

Press Release

Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art - 30th Anniversary

28th February - June 7th 2015:

**Tomaž Furlan, *Wear Series (2005-2015)* || *Life in a Castle. Works from the Collection* ||
Invited Artists: *Élodie Lesourd and Christian Falsnaes* || *Column. Sculpture by Tony Cragg***

Opening ceremony: February 27th at 5.30 PM; Performance by Christian Falsnaes at 6.30 PM

Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art this year celebrates the 30th anniversary of its foundation in Rochechouart Castle by proposing a programme of exhibitions spotlighting the museum's unique features. The season starts with a selection of works from the permanent collection under the title *Life in a Castle*, a theme that will be continued throughout the year. Simultaneously, from 28th February to 7th June, Slovenian artist Tomaž Furlan reveals his *Wear Series (2005-2015)*, consisting of machine-sculptures that can be seen in action in projections of videos and filmed performances. Then from 28th June to 4th October, the museum roof gallery will be turned over to an exhibition by Laure Prouvost, the French artist based in London and Anvers who won the 2013 Turner Prize. During the first part of the year, French painter Élodie Lesourd and Danish performance artist Christian Falsnaes have been invited to intervene in the collections.

Also to mark the 30-year celebrations, an additional sculpture has been installed in the castle courtyard. Tony Cragg's monumental *Column (2001)* complements the spiral fluted columns of the castle's Renaissance colonnade and joins Giuseppe Penone's sculpture *Souffle végétal (Plant Whispers)* created around a growing tree in 1985. A new website will be inaugurated in March providing in-depth coverage of the castle and its history, its collections and especially more details of the museum's Raoul Hausmann archives.

Tomaž Furlan, *Wear Series (2005-2015)*

28th February – 7th June 2015

Rochechouart hosts the first ever solo show in a museum by Slovenian artist Tomaž Furlan, featuring all nineteen works in his *Wear Series (2005-2015)*, the largest number displayed together so far. These consist of his machine-sculptures and their concomitant videos or filmed performances that show the machines in action. Some of the earlier pieces from the series were exhibited at Manifesta IX in Genk (Belgium) in 2012.

Tomaž Furlan (b. 1978) has been creating low-tech, DIY-style sculpture-machines since 2005. Mostly made of rusting metal, recycled objects or bulging wads of polyurethane foam, these diabolical machines or cumbersome prostheses tend to be less than truly functional. Visitors are encouraged to try them out by following explanatory demonstrations on video delivered with deadpan seriousness by the artist in total contrast to the obtuse devices he invents. Resembling a collection of implements from a torture chamber, they range from hand traps to slapping devices and unstable spinning beds. In one video all household objects in his flat require a coin in a slot before they can be used.



Tomaž Furlan, *WEAR VIII*, 2010,
Interactive sculpture (metal, polyurethane foam and camera) and video, 4'39"
Courtesy of the artist

Tomaž Furlan's still unfolding *Wear Series* is full of absurd standardized objects and repetitive workplace gestures that he explores in tragicomical manner. They evoke the remnants of a Modernist Utopian world of machines, the sort of future people hoped for in the wake of technological advances in the 1950s and 60s. Contemporary artists have often tried to cross-wire their professional practices with those of an inventor or mechanic. However, like an updated version of Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*, the machines presented here have become alienating, un-enriching and untrustworthy, a far cry from being mankind's key to progress and freedom. Through experimental performances and body art Tomaž Furlan treads a highly original path welding impoverished materials into obdurate sculpture-machines and animating them with his own brand of bitingly dark burlesque humour. Set in the castle's vast roof space gallery, the exhibition provides a more sombre counterweight to the *Life in a Castle* exhibits on the floors below.



Tomaž Furlan
WEAR VII, 2008, Interactive sculpture (metal, polyurethane foam, plastic, screens), 140 x 100 x 110cm, Video 3' 28", Courtesy of the artist



Tomaž Furlan
WEAR IV, 2008, sculpture (metal, polyurethane foam, stone, rope), 30 x 60 x 80 cm, Video, 5' 28" Courtesy of the artist



Tomaž Furlan, WEAR V, 2008, metal, polyurethane foam, 200 x 110 x 10 cm Video 3'00", Courtesy of the artist



Tomaž Furlan, WEAR VI, 2008, metal, polyurethane foam, plastic, 80 x 80 x 200 cm, Video 3' 52", Courtesy of the artist



Kent Monkman, *Théâtre de Cristal*, 2006, multimedia tipi installation, with beads, fishing line, simulated buffalo hide, digitalized super-8 movie, Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art Collection



Christian Falsnaes, *Opening*, 2013, video of performance
Courtesy of the artist and PSM Gallery (Berlin)

Elodie Lesourd, *Koh/Violette*, 2008, (courtesy T.Koh, B.Violette), Diptych, acrylic on MDF board 338 x 114 cm, private collection, Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Olivier Robert (Paris)

Life in a Castle. Works from the Collection.
Invited artists: Christian Falsnaes and Elodie Lesourd
Part 1: 28th February – 1st June, 2015

Artworks from Rochechouart's contemporary collections have been selected for this exhibition on the theme of living spaces. Recent acquisitions as well as earlier pieces contribute to reflecting on alternative ways in which art can inhabit the castle. Spread over two floors, the exhibits re-appraise and subvert conventional visions of stately home interiors divided into function rooms, painting galleries, music rooms, libraries or even cages.

The exhibition includes works by Adam Adach, Jules de Balincourt, Eduardo Basualdo, Tony Cragg, Pierre Dorion, Bernard Frize, Folkert De Jong, Arnaud Maguet, Alessandro Mendini, Kent Monkman, Katie Paterson, Sigmar Polke, Gerhard Richter, Tobias Rehberger, Thomas Schütte, Jana Sterbak, Patrick Tosani...



Tobias Rehberger, *Horizontal Bookshelves*, 1999, 6 ceramic ashtrays, 11 paper, lampshades, books, Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art Collection

Invited artists: Christian Falsnaes and Elodie Lesourd

As in 2014, two artists have been invited to interact with the collection. Danish artist Christian Falsnaes (b. 1980) is known for performances in which he tests visitors' conceptions of stereotypes. At Rochechouart he will re-enact one of his participative and feminist performances called *Opening*. The resulting video and artwork will be shown throughout the exhibition. Falsnaes was nominated for the Preis der Nationalgalerie 2015.

Élodie Lesourd (b. 1978), an artist from France, tries to freeze in her paintings visions of other artists' ephemeral installations related to music, a phenomenon she calls *hyperrockalism*. Several of her hyper-realist paintings will be on view, extending the life of contemporary artists' short-lived installations which normally only continue to exist in photographs and memories.





Tony Cragg , *Column*, 2001, Grès, 440x140x140 cm
 Donated by Mrs John N. Rosekrans Jr. in memory of M. John N. Rosekrans Jr. with the help of the Centre Pompidou Foundation, 2005.
 On permanent loan from Musée national d'art moderne, Centre de création industrielle, Centre Pompidou
 View of sculpture at Rochechouart Museum.

Monumental Addition to the Rochechouart Castle Courtyard: *Column*, Sculpture by Tony Cragg

Column (2001) a monumental sculpture standing 4.4 meters tall and weighing around 7 tons by English artist Tony Cragg, has been installed in the castle courtyard since February. Despite its size and weight, the organic-shaped abstract sculpture seems in perpetual movement from all angles.

It resonates with its location, echoing the castle's colonnade of Renaissance spiral fluted columns and establishes a dialogue with Giuseppe Penone's *Soufle végétal* (Plant Whispers) made for the castle Museum's inauguration thirty years ago.

The sculpture is a permanent loan from Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris). Other works made by Tony Cragg from the museum's collection are included in the *Life in a Castle* exhibition.



Tony Cragg, *Eroded Landscape*, 1992
 sand-blasted white glass, 200 x 270 cm
 Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art Collection

Raoul Hausmann - *Objects, Objectives*

28th February - 15th December 2015

Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art holds an extensive collection of over 700 works and personal archives by artist Raoul Hausmann (1886-1971), one of the founders of the Dada movement in Berlin. Dada considerably redefined the aims and physical forms of art and Hausmann himself pioneered fields such as collage, photomontage and sound poetry. Fleeing from the wave of Nazism that engulfed the country, Hausmann began travelling across Europe in 1933, notably spending a period in Ibiza (Spain) before finding refuge in the countryside around Limoges.

The present exhibition presents artworks that illustrate how Hausmann used the representation of objects as a test bed for renewal in his art and general outlook on life. Collage, photography and advertising all feature here and displays are enriched by projections of newly digitized pages from his private notebooks.



Raoul Hausmann, *Untitled*, 1968, toothpicks, cloth, map, foam plastic, spoons on polystyrene, 50x42,5 cm,
 Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art Collection

Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art



Inaugurated in 1985, Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art sits within Rochechouart Castle, a mostly 15th century building, famous for its 16th century frescoes. Several internationally renowned artists were commissioned to make in-situ works (e.g. Giuseppe Penone, Richard Long) and from the outset the museum was characterised by its singular dialogue between contemporary creation and historical surroundings. Thirty years later, the museum continues to add to its remarkable collection of works by artists from around the globe. Exhibitions drawn from this permanent collection are mixed with temporary solo or collective shows often with a particular interest in themes such as landscape, history or imagination. The museum also houses a major archive of artworks by the Dadaist Raoul Hausmann. Major renovation in 2000 produced a new museum interior combining white-cube-style galleries with unadulterated historical spaces for exhibiting such as the medieval tower room and wood-beamed roof space.

March 2015 : new version of the museum's website

The opening of the 2015 season at Rochechouart Museum of Contemporary Art coincides with a new version of the museum's website in English and French. Extra functions are now available together with more detailed information on the castle's history, its permanent collections and especially the Raoul Hausmann Archives.

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Follow all our activities by consulting the museum's Facebook page.

Opening Hours:

Open all days except Tuesdays; 10:00 to 12:30 & 1:30 to 6:00 p.m



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