MARNIE WEBER
ONCE UPON A TIME IN FOREVERMORE

BRUNO PÉLASSY

ÉMILIE PARENDEAU
ÇA M’INQUIÈTE TOUJOURS CES SIRÈNES
PRIX CULTUREL MANOR 2016

FEBRUARY 24TH — MAY 1ST, 2016
For the spring 2016 sequence, Mamco is inaugurating three monographic exhibitions.

Californian artist Marnie Weber (*1959) occupies the whole second floor. Leading the visitor into the realm of burlesque fairytales, this exhibition was devised as a global theater combining various representational systems.

The retrospective dedicated to Bruno Pélassy (1966, Vientiane – 2002, Nice) is on the fourth floor. In his practice, initiated in the early 1990s, the artist has sought inspiration as much in the field of haute couture as in DIY, to produce his bawling, restless mechanical animals known as “Bestioles” and his elegant organisms floating in aquariums known as “Créatures”.

Finally, Émilie Parendeau (*1980, Ambilly), winner of the Manor Cultural Prize 2016, takes up 4 rooms of the first floor offering an original revisitation of presentation modes of the museum’s collections.

Each of M. Weber’s exhibitions thus can and must be understood as a global theater, a total artwork that borrows as much from Surrealism as it does from counter-culture and American folklore. The bewitching world of M. Weber is more sardonic than it appears at first. The repressions and traumas of American popular culture re-emerge to the surface of signs and images.

Paul Bernard, the curator in charge of this exhibition, will comment Marnie Weber’s work on Tuesday March 8 at 6:30pm.

Bruno Pélassy

Mamco dedicates a retrospective to Bruno Pélassy, whose work, despite its rich formal and aesthetic diversity, spans a period of barely ten years. This exhibition, which follows the one held at the Centre d’art contemporain – le Crédac in Ivry-sur-Seine in 2015, was produced in partnership with this institution, and with the participation of the Pélassy family, Florence Bonnefous, Marie Canet, Brice Dellsperger, and Natacha Lesueur.

Though well known in the art world, the work of B. Pélassy still remains largely unknown to the general public; the aim of this exhibition is to reveal all of its beauty and singularity.


From the early 1990s, a period marked by the traumatism related to this syndrome, B. Pélassy initiated an artistic practice that is at once dark and luminous, tragic and funny, imposing and delicate. His multifaceted body of work conveys a sense of the ambivalent nature of existence, its exuberance coupled with its fragility. It develops a poetics of life and death made up of symbols borrowed from religion and popular culture, expressed by the combination of precious materials and recycled elements.

Enclosed in aquariums and swathed in silk, lace or Swarovski stones, B. Pélassy’s “Créatures” undulate gently in the water. As though suspended, they appear to be capable of stopping time and thus delaying the reality of death.

Mamco — Spring 2016 Sequence — Press Release
The “Bestioles,” created between 1994 and 2001, are mecha-
nical creatures inspired by animals. Animated through inex-
pensive toy mechanisms that eloquently confer mobility, they
wander freely and joyously around the exhibition space, ban-
ning into other artworks. Mobile audio parasites, they disturb
the silence and escape from the designated rooms when not
kept under surveillance. In short, these impolite, arrogant
“Bestioles” have their own lives to lead, and they do so lo-
dly.

The “Bestioles” will be activated on Wednesdays 2 March
and 6 April, between 7 and 8pm.

Marie Canet, author of the monograph about the artist co-
published by Mamco will also give a talk on Bruno Pélassy,
on Tuesday 19 April at 6:30pm.

Émilie Parendeau, Ça m’inquiète toujours ces sirènes
Manor Cultural Prize 2016

 Ça m’inquiète toujours ces sirènes [Those sirens always
worry me] is the title chosen by Émilie Parendeau — winner
of the Manor Cultural Prize 2016 — for her exhibition at
Mamco in reference to the wailing alarms of ambulances and
other police vehicles. A kind of pleonasm, the function of
sirens being precisely to attract attention and promote dis-
quiet, this title suggests that visitors rid themselves of their
reflexes and automatisms.

In the exhibition, which occupies the four consecutive rooms
of the Suite genevoise, É. Parendeau aims to take into account
the question of display. The choice of works — mostly from
Mamco’s collections — thus stems directly from the space in
which they are presented. The exhibition also disrupts the
usual mode of circulation, modifying our approach of this
space.

The topics of the visible and invisible, what is hidden yet also
reveals itself to the gaze guide É. Parendeau’s presentation.
The exhibition involves a series of reflections and double-ups.
Through inverted symmetry the work by Luciano Fabro, pre-
sent on the floor of the first room, refers to one of the most
emblematic artworks of the museum, hung from the ceiling of
the fourth room.

On Tuesday April 5 at 6:30pm, Lionel Bovier, Director of
Mamco, and Émilie Parendeau will talk about this exhibition
together.
Images


Mamco Events

February

Tuesday 23
— 6-9pm, VERNISSAGE.
Exhibitions opened until May 1st, 2016.

March

Tuesday 1st
— 12:30pm, WALKING WITH... Jean-Marc Brachard, Stationer, former President of les Amis du Mamco and art collector.
— 6:30pm, PRESENTATION of Projective, Projectif and Scripts, three books on Victor Burgin published by éditions Mamco, in the presence of the artist and Valérie Mavridorakis, teacher at HEAD-Genève, Geneva School of Art and Design.

Wednesday 2
— 7-8pm, ACTIVATION of Bruno Pélassy’s “Bestioles.”

Tuesday 8
— 6:30pm, COMMENTARY by Paul Bernard on Once Upon a Time in Forevermore, Marnie Weber’s exhibition.

Tuesday 15
— 6:30pm, VOIX OFF, Sandra Moussempès reads a selection of her texts.

April

Tuesday 5
— 12:30pm, WALKING WITH... Manuel Ruedi, zoologist, conservator at the Natural history Museum in Geneva.
— 6:30pm, COMMENTARY by Émilie Parendeau on her exhibition Ça m’inquiète toujours ces sirènes, with Lionel Bovier, Director of Mamco.

Wednesday 6
— 7-8pm, ACTIVATION of Bruno Pélassy’s “Bestioles.”

Tuesday 12
— 6:30pm, VOIX OFF, Ariane Epars reads a selection of her texts.

Tuesday 19
— 6:30pm, EVENING dedicated to Bruno Pélassy with Marie Canet, author of the artist’s monography copublished by les éditions Mamco (and other guests).

May

Tuesday 3
— 12:30pm, WALKING WITH... ORAIBI + BECKBOOKS.

Tuesday 10
— 6:30pm, VOIX OFF, Jean Daive reads a selection of his texts.
Other Events

Collaboration with Groove’N’Move Festival
Mamco collaborates with Groove’N’Move Festival, offering to the public a performance at the crossroad(s) of contemporary art and hip hop culture:
— Wednesday 24 February, 3-5pm, an urban dance workshop with Olivier Lefrançois.
All levels, from age 12, 10 CHF. Places are limited, registration on: contact@groove-n-move.ch

Boîte à musique
The students of the Conservatoire Populaire de Musique have composed pieces of music inspired by some of the artworks exhibited at Mamco. These pieces will be played at the museum to allow young visitors to discover the instrumental music universe. Guided by the sounds, children will move toward the instrument they would like to learn.
— Saturday 12 March, 11am, musical journey for children.
Coproduction with the CESM (Confédération des Écoles genevoises de musique), the CMC (Centre de musique contemporaine de Genève) and Archipel Festival.

Passport Visits
On the occasion of Passeport Musées suisses’ 20th anniversary, Mamco collaborates with this institution by organising four guided visits entitled Passport Visits (for double artistic destinations). Guides will talk about two artists’ works belonging to different geographic areas:
— Sunday 13 March, 3pm: California – Iran
— Sunday 10 April, 3pm: Congo – French Riviera
— Sunday 12 June, 3pm: Germany – Toscana
— Sunday 11 September, 3pm: Japan – Vaud

Nuit des musées
Saturday 21 May, 6pm-12am.
Special presentation of Anges Inséparables: La Maison Ephémère de Walter Benjamin by Esther Shalev-Gerz (2000) in collaboration with le Fonds d’art contemporain de la Ville de Genève (FMAC) during la Nuit des musées and la Journée internationale des musées.
Paid admission.

Journée internationale des musées
Sunday 22 May, 11am-6pm.
Mamco is overseen by Fondamco, which is made up of Fondation Mamco, the Canton and City of Geneva.

Fondamco would like to thank all its partners, both public and private, and in particular la Fondation Coromandel, la Fondation de Famille Sandoz, La Fondation de bienfaisance du groupe Pictet, la Fondation Lombard Odier, la Fondation Valéria Rossi di Montelera, JTl, la Loterie Romande, Sotheby’s.

Along with la Fnac, Hôtel Bel‘Espérance, Hôtel La Cour des Augustins.

Media partners: Le Courrier, Espaces contemporains, Profil.

For all requests, information and visuals, please contact:

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The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6pm, the first Wednesday of the month until 9pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 6pm. Closed on Mondays and Friday 25 March 2016.

Regular admission CHF 8.–
Reduced admission CHF 6.–
Group admission CHF 4.–