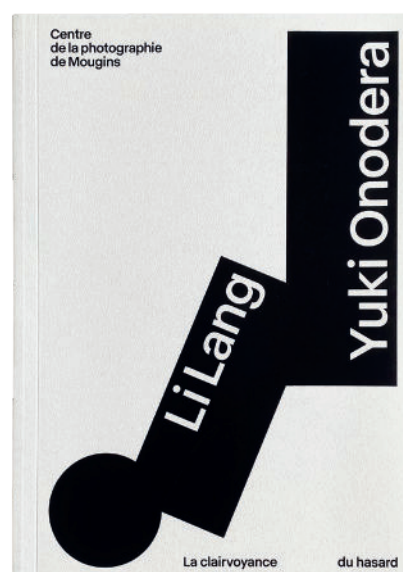
#1 Isabel Muñoz 1001

176 pages
 Isbn: 979-10-90698-50-5
 © 2021
 Authors:
 Yasmine Chemali,
 François Cheval,
 Stéphane du Mesnildot,
 Yuta Yagishita,
 Pascal Bagot,
 Emil Pacha Valencia
 Translation:
 Sara Heft



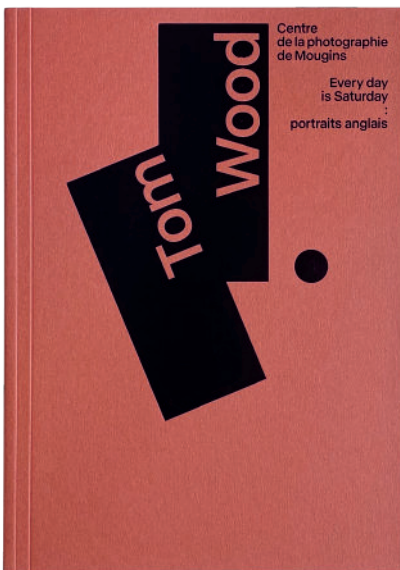
#2 Natasha Caruana + Jenny Rova L'amour toujours

192 pages
 Isbn: 979-10-90698-51-2
 © 2021
 Authors:
 François Cheval,
 Laurence Pourchez,
 Jenny Rova,
 Natasha Caruana,
 Dr Chris Hoff,
 Christophe Perrin,
 Yasmine Chemali
 Translation:
 Sara Heft



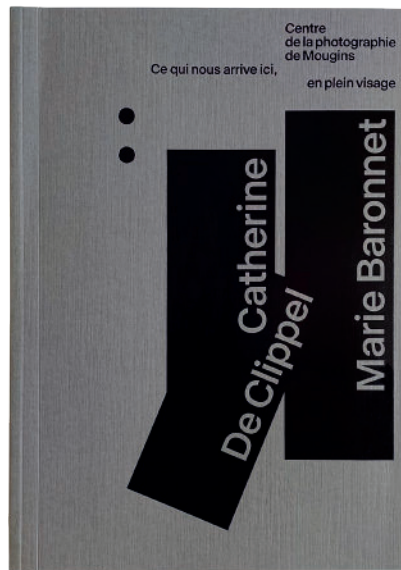
#3 Yuki Onodera + LiLang La clairvoyance du hasard

176 pages
 Isbn: 979-10-90698-52-9
 © 2022
 Authors:
 François Cheval,
 András Páldi,
 Jean Daunizeau,
 Takayo Iida,
 Yasmine Chemali
 Translations:
 Ruth Oldham,
 Patrick Honoré



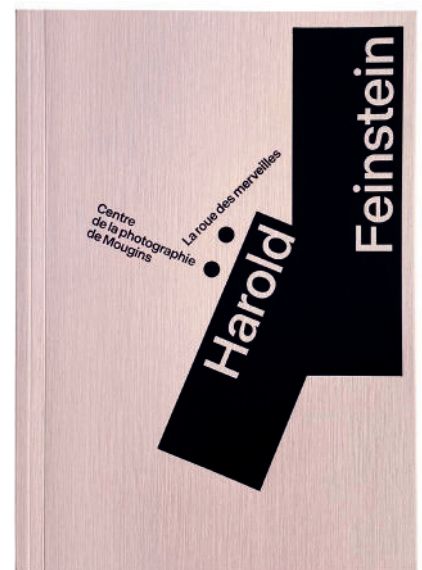
#4
Tom Wood
Every day is Saturday:
portraits anglais

192 pages
 isbn: 979-10-90698-53-6
 © 2022
 Authors:
 François Cheval,
 Leïla Vignal,
 Jean Daunizeau,
 Alexis Tadié,
 David Peace,
 John Peel,
 Yasmine Chemali
 Translations:
 Ruth Oldham,
 Alexis Tadié,
 Leïla Vignal



#5
Catherine De Clippel
+ Marie Baronnet
Ce qui nous arrive ici,
en plein visage

192 pages
 isbn: 979-10-90698-54-3
 © 2022
 Authors:
 Jérôme Esnouf,
 François Cheval,
 Jean-Paul Colleyn
 Translations:
 Ruth Oldham,
 Jennetta Petch



#6
Harold Feinstein
La roue des merveilles

192 pages
 isbn: 979-10-90698-55-0
 © 2023
 Authors:
 François Cheval,
 Alexis Tadié,
 Ya'ara Gil-Glazer,
 Yasmine Chemali
 Translations:
 Ruth Oldham,
 Jennetta Petch,
 Alexis Tadié

Public

Guided tour
by Jessica Backhaus
Saturday 2.03.2024
15:00

Family tour
Storytelling
The team at the Centre of Photography is offering an original format for family visits to the exhibitions. A story for children, conceived and told by our mediator, guides you through the world of the artist. **16:00 → 16:30**

Sundays
3.03,
7.04,
5.05,
and 2.06.2024

From 4 years old
In French.
Free admission on the 1st Sunday of the month.

"A chromatic experience"
Meeting with Emmanuel Bonn, director, scriptwriter and producer
Friday 5.04
→ 18:00
Free admission

Emmanuel Bonn's personal and cinematic history with colour goes back a long way. At the start of his career, his first short film was in black and white, an artistic choice that was up against the dominant trend towards colour in 1979. A laboratory technical incident forced him to shoot again, in colour, a costly experiment but one that enabled him to acquire a certain expertise. Emmanuel Bonn will discuss colour, his choice, in the context of his work as a film director.

programme

"Smell the colour all the way to the sun"

Olfactory tour with The Musée International de la Parfumerie

Saturday 13.04 → 15:00 to 17:00

During an olfactory workshop, call on your emotional intelligence to express and describe the sensations aroused by smells. The workshop will be followed by an interactive visit during which participants will express themselves about the works using their feelings and the suggested smells.

Price: €25 (including materials) Places are limited. To take part, register by e-mail: centrephotographie@villede-mougins.com or by telephone: 04 22 21 52 14

"Stop motion" creative workshop

Give shape to paper cut-outs and stage colors under the spotlight. Imagine the interplay between light and shadow, shape and color. Through a collective creation, learn the stop motion animation technique. A two-day workshop.

Day 1:
Thursday 7.03
10:00 → 11:30

Paper-cutting workshop, storyboard creation, photographic shooting.
Day 2:

Contacts

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de la photographie
de Mougins**

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Florence Buades
fbuades@villedemougins.com

Informations

Open

**2.03 → 31.03.2024
13:00 → 18:00
Closed on Mondays
and Tuesdays**

**1st.04 → 2.06.2024
11:00 → 19:00
Closed on Tuesdays**

Admission

**Adult → 6 €
Student → 3 €
Group (10 or +) → 4 €/ pers.
Guided tours → 10 €/ pers.**

Free
1st Sunday of each month
Under 18, students
from the 06 and 83
departments,
job seekers,
disabled visitors and one
accompanying person,
ICOM / ICOMOS / CIPAC,
Friends of the Center,
teachers, press,
guide-lecturers.

Guided tours (express)
every Wednesday
and Saturday
→ 15:00

Book your
guided tour + workshop
for schools, groups
and associations:
Sinem Bostanci
sbostanci@villedemougins.com

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