

**VAL**

**Musée d'art contemporain  
du Val-de-Marne**

**Place de la Libération  
— Vitry-sur-Seine (94)**

**contact@macval.fr**  
**www.macval.fr**

**Tuesday to Friday, 10 am–6 pm. Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, noon to 7 pm. Last admissions 30 minutes before closing.  
Closed on 1 may.**

**'It all comes down to  
setting the scene/Go from bed  
to bed, change the body  
machine/But in the end, just what  
does it mean?/It's my own self  
I'm betraying.'**

The works of Pierre Ardouvin brought together in this exhibition create a mental landscape and weave a story, a paradoxical and non-linear narrative with strong autobiographical and generational strands. The motifs and references, which are taken from the popular culture of the 1960s and 70s, do however seem to conjure up shared memories and belong to a universal history of human beings caught up in their fantasies, fears and nightmares.

is ambiguous and therefore not immediately identifiable. The Freudian uncanny? The repeated, diverted and assembled objects found in Ardouvin's works are indeed chosen for their emotional resonance, for their capacity to trigger emotions, to generate the strange and the monstrous. Closer to Surrealist collage than Duchampian readymades, they derail the real and stir doubt while offering an image of something familiar. The violence is latent, falsely softened by a kitsch aesthetic. But then, does not the decorative

It is said that Ardouvin works "from the motif." However, his motif is not Cézanne's Montagne Sainte Victoire but raw reality, turned on its head. The real with a stammer. It is also said that he works "after nature," after a world that has disappeared but that is reconstituted here (as in a science fiction film) and lives on as if nothing had changed.

**Au théâtre ce soir (2006)** reprises the title of a very popular TV show that ran from the 1960s to the 1980s, consisting of filmed theatre. Inspired by a famous observation in Guy Debord's *Society of the Spectacle* (1967) – "In a world that is really upside down, the true is a moment of the false" – the installation consists of a small theatre that can be entered by visitors, its stage giving onto the exhibition space, which it thereby transforms into a spectacle. Comfortably seated the visitor is confronted with a reversal of roles and values: who

This staging of the real, a recurrent feature of Ardouvin's work goes hand in hand with his acerbic observation of infantile behaviour in adults. Childhood is evoked as something that induces a feeling of loss. Rather than the expression of nostalgia, what we have here is more a form of retinal persistence, as when we continue to see an object, an image or a situation after its actual and permanent disappearance.

**Stéphanie Airaud**  
Head of public programmes

**“La fabrique du fanzine”**  
Fabrique d’art contemporain,  
workshop for children  
aged 6 and over, taken by  
Jonathan Martin.

Free, no reservation required: Tuesday to Friday  
from noon to 6 pm and noon to 7 pm on Saturday  
Contact: [cdm.macval@macval.fr](mailto:cdm.macval@macval.fr) or 01 43 91 14 64

# Exhibition by Pierre Ardouvin

**Curated by: Alexia Fabre and Frank Lamy,  
assisted by Julien Blanpied**

Lightings: Serge Damon  
Editing and production assistance:  
Artfrontline

# English

**Pierre Ardouvin is born in 1955,  
he works and lives in Paris.**



List of works in the exhibition



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- In the exhibition room
- 1 *L'excursion*, 2016. "Écran de veille" series. Print on canvas, resin, glitter, frame, 234×176 cm. Production MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 2 *Suspense*, 2006. Artificial fire, jerrican, electricity, 31×25×52 cm. Private collection. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 3 *La maison jaune*, 2016. "Écran de veille" series. Print on canvas, resin, glitter, frame, 234×176 cm. Production MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 4 *La Tempête*, 2011. Tree, earth, armchair, 500×350×270 cm. Production CCC OD Tours. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo François Fernandez © CCC Tours.
- 5 *Éclair*, 2007. Electrical system, plastic, metal, bulbs, 253×223×10 cm. Collection MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne. Photo © Jacques Faujour.



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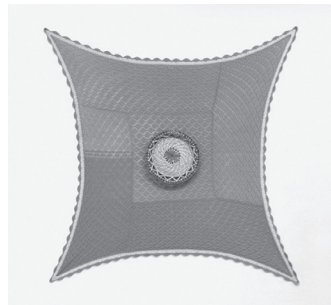
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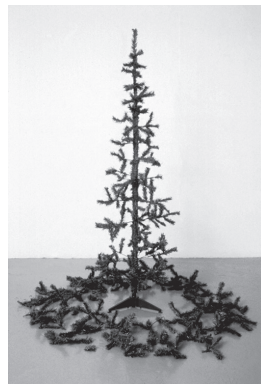
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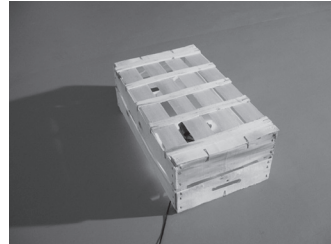


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- 6 *Bonne nuit les petits*, 2008. Letters in painted wood, lights and multi-coloured cabochons, sequential programme, 70×750×15 cm. Collection FRAC Alsace, Sélestat. Photo © Marc Domage.
- 7 *Le Déguisement 1*, 2010. Suit, peg, 160×23 cm, 1/5. Collection agnès b. Photo © Florian Kleinfenn.
- 8 *Mirage*, 2009. Parasol, Christmas baubles, silver wire, 200×200×200 cm. Collection Famille Servais, Brussels. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 9 *Le Mandala (un jour sans nuage)*, 1995. Wool, osier, 160×160 cm. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo © Florian Kleinfenn.
- 10 *Élitage*, 1995. Trimmed synthetic fir tree, 160×150 cm. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo © Jean-François Rocheboz.



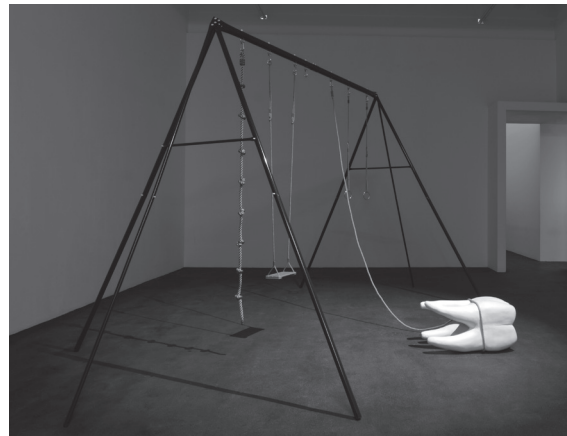
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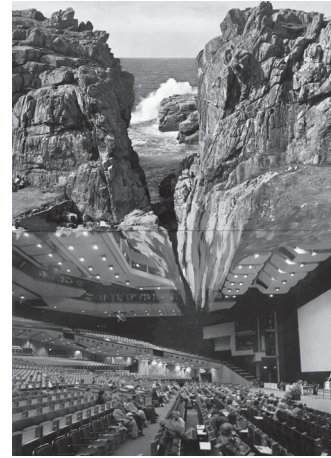


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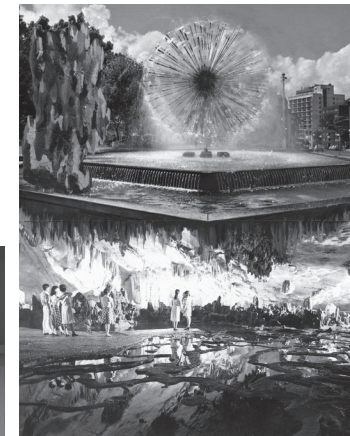


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- 11 *Petit feu (2)*, 2006. Wooden crate, flickering bulbs, 40×60×25 cm. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 12 *Desert Storm*, 2014. Wood, stones, school desk, 120×80×100 cm. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 13 *La conférence*, 2016. "Écran de veille" series. Print on canvas, resin, glitter, frame, 234×176 cm. Production MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 14 *La vision*, 2016. "Écran de veille" series. Print on canvas, resin, glitter, frame, 234×176 cm. Production MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 15 *Ohlala*, 2013. Swing frame, sculpture of tooth, 450×350×600 cm. Production CRAC Languedoc-Roussillon-Midi-Pyrénées. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo Florent Gadin © CRAC Sète.



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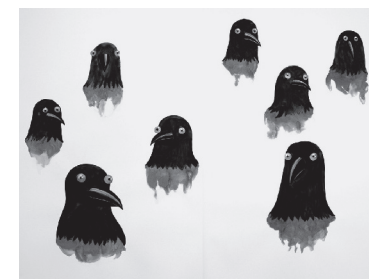
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- 16 *Elephant Man*, 2008. Fireplace in MDF, electric fire, ceramic vase, bust modelled in plasticine, 125×125×38 cm. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 17 *Manteau troué*, 1996. Woollen coat, gun, hanger, 220×220×100 cm. Collection Gérard Mavalais and François Michel. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 18 *Au théâtre ce soir*, 2006. Various materials, 305×525×555 cm. Collection Lafayette Anticipation – Fonds de Dotation Famille Moulin, Paris. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 19 *Les Corneilles*, 2011. Watercolour and pencil on paper, 120×160 cm. Centre National des Arts Plastiques. Inv. Fnac n° 2013-0179. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 20 *Soleil couchant*, 2005. Altuglas, neon bar, 120×150 cm. Private collection. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.



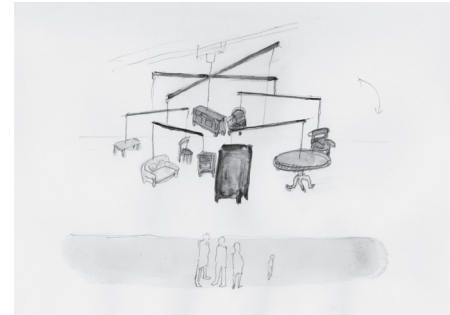
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- 21 *Ruisseau*, 2005. Plastic rocks, wood, water pump, 720×130×80 cm. Collection Lafayette Anticipation – Fonds de Dotation Famille Moulin, Paris. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 22 *La flèche du progrès*, 2016. "Écran de veille" series. Print on canvas, resin, glitter, frame, 234×176 cm. Production MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 23 *Aube de l'odyssée*, 2015. Tractor tyre, slide, disco ball, 103×124×103 cm. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 24 *Perpetuum mobile 1, 2 et 3*, 2016. Furniture, steel bars, fixing system and wires, motors, dimensions variable. Preparatory drawing. Production MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne.
- 25 *Bettina*, 2016. Janus B glider, matt black paint, 862×1820×150 cm. Preparatory drawing. Production MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne.



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- In the vestibule
- 26 *Les quatre saisons*, 2010. Turntable, sofas, multi-coloured bunting. Height: 235 cm, diameter: 386 cm. Sound track: "The Four Seasons" by Antonio Vivaldi, played by Louis Kaufman, Henry Swoboda, Musical Masterpiece orchestra (1947). Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo © Florent Kleinfenn.
- In the garden
- 27 *Le bonhomme de neige (4)*, 2007. Resin, 160×167×177 cm, 1/5. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris. Photo © Pierre Ardouvin.
- 28 *The future is going to be boring (J. G. Ballard)*, 2016. Pedestal, brushed steel finish, flashing light, coloured cabochons, 240×140 cm. Simulation. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris.
- 29 *This is an illusion (Philip K. Dick)*, 2016. Pedestal, brushed steel finish, flashing light, coloured cabochons, 180×125 cm. Simulation. Courtesy Pierre Ardouvin & Praz-Delavallade, Paris.



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