

## 1 COMPOSING FREELY

Naïve and singular artists produce stunning, very personal artwork. As self-taught masters in terms of colour use and technique, they strive to apply composition rules but their lack of training very soon catches up with them. They make up for it with highly personal solutions and tricks.

These creations cannot be sorted into categories within a movement as defined by convention. They all work to their own rules: preparation, automatic writing, spontaneous gestures, playing with perspective and depth. In this room, the onlooker's eyes are drawn by tight framing, surprising formats and daring viewpoints. For these artists, the art of composition was not learned in school, meaning that they cast a free gaze on the world.



Véronique FILOZOF  
Place de la Concorde,  
Paris

## 2 SENSATIONAL MATTERS

Self-taught artists are like contemporary poets, who explore various means of expression: they paint, draw, sculpt, assemble, manipulate and invent their own materials to produce works that defy categorisation.

They take on various media, and experiment constantly with new ways of working with materials. Creations thus feature assorted assemblies, interplays of textures and repurposed materials. And bearing the traces of the artists' labour, productions appear to be as much a record of the artists' quest. In their hands, washed-up matter and degraded media are assembled, reused and magnified in order to compose works that shake up markers.



Jean-Joseph SANFOURCHE  
I've had it up to here

## 3 MIRRORING LIFE

Drawing on stages in their personal and family lives, artists on show at the MANAS relate childhood memories, slices of life and puzzling dreams. Reminiscing on personal narratives, observation escalates to introspection, which prompts them to relate their personal lives. As they expose their very selves to onlookers, they reveal intimate details, confide their existential questions, and call fate into question.

These artists are not content to merely depict their sitter's physical attributes in a portrait. They want to convey their personality and soul. They opt for a psychological approach, carefully choosing the elements composing the portrait set, each one having something to say about the model's world

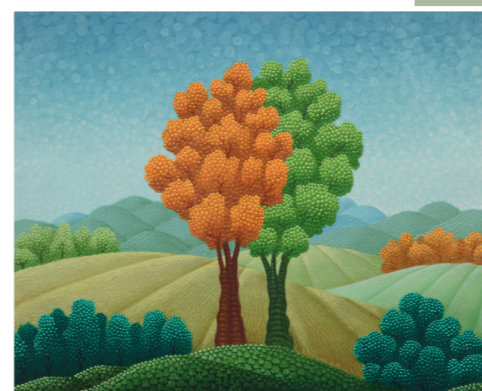


Jacqueline BENOIT  
The Red Room

## 4 NATURE AT WORK

Naïve and singular artists are inspired by nature. They play with the palette to depict scenery that's often lush, sometimes tempestuous and readily fantasised. The variety in colour range takes onlookers on travels through all seasons and all places.

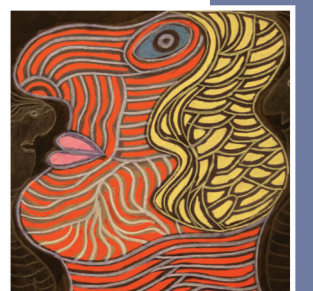
For visual artists, nature and its extraordinary inventiveness are not merely a key subject for their creative flair. They also draw on it as material for their productions: leaves, sand, flotsam and jetsam, moss and lichen.



Antun BAHUNEK  
Bouquet of trees

## 5 OBSESSIONS

Drawing on free inspiration, the works of Naïve and Singular Artists portray dizzying worlds, obviously the product of fertile imagination. Driven by their own visions, the artists recount their inner meanderings. These travels are chiselled out with a non-stop, obsessive repetition of the same motif or idea. Systematic use of the same media or specific format is also typical of output in this section. Invasive imagery inundates the media, like foliage by Séraphine, monstrous figures by Joël Lorand, bestiaries by Pierre Albasser, Henri Trouillard and Ouroboros, snakes that bite their own tails, symbolising eternity. They create in defiance of codes or aesthetic convention, adopting an accumulative approach, with as their sole ambition, that of obeying their own creative impulse as experienced on a daily basis.



Pierre ALBASSER  
The Aristocrat

## THE MANAS

The MANAS is a unique venue for Naïve and Singular Art, with a permanent collection and temporary exhibitions exhibited over 1,100 sq.m.

Monitoring outlier creation, it has been pinpointed as a national talent-spotter and source of support for visual artists who are not integrated into usual exhibition circuits.

This document can come in useful throughout your tour of the museum. If you do not wish to keep it, please don't throw it away. You can hand it back in at the MANAS reception area. Thank you!

## 6 FABULOUS ART AND CULTS

As a genre in its own right in academic painting, Historic painting covers historic, religious and mythological subjects. While self-taught artists have distanced themselves from academic art, traditional painting does still influence Naïve and Singular Artists.

This section reveals characters from mythology, fairy tales and Biblical stories that feature in marginal production. Religion is a popular theme for outlier artists who find it an outlet for especially strong works. They harness it to express their belief, to sing the praises of creation, or give their contemporaries a warning. In these creations, animals are represented, contributing to a fantastic bestiary, a much favoured protagonist in the works of Naïve and Singular Artists.



Germain VAN DER STEEN  
*The Cat*

## 7 TESTING REALITY

For Naïve and Singular Artists, art may be a means for activism. Artists feed on everyday life, sometimes mocking it. They shake up convention and force onlookers to face up their own contradictions, sparking questions and wielding provocation and satire.

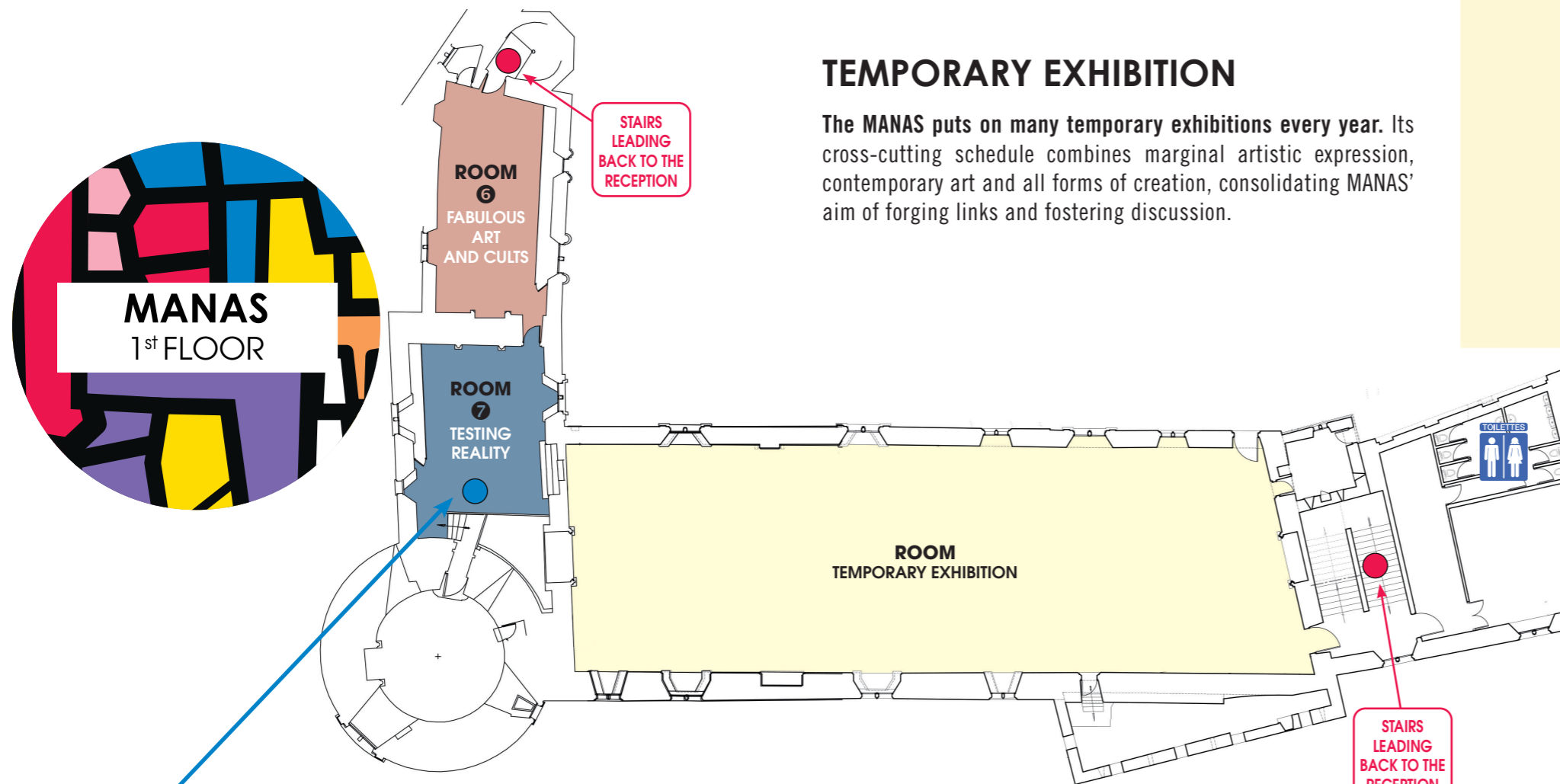
Anti-conformist creations immortalise reality, condemning or exalting historic facts. They narrate war and totalitarian states, poverty and the awakening of environmental awareness, describing a sense of moral compass. The works in this section are consistently provocative, sometimes disturbing and occasionally condemn excess and aberration in our society.



Eva LALLEMENT  
*The Emigrés*

## TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

The MANAS puts on many temporary exhibitions every year. Its cross-cutting schedule combines marginal artistic expression, contemporary art and all forms of creation, consolidating MANAS' aim of forging links and fostering discussion.



## STORAGE CABINETS

Graphic works require specific conservation conditions. They are very fragile, so they are conserved in suitable cabinets that protect them from the light, while remaining accessible to the public.

Adam NIDZGORSKI  
*Untitled*



## Services

The MANAS offers the following free of charge :

- A wheelchair and folding chairs
- Lockers to stow away your personal belongings
- Media and games for children for an edutaining introduction to the museum !

The museum shop offers :

- Merchandise
- Accessories/jewellery
- Postcards
- Posters
- Exhibition catalogues
- Works on naïve and singular art, art brut, the history of Laval and medieval architecture

## Schedule

Everything you need to know about our events at the MANAS reception or on the website of museums in Laval.

## Practical information

Tuesday to Saturday, 9.00 am to 12.00 noon, 1.30 to 6.00 pm

Sunday 2.00 to 6.00 pm

Closed on bank holidays, except for 14 July and 15 August

Admission free

For a guided tour, €3, or free on the first Sunday of the month

FOR GROUPS : guided tours of the permanent collections or temporary exhibitions by appointment on +33 (0)2 53 74 12 30

Find out more :

[WWW.MUSEES.LAVAL.FR](http://WWW.MUSEES.LAVAL.FR)

## MUSÉE D'ART NAÏF ET D'ARTS SINGULIERS

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