

# DARK

LA CRIÉE  
CENTRE D'ART  
CONTEMPORAIN  
RENNES - F



VERNACULAIRE ET  
CRÉATION CONTEMPORAINE

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## PRESS PACK

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# **DARK -EN- CIEL**

## BERTILLE BAK

exhibition from 22 January to 24 April 2022  
opening Friday 21 January 2022, from 4pm to 8pm  
from 2pm to 8pm: opening of *Animalia*, at 40mcube

Wednesday 9 March 2022, BERTILLE BAK PRESS TOUR  
La Criée centre d'art contemporain  
Galerie Art & Essai

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La Criée centre for contemporary art  
place Honoré Commeurec, Rennes  
[www.la-criee.org](http://www.la-criee.org)

—  
officer press: Marion Sarrazin  
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**DARK**

**-EN-**

**CIEL**

**X**

# Summary

Press release. ....	1
Green flashes. ....	2
Exhibited works . ....	3
Visual for press . ....	4
Biography. ....	10
Cycle <i>Lili, the Rozell and the Marimba</i> . ....	13
Practical information . ....	14

# **DARK-EN-CIEL**

## **BERTILLE BAK**

exhibition from 22 January to 24 April 2022

opening Friday 21 January 2022, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

press visit Friday 20 January 2022, 3:30 p.m.

—  
*Imagine that this communiqué is being joyfully bellowed out over a slightly crackling megaphone attached to the top of a van that has been customised with the colours of the art centre and a rainbow\*; it is driving slowly through the streets of Rennes, trying to drum up business.*

Listen up dear people of Rennes and of France: come and discover **DARK-EN-CIEL**, the new exhibition in full Technicolor by Bertille Bak, a formidable young artist, whose talent is being celebrated around the world!\*\*

Colourful shows for the kids, 3D animations made with trickery and obvious subterfuges, actual sets out created from cardboard, circular and rectangular films, new works filled with frightening surprises and more.

Don't miss Bertille Bak's **DARK-EN-CIEL**: an exhibition that rolls over for you, takes you to the stars, cries foul, seesaws, and twists and twists again.

That's **DARK-EN-CIEL**, 22 January until 24 April 2022 at La Criée, contemporary art centre and old fish market!

A conversation between two (very well-informed) shoppers after the van passes by:

- Bertille Bak ... isn't she that artist who's interested in communities – often marginal, fragile or invisible – with whom she builds fictions, politically engaged and a little bit odd?

- Yes, that's her. She started in the coalmines, in Barlin, on her grandmother's housing estate, then she worked with the Roma in Ivry-sur-Seine, nuns in Paris, maritime workers in Saint-Nazaire, and further away, residents of a Bangkok neighbourhood being threatened with eviction, shrimp shellers in Morocco and suchlike.

- She seems to be making her way using the world's miseries don't you think? And what's she showing in La Criée?

- She's continuing to mine the exploitation vein. She's showing a new project, *Mineur Mineur*, that she's been working on for three years, about child

labour in mines, and two other recent projects: *Bleus de travail*, in which she plays with birds, and *La Brigada*, filmed in La Paz in Bolivia, where she focused her lens on the city's shoeshine boys.

- I see: so her films and installations sit at the tipping point between utopia and exploitation, enchantment and irony, reality and fiction, a taste for the absurd and a DIY spirit.

- That's right, there's a subversive, playful streak in Bertille Bak's work, a kind of resistance, and I find a hint of Belgian humour, a dash of Wallace & Gromit, and a pinch Fischli & Weiss.

- Okay, now you're just throwing names at me. Let's go have a drink, just to get ourselves ready to see the exhibition ...

\* The exhibition's title is a play on the French word for rainbow, *arc-en-ciel*.

\*\* Bertille Bak has a number of solo exhibitions scheduled for 2022: at the Fondation Mario Merz in Turin, at the Louvre-Lens, and in Rennes at La Criée centre d'art contemporain and Galerie Art&Essai.

—  
**The students of the Master *Métiers et Arts de l'Exposition* course are curating an exhibition of Bertille Bak, conceived in consultation with the artist and in collaboration with La Criée. Galerie Art & Essai, Université Rennes 2 from 11 March to 15 April 2022**

—  
**Curator:** Sophie Kaplan

**Production:** La Criée centre d'art contemporain

# Green flashes

—

concerts

***Festival Autres Mesures***

Sunday 23 January 2022

from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Carte blanche to Fanny Vicens**

accordion

<https://fannyvicens.com>

***Membres Fantômes***

**Alexis Degrenier**

drums

<http://www.muraillesmusic.com/artistes/alexis-degrenier/>

—

**Festival Autres Mesures**

<https://autresmesures.wixsite.com/festival>

—

performance

**Collectif Uklukk**

*L'eau d'ici*

Tuesday 1 March 2021

8 p.m.

—

**partners**

La Criée centre d'art contemporain, Rennes  
Kunstverein Haus 8, Kiel, Germany

**supports**

Drac Bretagne

Franco-German Office for Youth

Ocean Summit

Paris 8 University

Crous Créteil

—

La Criée centre d'art contemporain invited the Uklukk collective (Mathis Berchery and Angèle Manuali) to a research and creation residency at the Salle de la Cité, as part of the programme of reinforced support for the young local scene during the Covid-19 crisis, from 26 April to 2 May 2021.

# Exhibited works

—  
Bertille Bak, *Mineur Mineur*, 2022  
installation  
five simultaneous videos, colour and sound,  
14 min  
stands, metal structure, monitors  
200 cm × 500 cm × 233 cm

**production:** Fondation des Artistes, Institut  
Français and La Criée centre d'art contemporain,  
Rennes

—  
Bertille Bak, *This mine is mine*, 2022  
metal structure, cardboard, light wires  
120 cm × 56 cm × 200 cm

**production:** La Criée centre d'art contemporain,  
Rennes

—  
Bertille Bak, *La Brigada*, 2018-2022  
installation  
video, colour and sound, 12 min 28 sec  
screen, metal structure, 24 shoe-shine boxes  
collected in La Paz, Bolivia  
variable dimensions

**production:** Embassy of France in Bolivia  
and La Criée centre d'art contemporain, Rennes

—  
Bertille Bak, *Bleus de travail*, 2019  
installation  
video, color and sound, 9 min 55 sec  
lampshades, bulbs  
variable dimensions

**production:** Le Cyclop, Milly-la-Forêt

—  
**design and production of metal structures:** Charles-Henry Fertin, atelier L'ensemblier

# Visual for press

Please, respect captions and copyrights



Bertille Bak, *Dark-en-ciel*, exhibition view, La Criée centre for contemporary, Rennes, 2022

—  
courtesy the artist, Xippas Gallery, Paris and The Gallery Apart, Rome  
photos: Aurélien Mole

# Visual for press

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Bertille Bak, *Dark-en-ciel*, exhibition view, La Criée centre for contemporary, Rennes, 2022

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courtesy the artist, Xippas Gallery, Paris and The Gallery Apart, Rome  
photos: Aurélien Mole

# Visual for press

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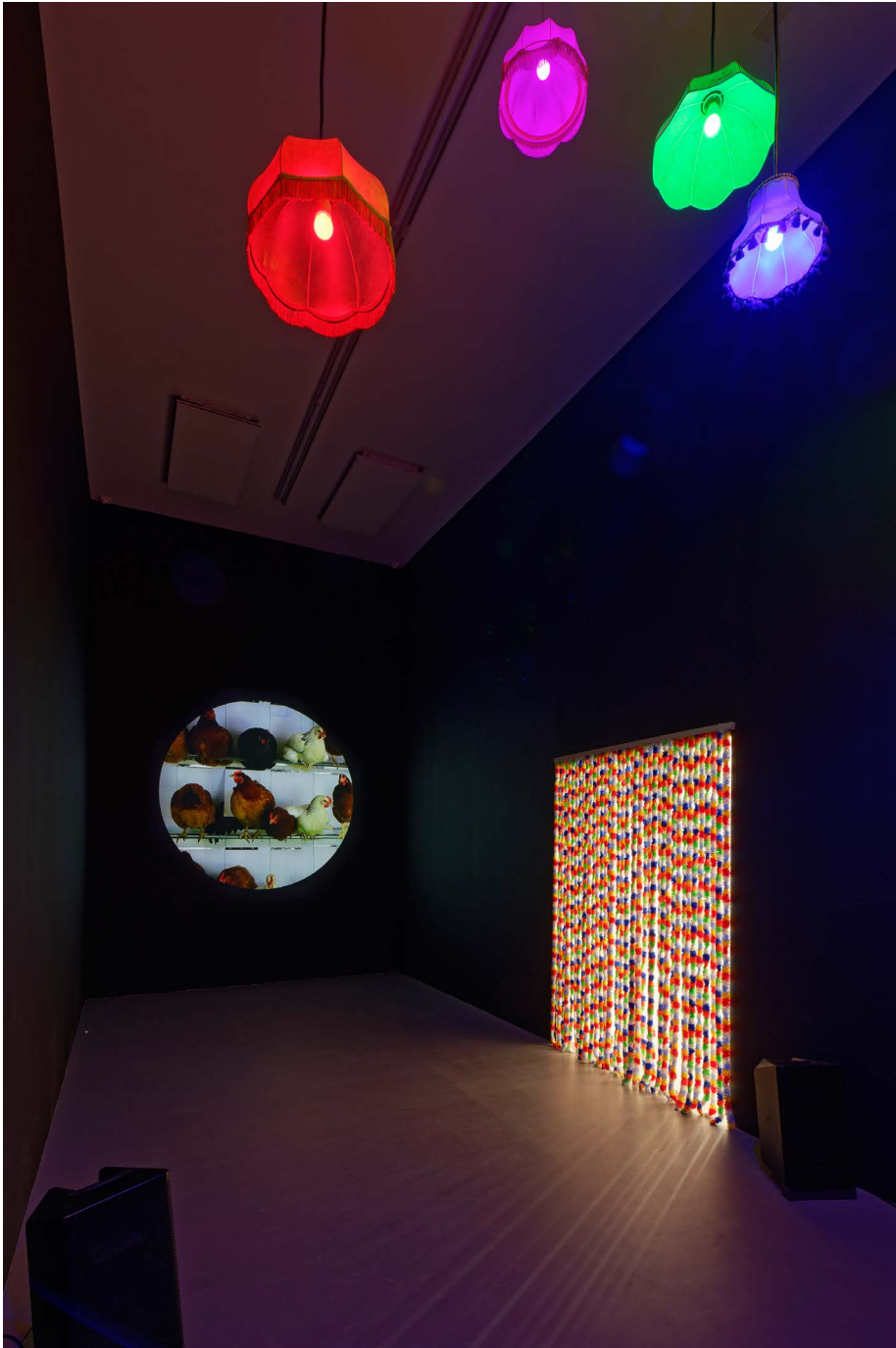


Bertille Bak, *Dark-en-ciel*, exhibition view, La Criée centre for contemporary, Rennes, 2022

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Bertille Bak, *Dark-en-ciel*, exhibition view, La Criée centre for contemporary, Rennes, 2022

—  
courtesy the artist, Xippas Gallery, Paris and The Gallery Apart, Rome  
photos: Aurélien Mole

# Biography

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

**2022**

*Dark-en-ciel*, La Criée centre d'art contemporain, Rennes, France (22 January – 24 April)

Galerie Art&Essai, Université Rennes 2, Rennes, France (11 March – 15 April)

Fondation Merz, Turin, Italia (from February 2022)

Le Louvre-Lens, Lens, France (summer)

**2019**

*Bertille Bak, Un départ, un exil... une odyssee*, Le Cyclop de Jean Tinguely, Milly-la-Forêt, France

*La Brigada*, Galerie Saint-Séverin, Paris, France  
curator: Alicia Knock

*Bertille Bak*, École Européenne Supérieure d'Art de Bretagne - Site de Lorient, France

**2018**

The Gallery Apart, Rome, Italia

**2017**

*Bertille Bak-Poussières*, Artconnexion, Lille, France  
*Present Future*, Artissima, The Gallery Apart and Xippas Gallery, Turin, Italia, (Boussa from Netherlands)

*Usine à divertissement*, Frac Paca, Marseille, France

*Bien arrivés. Temps splendide*, Xippas art contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland

*Complexes de loisirs*, Espace d'art le Moulin, La Valette-du-Var, France

Bertille Bak, à Frac ouvert, Frac Normandie, Caen, France

**2016**

*Radice*, The Gallery Apart, Rome, Italia

**2015**

*Figures imposées*, programming Focus Biennial of Lyon; Espace des arts plastiques Madeleine-Lambert, Vénissieux, France

**2014**

*Bestiaire*, Xippas Gallery, Paris, France

*Le Tour de Babel*, Le Grand Café, Saint-Nazaire, France

*City Dome*, Collective, Edimbourg, United Kingdom

**2012**

*Circuits*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France

*ROBE*, with Charles-Henry Fertin, Xippas Gallery, Paris, France

Nettie Horn Gallery, London, United Kingdom

*Ô Quatrième*, Centre d'Art les Églises, Chelles, France

**2011**

*Urban Chronicle*, Module 1, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

*Le tour du propriétaire*, MAC/VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine, France

**2010**

*La Chambre*, Xippas Gallery, Paris, France

**2009**

Bertille Bak, Stéphane Thidet, Cléa Coudsi and Éric Herblin, Lab-Labanque, Béthune, France

**2008**

Experimental space, Plateau Frac Île-de-France, Paris, France

**2006**

*Là-bas*, Art Gallery of Silpakorn, Wang Tha Phra, Bangkok, Thailand

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS (2017-2022)

**2022**

*Animalia ou la vie fantasmée des animaux*, 40mcube, Rennes, France (22 January – 23 April)

**2021**

*30 ans déjà ! #2*, Xippas, Paris, France

*Geneva Decade*, Xippas Art contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland

**2020**

*Folklore*, Centre Pompidou Metz, France (21 March – 21 Septembre)

*Performing Lives*, Trinity Square Video, Canada (online exhibition) ; curator: Zoë Chan

*The Player. Le ciel peut attendre*, video programme, Frac Poitou-Charentes, Angoulême, France

**2019**

*Il est une fois dans l'Ouest*, Frac Nouvelle-Aquitaine, MECA, Bordeaux, France

*Pourquoi faire ; pour quoi faire*, R. Casciani et Ete 78, Ete 78, Ixelles, Belgium

*Un monde, un seul, pour demeure*, Château de Biron, France

*La revanche des milieux*, 22<sup>e</sup> Biennial of contemporary art, Centre culturel de Vern-sur-Seiche, France

*Some of us, – An overview on the French Art Scene*, NordArt, Kunstwerk Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany

*dé.payser*, Le Mikado/L'Arteppes – espace d'art contemporain, Annecy, France

# Biography

*L'esprit vagabond*, L'espace culturel Le Grand Turc, La Ferté Macé, France

*Prix Mario Merz-finalistes*, 3e édition, Fondation Merz, Turin, Italia

*Enfermement*, Musée d'art et d'histoire Paul Eluard, Saint-Denis, France

*You Got to Burn to Shine*, Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna e contemporanea, Rome, Italia  
curator: Teresa Macri

## 2018

*Persona grata*, MAC/VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine & Musée de l'Histoire de l'Immigration, Paris, France

*Je me souviens. Images-oiseaux*. La Terrasse – Espace d'art de Nanterre, France

*Mon nord est ton sud*, La Kunsthalle, Musée d'art contemporain de Mulhouse, France

*Le Fantôme des Halles*, Nuit Blanche, Jardin Nelson Mandela, Paris, France

*En marge*, Memento – Espace départemental d'art contemporain, Auch, France

*Chut...Écoutez, ça a déjà commencé*, Espace d'art contemporain Les Roches, Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France

*Work hard, have fun, make history*, Delta Studio, Roubaix, France

*L'Esprit de notre temps, Episode 1 : nouvelles images fixes (et en mouvement)*, Frac-Artothèque du Limousin, France

*Performing Lives*, Optica, Centre d'art contemporain, Montréal, Canada  
commissariat : Zoë Chan

## 2017

*Sans bride, ni mors, ni rêne, Les formes de résistances dans la création artistique*, commissariat de Doriane Spiteri, Centre Culturel Colombier, Rennes, France

*Agoramania, la ville dans tous ses états !*, Maif Social Club, Paris, France

*Au loin les Signaux Al Lou'Lou*, Chantier naval Borg, Marseille, France

*ANTIDORON-EMST Collection*, Documenta 14, Fridericianum, Kassel, Allemagne

*Collectif Suspended Spaces – Refaire Surface*, Moulins Albigeois, Albi, France

*Attraction(s)*, Collections Frac Normandie Caen et Musée d'Art et d'Histoire de Lisieux, France

*L'art chemin faisant... Dépaysements*, 19<sup>e</sup> édition du parcours d'art contemporain, Centre d'art contemporain - Atelier Estienne

*Comme les chutes d'eau déjà tremblent dedans la source*, Espace arts plastiques Madeleine Lambert, Vénissieux, France

*Videobox Festival (Urban Chronicle 3)*, Carreau du Temple, Paris, France

## PRIX, RÉSIDENCES

### 2019

Mario Merz Prize, Art Section

### 2019-2020

Résidence, Fondation Pinault, Lens France

### 2017

Résidence « les Ateliers de la Cité », Marseille, France

### 2015-2016

Résidence Trankat, Tétouan, Maroc

### 2012-2014

Résidence au Grand Café, Saint-Nazaire, France

### 2013

Résidence à Mallorca, Fondation Jose Maria Sicilia, Espagne

Prix du Rayon-Vert, rencontres cinématographiques de Cerbère-Poitou  
Nommée pour le prix Meurice

### 2012

Nommée au prix Fondation Ricard pour l'art contemporain

Nommée au prix Sciences-Po pour l'art contemporain

Bourse d'aide à la création région Nord Pas-de-Calais

### 2010

Résidence 6 mois à l'ISCP New York, États-Unis

Prix Edward Steichen, Luxembourg

### 2009

Festival de l'Acharnière :

Prix de l'Institut de sciences et techniques de Valenciennes

Prix René Vautier / Jeunes Talents TEC/CRIAC

### 2008

Prix Hiscox Start

### 2007

Prix Gilles Dusein / Neuflyze Vie

# Bibliography

## CATALOGUE INDIVIDUEL

Laurent Busine, Jessica Castex, Fabrice Hergott, Laurent Jean-Pierre, etc. (textes de), *Bertille Bak - Circuits*, Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris, Paris, Éditions Paris-Musées, 2012

## CATALOGUES COLLECTIFS

Isabelle Ewig (dir.), *Dix-7 en Zéro-7*, catalogue de l'exposition des diplômés de l'École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Paris avec les félicitations du jury, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris, École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, 2008

Bernard Blistène (dir.), *Panorama 9-10*, Tourcoing, Editions du Fresnoy - Studio national des arts contemporains, 2008

Thibaut De Ruyter, Sophie Kaplan (dir.), *Bertille Bak. Damien Cado. Passage à faune*, CRAC Alsace, Altkirch, Editions du CRAC Alsace, 2009

Philippe Artières, Bart Lootsma (dir.), *Insiders* CAPC, Bordeaux, Les Presses du Réel, Dijon, 2009

Laurent Busine (dir.), *À toutes les morts, égales et cachées dans la nuit*, Musée des arts contemporains de la Communauté française de Belgique au Grand-Hornu, Hornu, Editions du Musée des arts contemporains du Grand-Hornu, 2010

Régis Durand (dir.), *Là où nous sommes : œuvres de la collection Neuflyze Vie*, Maison d'art Bernard Anthonioz, Nogent-sur-Marne, Editions de l'Oeil, Montreuil, 2010

Guillaume Desanges (dir.), *2001-2011, soudain, déjà*, École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, ENSBA, 2011

Marianne Derrien (dir.), *Infiltration. Le privilège des chemins*, Plataforma Revolver, Lisbonne, Portugal, Éditions de la Plataforma Revolver para a Arte Contemporânea, 2011

Elena Filipovic (dir.), *Évocatour*, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris, Editions de la Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, 2012

Claire Le Restif (dir.), *L'Homme de Vitruve*, Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry - le Crédac, Ivry-sur-Seine, CREDAC, 2012

Christopher Marinos (dir.), *Agora : 4th Athens Biennale 2013*, Athènes, Grèce, Éditions Athens biennale, 2013.

Caroline Bourgeois, Marie Darrieussecq, Thierry Grillet (dir.), *A triple tour : collection Pinault*, La Conciergerie, Paris, Éditions du Patrimoine, 2013

Enrico Lunghi, Hubert Wurth (dir.), *NY-LUX : Edward Steichen award Luxembourg, 2004-2014*, Musée d'art moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg, Éditions du MUDAM, 2014

Marianne Derrien (dir.), *Faire des mondes/ Creating worlds*, Kyungpook National University, Wooyang Museum of Contemporary Art, Daegu, Corée du Sud, Noosphere contemporary art lab, 2016

Bérénice Saliou (dir.), *Bertille Bak : complexes de loisirs*, Espace d'art le moulin, La Valette-du-Var, 2017

Émilie Ouroumov (dir.), *Palais Potemkine*, National Gallery, Sofia, Bulgarie, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris, 2017

# Lili, the Rozell and the Marimba

artistic cycle

—

Over two seasons beginning in September 2019 La Criée centre for contemporary art will be presenting a cycle of exhibitions, events, research projects and encounters revolving around the vernacular and its relationship with contemporary art.

The adjective “vernacular” – from the Latin vernaculus, “native” or “domestic” – is generally used to describe what comes from a particular country or region, with specific local (“endemic”, we might say) characteristics: we speak of vernacular languages or names or architecture and so on. The vernacular always has roots somewhere. It has to do with the spirit of place.

The vernacular, though, is not bound by rigid tradition. Its creations may be underpinned by “immutable” features of their place of origin – geography, climate, age-old traditions – but they are also shaped by local changes due to new uses, people passing through, migration flows, globalisation and so on. In this sense they are powerful forces for assimilation. Spirit of place, yes, but of a place that is receptive.

The cycle’s title reflects this blend of roots and receptivity – of the creole and the archipelagic, to borrow from the philosopher and poet Édouard Glissant. The rozell is a Breton cooking utensil and the marimba an African musical instrument also widely used in Latin America. Lili is a nickname with all sorts of overtones.

The cycle *Lili, the Rozell and the Marimba* is an opportunity to put a series of questions regarding points of contact between vernacular and contemporary art, notably:

- What forms do the many inputs and influences between “contemporary” and “traditional” arts (doing and making, craft, folk and popular art, outsider art, naive art, etc.) – between modernity and tradition, local and global – take in the art of today?
- What (new?) ways of working are artists coming up with in “local” contexts?
- How are artists contributing to a rethinking of the connections between popular and scholarly knowledge, local and global, indigenous and foreign, etc?

The cycle also reflects La Criée’s ongoing interest in narrative:

- How do personal narratives function as vehicles for history?
- Do we have the right to speak about a history that is not our own? What is our initial context? How are we to express ourselves?

—

## EXHIBITIONS 2019-2021

- Seulgi Lee, 21 September – 17 November 2019  
Éléonore Saintagnan, 14 dec. 2019 – 23 feb. 2020  
Amadou Sanogo, 26 May – 30 August 2020  
Mathis Collins & Paul Collins, 26 September – 29 October 2020  
Jockum Nordström, 19 May – 29 August 2021  
Elvia Teotski, 25 September – 19 December 2021  
**Bertille Bak, 22 January – 24 April 2022**  
**Katia Kameli, 21 May – 28 August 2022**

—

## RESEARCH AND TRANSMISSION RESIDENCIES 2020-2021

- Max Robenson Vilaire Dortilus, research-action, Rennes  
Thomas Gaugain, female penitentiary center, Rennes  
Isabelle Arthuis, Rennes  
Julien Laforge, lycée A. Pellé, Dol-de-Bretagne

—

## JOURNAL

The journal will appear biannually and include contributions from artists and thinkers, as well as researchers from various backgrounds and disciplines, including art historians, philosophers, writers and ethnologists.

With a view to drawing up the journal’s content, an editorial board made up of Lotte Arndt, Jean-Roch Bouiller, Baptiste Brun, John Cornu, Katia Kameli, Sophie Kaplan and Émilie Renard will meet regularly throughout the series.

- n°1: September 2020  
n°2: January 2021  
n°3: June 2021  
**n°4: April 2022**

VERNACULAIRE ET  
CRÉATION CONTEMPORAINE





# Practical information

## press officer

Marion Sarrazin

m.sarrazin@ville-rennes.fr

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## La Criée centre for contemporary art

### opening times

from Tuesday to Friday: 12 noon – 7 pm

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 2 – 7 pm

Closed 25 December and 1 January

### address

La Criée centre for contemporary art  
place Honoré Commeurec – CS 63126  
F-35000 Rennes

### access

subway: République

bus stop: La Criée

### free admission

Sanitary pass is requested.

### contact

+332 23 62 25 10

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