

François Morellet, «La Gitane n°1 (3 demi-cercles de néon inclinés à 0°, 45°, 90°)», 1991, Installation, acquisition en 2002.
Cliché : D.R.



Frac des Pays de la Loire, vue de la salle Mario Toran, Instantané (55), exposition Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel «Ukiyo-e» du 10.03 au 16.04.2006, acquisition en 2006.
Photo : Marc Damage



Frac des Pays de la Loire, vue de la salle Jean-François Taddei, exposition des «XXI^{ème}s Ateliers Internationaux», du 10.11.2007 au 17.02.2008, au premier plan Lara Schnitger ; arrière-plan à gauche : Trixi Groiss, 5 dessins, acquisition en 2007 ; à droite : Diango Hernández.
Photo : Marc Damage

THE FRAC DES PAYS DE LA LOIRE
Pays de la Loire regional contemporary
art collection

The Frac des Pays de la Loire is in several respects a pioneering organization : since 1984 it has been offering periods of residence to artists as part of the Ateliers Internationaux ; International Workshops programme. The works produced during these residencies have helped to enrich the collection in original ways. This is also the first Frac in France to have been endowed with a building specifically designed for its various functions and tasks, i.e. producing artworks and exhibitions, creating and curating a collection, and getting this collection to circulate within the region, so as to familiarize the public with today's art.

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Between 1981 and 1983, as part of the national policy of cultural decentralization, the Frac's Regional Contemporary Art Collections—were set up in each French region. These organizations are associations financed equally by the State and the Region.

It was against this setting that the Frac des Pays de la Loire saw the light of day in 1982. It's brief was—and is—to put together an international collection, organize exhibitions and shows in the region, and raise public awareness about today's art, thus getting people to take part in the development, circulation, distribution, and knowledge of contemporary art.

After being housed in the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, where the first International Workshops were held in 1984, the Frac was then moved to the neo-classical villa of La Garenne-Lemot, Clisson in 1988. In 1994 the Frac was temporarily housed in Nantes in an old converted warehouse, and in the same period the International Workshops were held in the nearby city of St-Nazaire.

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 A SPECIFIC ARCHITECTURE
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In 2000 the Frac moved to Carquefou, in the greater Nantes area. For the first time a Region installed its Frac in a building specially created to meet the requirements



of its tasks and functions. Located in a special setting in the heart of a listed clearing, criss-crossed by hiking trails, it enjoys pleasant natural surroundings. The architecture, brainchild of Jean-Claude Pondevie, offers a pure volume of elegant simplicity. Traversed by a glazed fault running from the bottom of the building to the top, the building has Bakeitized wooden facades which reveal the function of the inside areas.



A huge reception foyer, whose furnishings were designed as part of the 1% allocation programme by Joep Van Lieshout, two exhibition rooms, and a documentation centre occupy the entire ground floor. The

upper floor is reserved for administration, while the basement, earmarked for the conservation and restoration of works, has an area of 600 sq.m or 6500 sq.ft. The easily accessible and fully equipped and air-conditioned stacks and storerooms permit a rational management of the collection in different premises adapted to each particular medium (painting, sculpture, work on paper, video). As a pioneer in this field, the Frac des Pays de la Loire also has a restoration workshop that will become nothing less than a resource centre for preventive conservation.

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 EXHIBITIONS AT THE FRAC
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Every year the Frac organizes a dozen or so exhibitions and shows in its premises, which, as far as the collection is concerned, permit glimpses and overviews of the current international art scene.



A demanding programme is proposed involving emerging artists (some of them exhibiting for the first time in France) alongside well-established and internationally recognized artists. The Frac's main brief is the creation of new and novel projects. The presentation of Works produced on the spot by artists as part of the International Workshops is part and parcel of this programme. A publishing policy focusing on the publication of artists' books and catalogues underwrites these shows.



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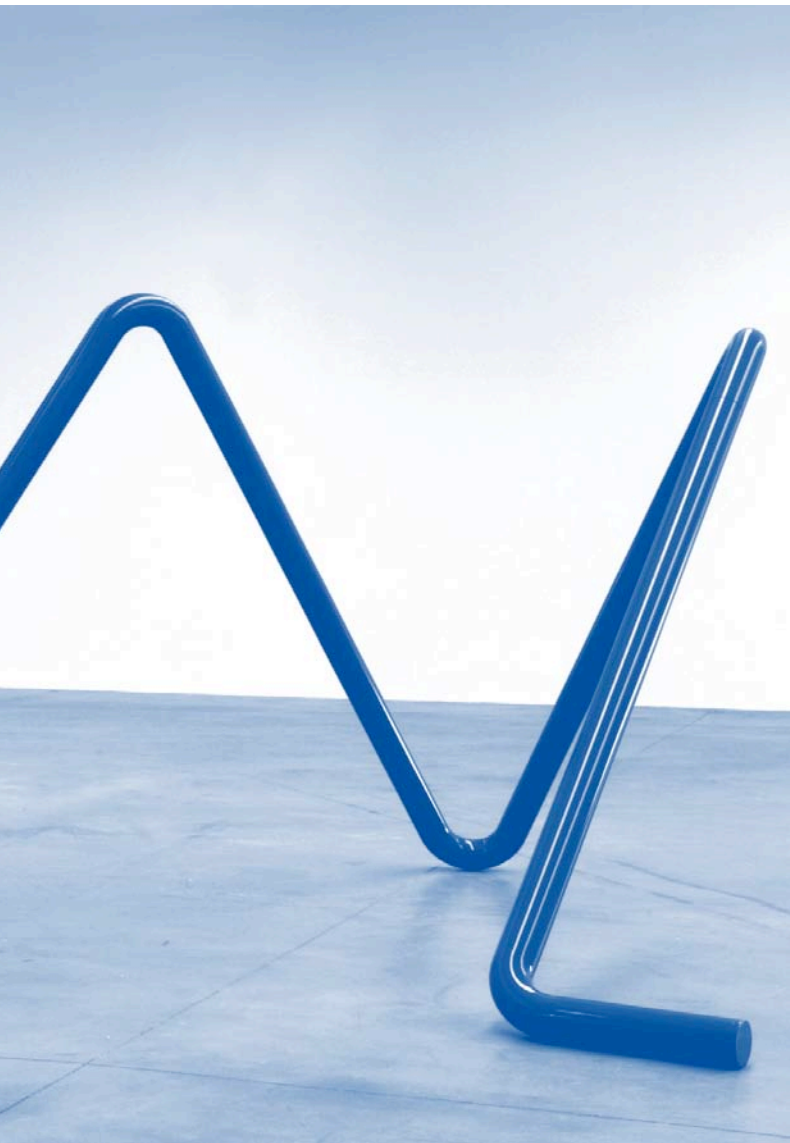
As a veritable research and production laboratory for artists, the Frac represents for all kinds of public a place where people may discover the latest forms of contemporary art.



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THE COLLECTION
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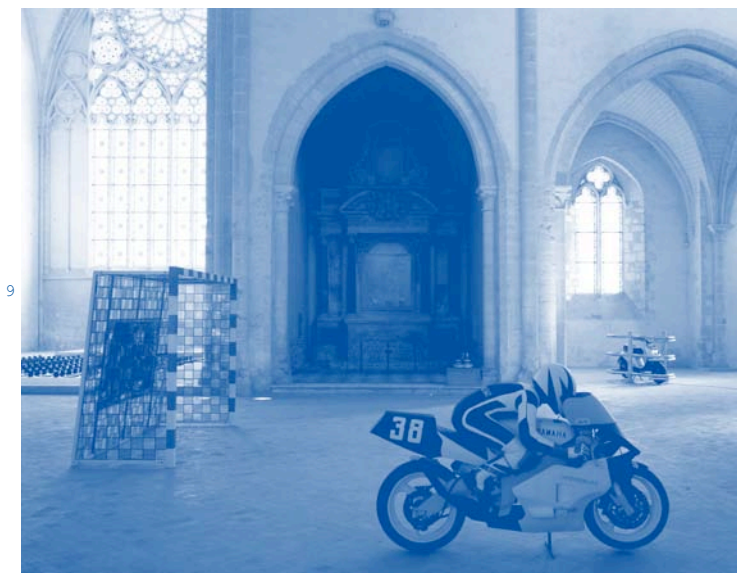


With more than 1,000 works, plus the important Gina Pane collection, the Emmanuel Pereire collection and works held in trust from the National Contemporary Art Collection, the collection of the

Frac des Pays de la Loire has been put together since 1982, in compliance with an acquisitions policy encouraging the purchase of works by young artists. The Frac has thus done its utmost to focus on the most innovative aspects of present-day art. In tandem with the follow-up given to the emerging generation of artists, the Frac also purchases historical works.

The whole collection put together over more than 20 years reflects the diversity of today's artworks and encompasses disciplines as varied as painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, video and installations. A Technical Buying Committee, whose members are appointed for a three-year period, meets on a regular basis to help enrich this collection. These days, the collection focuses on different themes which have come to the fore over the years. So there is a special interest in artists who have raised issues to do with relations between the artwork and its context (political, social...), the work and its environment (heritage-related, architectural...), the relation between the artist and nature, as well as autobiography and interest in the body.

The Frac des Pays de la Loire has also elected to acquire part of the works produced during the International Workshops.



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CIRCULATING WORKS IN THE REGION
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The Frac organizes a programme throughout the Region to get its works in circulation, so as to raise awareness about contemporary art among diverse types of public. It is thus increasing the number of events and shows by way of ever more loyal and numerous partnerships. Some 30 exhibitions are held each year in the départements of Loire-Atlantique, Maine-et-Loire, Mayenne, and the Vendée. To bolster the Frac's presence in their territories, the General Councils of Loire-Atlantique and Sarthe, as well as the Communauté de Communes Océan-Marais de Monts and

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the Commune de Saint-Jean-de-Monts are giving their financial backing to the Frac in the form of three-yearly agreements. On average, around 60 works from the collection circulate in

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the region each month. The Frac's various partners (local authorities, historic monuments, media centres, cultural centres...) play an active role in this circulation policy.

The collection is also viewable by way of works left in trust in institutions and other organizations, and by way of loans for contemporary art shows and exhibitions in France and abroad alike.

In partnership with the Education Board of the Nantes Academy, the Frac thus does its utmost to ensure that contemporary art is present in the Region's schools and other educational establishments.

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THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS : artists
in residence at the Frac
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A pioneer once again in this area, the Frac des Pays de la Loire set up the International Workshops programme in 1984. Through this exceptional experiment in France, the Frac is developing ways and means to support art, thus helping to enrich its collection in an original way.



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As a place for research, exchanges and production, these Workshops are an active and reactive laboratory. Each year, for two months, they enable the invited



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artists to work and meet people involved in the world of business, and in the professional art milieu (curators, art critics, gallery owners), as well as students from universities and art schools attending them. The works made on the spot are then shown to the public.

The provision at Carquefou of permanent accommodation units and studios now makes it possible, on a year-round basis, to invite

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artists who are better established to work on projects related to the commission. The Frac is thus fully adopting its helping-hand role in art production.

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THE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE
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With more than 8,000 titles, the Frac's documentation is one of the most effective contemporary art research tools in the Region. It includes dossiers and publications on artists in the collection. More generally, it includes a significant number of exhibition catalogues and books dealing with contemporary art, as well as a collection of specialized magazines. A computer station is available to the public, for consulting DVDs and CD-Roms, and the database. Access to the Videomuseum (a network of museums and organizations managing modern and contemporary art collections) is available to one and all from this station.

The documentation also develops a work of sensitization by proposing a mediation on artists' books in particular for the school public.

All the documentation is on-line on the FRAC's website, enabling the public to discover the collection on screen.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMMES
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By addressing all manner of public, the Frac proposes a living approach to the art of our day and age. In its premises at Carquefou and elsewhere in the region, the Frac's brief is to contribute to awareness-raising, information, and training. It prefers a personalized way of dealing with the public, encouraging access to artworks by creating spaces for words and encounters.



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It forges special links with the Ministry of Education, in particular by welcoming teachers undergoing training, and teachers visiting their classes. As part of an agreement with the Education



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Board of the Nantes Academy, it also sets up exhibitions of works from its collection, presentations of artists' books and videos in schools. These programmes, whose contents and themes are worked out with teachers, are aimed at becoming connected with the programmes and being defined within school and other projects. The Frac also takes part in the conception and organization of courses included in the Academic Training Plan, and in training sessions for trainee teachers at the IUFM (University Institute of Teacher Training) and the DDEC (Diocesan Office of Catholic Instruction). Every year more than 10,000 students and 500 teachers are involved in the activities conducted throughout the Region. In tandem, the Frac supports the training of students at schools of art, architecture, and design, and at different universities, where they attend courses.

Lastly, it offers its varying types of public a programme of encounters connected with art distribution and exhibitions. Lectures, readings, performances, concerts and video evenings make it possible to attract different kinds of public, and meet artists, critics, and writers.



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1. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
Frac building, outside view.
Architect : Jean-Claude Pondevie.
courtesy Stéphane Bellanger

2. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
Frac building, outside view.
Architect : Jean-Claude Pondevie.
courtesy Stéphane Bellanger

3. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
reception foyer view.
Furnishings : Atelier Van Lieshout.
courtesy Marc Damage

4. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
room Jean-François Taddei.
Exhibition Henrik Plenge Jakobsen,
«Manhattan Engineering District»,
from 17.05 to 7.10.2007.
courtesy Marc Damage

5. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
room Jean-François Taddei. Exhibition
Bruno Peinado «Radicale Buissonnance»,
pyramide : «Pump Up the Rhizome», 2007,
acquisition in 2007.
from 3.02 to 29.04.2007.
courtesy Marc Damage

6. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
room Mario Toran.
Instantané (59)
exhibition Annabelle Hulaut
«Enjambement». «Les vacances de Melle
Hulaut», 2006, video and poster,
acquisition in 2007.
from 8.11.2006 to 7.01.2007.
courtesy Marc Damage

7. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
room Jean-François Taddei.
Exhibition Mathieu Mercier, from 8.04
to 8.06.2006.
courtesy Marc Damage

8. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
storerooms view.
Foreground : Xavier Veilhan,
«Sans titre (la moto)»,
produced during the International
Workshop in 1993, acquisition in 1993.
courtesy Marc Damage

9. Abbaye de l'Epau (Sarthe),
«Entrée en matière» exhibition view,
from 1.10 to 28.10.2001.
Foreground : Xavier Veilhan,
«Sans titre (la moto)».
courtesy Stéphane Bellanger

10. Villa de la Garenne Lemot,
Gétigné-Clisson (Loire-Atlantique).
Dan Graham's work left in trust,
«Pergola/Two-Way Mirror Bridge

for Clisson», 1989, acquisition in 1991.
courtesy Marc Damage

11. Les Halles, la Flèche (Sarthe),
«Remises en formes» exhibition view,
from 20.09 to 19.10.2003.
Foreground : Christelle Familiari,
«Le portique», 1993, acquisition in
2000 ; Wim Delvoye, «Panem et circenses
III», 1989, acquisition in 1990.
courtesy J.-C. Launey

12. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
room Jean-François Taddei, exhibition
«All that is solid melts into Air»
XXèmes Ateliers Internationaux,
from 8.11.2006 to 14.01.2007.
Foreground Knut Henrik Henriksen ;
right : Melanie Counsell, on the wall :
Patrice Gaillard et Claude.
courtesy Marc Damage

13. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
accommodation units and studios for
artists in residence.

14. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
documentation centre.

15. Centre culturel Entracte,
Sablé-sur-Sarthe, exhibition
«Le Frac est à vous» from 7.01
to 26.02.2006. Installation view of
Jacques Charlier «La vie éternelle»,
1987, acquisition in 1990.

16. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
Jerôme Poret's sound performance,
March 2006, exhibition «Isolation».

17. Frac des Pays de la Loire,
children visiting the Bruno Peinado's
exhibition.

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Exhibition opening hours

(from 1st September to 30 June):

Wednesday to Sunday from 2-6 pm

(from 1 July to 31 August):

daily from 2-6 pm

open on holidays, except the 24, 25, 31 December,
and 1st January and 1 may.

-> "Admission free"

Guided tours of exhibitions

on Sundays at 4 pm

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Group and school visits by reservation

on + 33 (0) 2 28 01 57 62 or

at mediation@fracdespaysdelaloire.com

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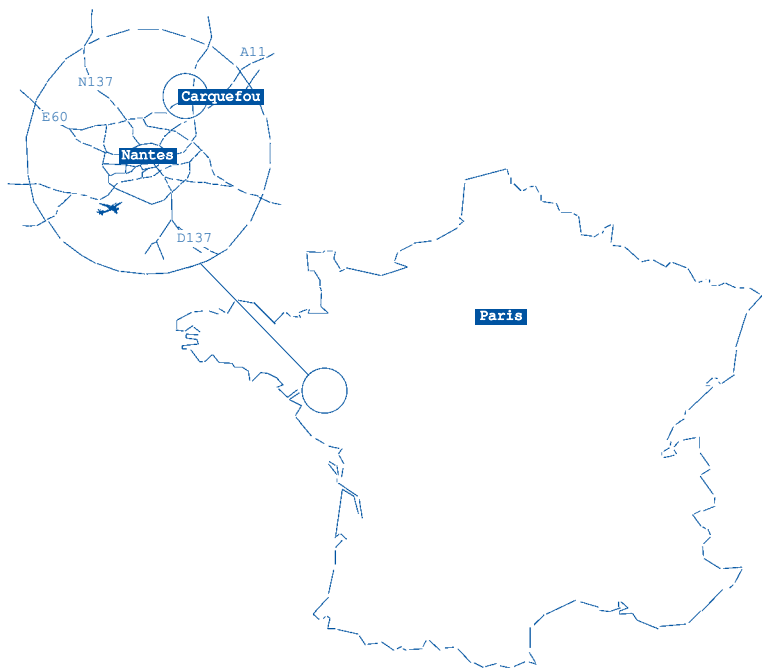
Documentation centre open to the public from
Tuesday to Friday from 2-6 pm (closed in August).

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The Frac des Pays de la Loire is supported
by the State, - the Préfecture of the Pays de la
Loire Region - the regional department of cultural
affairs, and the Regional Council of the Pays
de la Loire.



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How to find the FRAC

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x by public transport
from Nantes: Tram n°.1 to
La Beaujoire, get off
at Haluchere, then take
bus n°. 95 to Souchais,
getting off at La
Fleuriaye (on Sundays
take bus no.85 to Bois
Saint-Lys, getting off
at Carquefou centre

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x by car, follow signs
to Angers/Paris (on
Autoroute A11), take
exit "Carquefou centre",
and head for La
Fleuriaye/Frac des Pays
de la Loire.



Frac des Pays de la Loire vue de la salle Jean-François Taddei,
exposition Henrik Plenge Jakobsen, «Manhattan Engineering District»
du 17.05 au 7.10.2007.

Photo : Marc Damage



Hangar à bananes, Nantes, vue de l'exposition Rouge baiser présentée dans le cadre de la Biennale Estuaire Nantes\leftrightarrowSt-Nazaire du 1.06. au 30.09.2007.
Jean-Luc Vilmouth, «Bar des Acariens», 1991, acquisition en 1998.
photo : Marc Damage



Parc du Domaine départemental de la Garenne-Lemot, Gétigné-Clisson (Loire-Atlantique). Dépôt en 2007 d'une œuvre de Pascal Convert, «l'Appartement de l'artiste», 1990, acquisition en 1992.
Photo : D.R.



Frac des Pays de la Loire, vue extérieure du bâtiment.

Architecte : Jean-Claude Pondevie

Photo : Stéphane Bellanger