

MUSÉE CANTONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS LAUSANNE Thalassa! Thalassa! Imagery of the Sea



4.10.2024–12.1.2025

Press kit

Musée cantonal
des Beaux-Arts
Plateforme 10

Place de la Gare 16
1003 Lausanne
Switzerland

mcba.ch



Sommaire

1. Press release
2. The exhibition
3. Publication
4. Press images
5. Events
6. Information and contact
7. Partners and sponsors

1. Press release

At the point where art history and the history of culture meet, *Thalassa! Thalassa! Imagery of the Sea* probes our relationship to the sea as that connection has taken shape in figurative art from the 19th century down to the present. In light of humans' reworking and reordering of the shoreline, in keeping with the development of navigation and the advances made in geology and zoology, how we see the Ocean and its denizens both real and imaginary has indeed experienced an endless sea change.

Many technical inventions have accompanied these developments and advances, including aquarium, diving bell, the old-style hard-hat diving suit, periscope, undersea vehicle, and on and on. All of these devices – to which we would have to add the microscope, photography, and film – have helped to redefine the visible and the invisible, making our point of view something much more fluid, erasing our bearings, our landmarks, and raising unknown creatures from the deep. How have artists incorporated or anticipated the series of upheavals that have redrawn the mental grid humans use to comprehend an immense watery territory that extends from beaches to the ocean depths?

The layout of the show offers visitors a narrative. They will discover how a collective desire to preserve the mystery and beauty of the sea is anchored in an emotional and aesthetic relationship to the natural world, one that has taken shape in a story and a history that have been told in images. On the museum's first floor and continuing on the second, three themes are developed in turn, the shore, the deep, and the abyss.

Taking shape in the 19th century, these themes, however much dramatized, reappropriated, even deconstructed, remain no less identifiable in contemporary art. Today when we are increasingly aware of the role we humans play in degrading ecosystems, when maritime borders are causing a number of conflicts, they form a theatre of questions that are proving absolutely relevant to our day and age.

The show features works by a wealth of artists, including Arnold Böcklin, François Boccion, Edward Burne-Jones, Jean-François Auburtin, Albert Marquet, Maurice Pillard-Verneuil, Jean Painlevé, Max Ernst, Marcel Broodthaers, Ad van Denderen, Lubaina Himid, Caroline Bachmann et Stefan Banz, François Burland, Miriam Cahn, Sandrine Pelletier, Margaret Wertheim and Christine Wertheim.

Curators of the exhibition:

Catherine Lepdor, chief curator, MCBA, and Daniëlle Chaperon, professor of French literature, University of Lausanne, with the assistance of Camille de Alencastro, research associate, MCBA

Scenography: Raphaële Gygi

The exhibition *Thalassa! Thalassa!* is supported by the Fondation Leenaards, a partner of the Résonances project, which fosters dialogue between the three museums through thematic commissions to regional artists: Sandrine Pelletier (MCBA), Maya Rochat (Photo Elysée) and Olga Kokcharova (mudac).



2. The exhibition

Exhibition Guide

To download → mcba.ch/presse

3. Publication

Danielle Chaperon and Catherine Lepdor, *Thalassa! Thalassa!*
L'imaginaire de la mer, Éditions Octopus, 2024, fr., 208 p.

CHF 29.-, during the show's run

Available at the MCBA Book and Gift Shop

→ shop.mcba@plateforme10.ch



4. Press images

To download
→ www.mcba.ch/presse

Views of the exhibition available on 3 October 2024, 12am

The images are free of rights for the duration of the exhibition. All reproductions must be accompanied by the following information: author, title of the work, date, name of the lender, copyright and name of the photographer. Other indications (dimensions, duration, techniques, etc.) are welcome but not obligatory.

After publication, we would be grateful if you could send a copy of the publication to the press service of the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne.



Alphonse Osbert (1857–1939)
Soir antique [An Evening
in Ancient Times], 1908
Oil on canvas, 150,5 × 135,5 cm
Paris, Petit Palais, Musée des
Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris
CC0 Paris Musées / Petit Palais, Musée
des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris



Joseph Thomas Chautard (1821–1887)
Sappho, 1850
Oil on canvas, 92 × 192 cm
Ajaccio, Palais Fesch-musée des Beaux-Arts
Photo: © GrandPalaisRmn / Gérard Blot



René-Xavier Prinet (1861–1946)
La Plage de Cabourg [Cabourg Beach], 1910
Oil on canvas, 94 × 150,5 cm
Paris, Musée d'Orsay. Don de la famille Lebée,
in memory of Jeanne Prinet, through
the Société des amis du musée d'Orsay, 1991
Photo: © GrandPalaisRmn (musée
d'Orsay) / Hervé Lewandowski



François Boccion (1828–1890)
Venise [Venice], 1882
Oil on canvas, 76,5 × 149 cm
Lausanne, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
de Lausanne
Photo: Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de
Lausanne



Albert Marquet (1875 - 1947)
La plage de Sainte-Adresse
[Sainte-Adresse Beach], 1906
Huile sur toile, 64,5 × 80 cm
Private collection



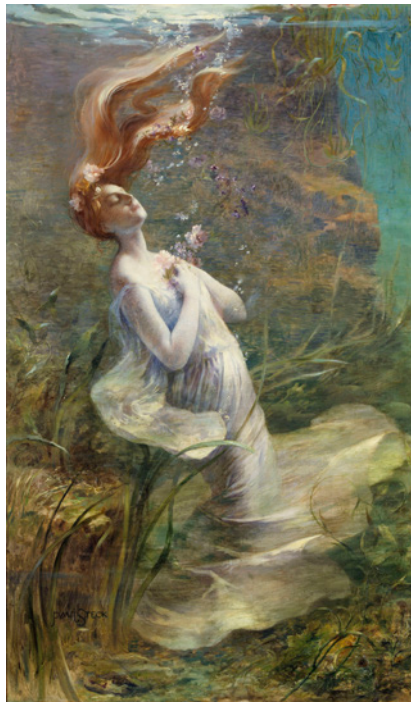
Red comb star
 Naturéum–Muséum cantonal des sciences
 naturelles, Lausanne
 Photo: Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
 de Lausanne



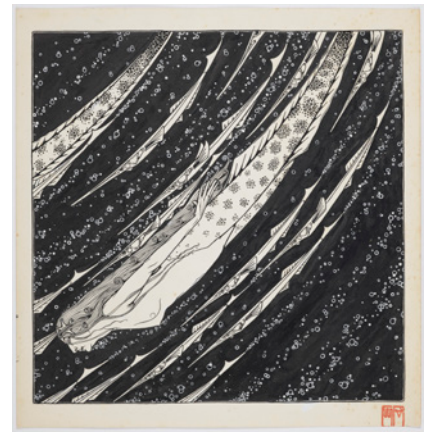
Maurice Pillard-Verneuil (1869–1942)
L'Animal dans la décoration [Animal
 Decorative Elements], Paris, Librairie centrale
 des Beaux-Arts, E. Lévy Éditeur, 1897
 Plate 27: Red mullets, stained-glass.
 Dragonflies and annual honesty (*Lunaria
 annua*)
 Collection de Marval
 Photo: Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
 de Lausanne



Jean-François Auburtin (1866–1930)
Algues au requin bleu
 [Seaweed with Blue Shark], 1897
 Gouache on paper, 73 × 100 cm
 Private collection, Paris
 Photo: Jean-Louis Losi, Paris



Paul Albert Steck (1866–1924)
Ophélie [Ophelia], 1894-1895
Huile sur toile, 162 × 98,5 cm
Paris, Petit Palais, Musée des Beaux-Arts de la
Ville de Paris
CC0 Paris Musées / Petit Palais, Musée des
Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris



Maurice Pillard-Verneuil (1869–1942)
Draft black-and-white illustration for
The Little Mermaid [Hans Christian Andersen,
1837], vers 1920–1925?
Lead pencil, Indian ink, and gouache on paper,
40 × 32,5 cm
Collection de Marval
Photo: Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
de Lausanne



Max Ernst (1891–1976)
Coquillage jaune [Yellow Shellfish], 1928
Oil, graphite, pencil and rubbing on paper
mounted on canvas, 41 × 65 cm
Private collection
© 2024, ProLitteris, Zurich



Pierre Boucher (1908–2000)
Jeanine à la conque
[Jeanine with Conch Shell], 1938
Photomontage, gelatin silver print, 29,5 × 39 cm.
Reprint (1965)
Fonds photographique Bouqueret-Rémy, Paris
© Fonds Pierre Boucher
Photo: Jean-Louis Losi, Paris



Lubaina Himid (*1954)
Accidental Encounter, 2021
Acrylic on canvas, 213 × 152 cm
Lausanne, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
© Lubaina Himid
Photo: Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
de Lausanne



Caroline Bachmann (*1963) and
Stefan Banz (1961–2021)
La longue vue [The Telescope], 2006
Oil on cotton, 145 x 315 cm
Caroline Bachmann and the Stefan Banz estate
© Caroline Bachmann and Stefan Banz
Photo: Sun Jianwei and Christoph Eckert



Margaret Wertheim (*1958) and Christine
Wertheim (*1958)
Baden-Baden Satellite Reef, 2021–2022
Part of the *Crochet Coral Reef* project of
Margaret Wertheim and Christine Wertheim
and The Institute for Figuring
Mixed media. Wool, various natural and
synthetic fibres, plastic, on wooden pedestals
Baden-Baden, Museum Frieder Burda
© Margaret Wertheim et Christine Wertheim
Photo: Nikolay Kazakov



Miriam Cahn (*1949)
unser meeresboden [our sea floor], 27.6.2021
Oil on wood, 220 x 120 cm
Collection particulière
© Miriam Cahn
Photo: Urs Baumann



François Burland (*1958)
 with the generous assistance
 of Fanny Peyratou,
 Myriam Schüssler, Clara Alloing
Cartographie des merveilles
 [Cartography of Wonders], 2020
 Red ink on industrial paper, 200 x 300 cm
 Lausanne, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
 © François Burland
 Photo: Jacques Bétant



Sandrine Pelletier (*Lausanne, 1976)
The Drowned World, 2024
 Heated and burned mirror adhesive,
 800 x 1000 cm
 Temporary installation
 The main hall's large glass window of the
 Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne
 © Sandrine Pelletier
 Photo: Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
 de Lausanne

5. Médiation – Service aux publics

Reservations required for all events
→ mcba.ch/agenda

Guided tours (in French)

Every Sunday at 11am

Thursday 17 October, 21 November, 19 December and 9 January at 6:30pm

Guided tours (in English)

Sunday 8 December at 2pm

Guided tours with the show curators (in French)

Thursday 5 December at 6:30pm

Sunday 12 January at 3pm

With Catherine Lepdor and Danielle Chaperon

Guided tours for Les Amis·e·s du MCBA (in French)

Tuesday 5 November at 12:30pm

Thursday 21 November at 6pm

With Catherine Lepdor and Danielle Chaperon

Guided tours for teachers

Wednesday 9 October at 12:30pm

Thursday, 10 October at 5:30pm

Guided tours for social work professionals

Friday 11 October, 10 to 11:30am

Event (in French)

Jeudi 14 novembre

Carte blanche au Centre Culturel Afropea

An Afro-European take on the show, featuring a talk, film and performance at MCBA and Photo Elysée.

Readings (in French)

Sunday 24 November, 3 to 4pm

Licia Chéry raconte les petites et les grandes sirènes

Readings from illustrated children's books that relate the adventures of mermaids the world over.

For all

Thematic tour

Thursday 9 January at 6:30pm

Bocaux anatomiques et coquillages en boîtes

Tour the show with Michel Sartori, former director of the Zoological Museum, Lausanne and Céline Stoffel, laboratory technician at Naturéum, Lausanne

Workshops for kids (in French)

Saturday 9 November,

14 December and 11 January, 2 to 5pm

Prendre soin des animaux du lac

Make stamps inspired by the crayfish, fish, and microplankton living nearby in the waters of Lake Geneva.

8–12 years old / CHF 15.–

Workshops for adults (in French)

Saturday 16 November, 2 to 5pm

Dessiner les créatures du Léman

Discover how the naturalist artists featured in the show go from observing marine animals to interpreting them in various mediums, before trying your hand at depicting our aquatic neighbours living in the lake depths. With Anne Crausaz, graphic artist, author, and illustrator

CHF 50.-

Workshop 0-100 (in French)

Saturday 7 December, 2 to 6pm, nonstop

Coquillages et crustacés

The group will create a 2025 calendar inspired by the aquatic animals. Come with your family, friends, or alone and take part for 15 minutes or 3 hours! Free admission/ No reservations required

Kids activity booklet (in French)

Free, available at the reception desk

Program for schools and private tours

→mcba.ch

6. Information and contact

Florence Dizdari
Press coordinator
florence.dizdari@plateforme10.ch
T +41 79 232 40 06

All our press releases and press kits are available under:
→ mcba.ch/presse

Press conference

Thursday 3 October 2024 at 10.00am

In the presence of the artists Margaret and Christine Wertheim for *Baden-Baden Satellite Reef* and Sandrine Pelletier for the *The Drowned World*

Presentation of the exhibition by the curators: 10.30 am

Registration required: → presse.mcba@plateforme10.ch

Public opening

Thursday 3 October 6pm

Hours:

Tuesday–Sunday 10am–6pm

Thursday 10am–8pm

Monday closed

MCBA is closed:

25 December and 1st January

Admission and Online Tickets:

→ mcba.ch/billetterie

Up to 25 years old: free

First Saturday of the month: free

Access:

SBB Lausanne train station, 3 minutes on foot

Bus: 85, 3, 20, 21, 60, Gare stop

Bus: 6, Cecil stop

Metro: m2, Gare stop

Car: Montbenon parking, Reduced fee

Address:

Plateforme 10

Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts

Place de la Gare 16

1003 Lausanne

Switzerland

T + 41 21 318 44 00

mcba@plateforme10.ch

www.mcba.ch

7. Partners and sponsors

The MCBA building was inaugurated on 5 April 2019. The museum's new premises were built by the canton of Vaud with the generous support of the City of Lausanne and the following private partnerships:

Fondation
Les Mûrons



Fondation
Art et Vie

Fondation
Anita et Werner Damm-Etienne



Abakanowicz Arts and
Culture Charitable Foundation

AUDEMARS PIGUET
Le Brassus



Madame
Alice Pauli

Association rétrospective
Pierrette Gonseth-Favre

ERNST GÖHNER
STIFTUNG

