

ENGLISH VERSION

**FONDS
RÉGIONAL D'ART
CONTEMPORAIN
GRAND LARGE —
HAUTS-DE-FRANCE**



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FRAC GRAND LARGE: A COLLECTION OF ART AND DESIGN

Founded in 1982, France's FRACs (Regional Contemporary Art Collections) are state institutions for establishing collections of contemporary art, making them known to the general public and inventively promoting awareness of current forms of creativity.

Covering the period from the 1960s up to the present, the Frac Grand Large collection of art and design is marked by an international mix of sources.

All year round the Frac organises exhibitions within and outside the region, working with recognised art venues or such bodies as media centres, schools and community associations. Putting the emphasis on joint ventures and synergies involving outreach to audiences in outlying areas, these exhibitions are adapted to the interests of the partners involved and offer explorations the collection's principal themes.

This diffusion of the collection is backed up by measures aimed at increasing public interest across the board, via guided tours, talks, workshops and projects the public can take part in. One example is the annual *Élèves à l'œuvre* (Art Works at School) initiative: in conjunction with the Ministry for Education, items from the collection are brought into twenty schools, where pupils study them in relation to their curricula.

In 2013 the Frac moved into a new building in Dunkirk's Grand Large district, on the site of the former shipyards. Looking out to sea, this translucent vessel comprises exhibition and relaxation spaces that provide an ideal art experience, while its rooftop belvedere offers a permanent, sweeping view of the shoreline and the original workshop. The back half of the building is a storage area for the works that helps ensure large-scale dissemination of the collection.

In the Hauts-de-France Region, Frac Grand Large and Frac Picardie Hauts-de-France complement each other in this regard. In addition, both are members of Platform, the grouping of France's Fracs, and 50° North, the inter-regional contemporary art network.

THE FRACS NOW

The collections of today's 23 Fracs add up to more than 35,000 works by 6,000 artists of different nationalities. These are autonomous bodies that keep a close eye on prospective and experimental approaches, and provide support for young artists, often by being the first acquirers of their works.



ARCHITECTURE

The Frac Grand Large building was designed by the Lacaton & Vassal architecture studio for the site of the former national shipyards. The architects opted for protecting one of the core elements of the area's history and identity by leaving the Halle AP2 prefabrication workshop – built in 1947, nicknamed «The Cathedral» and cradle of the nation's biggest ships – unmodified. Their solution was to build its exact double alongside it.

The two structures are joined in the middle by an interior street, a space providing direct access to the Frac and open to absolutely everybody. This street is an extension of the Grand Large footbridge designed by architect Brigitte de Kosmi as a link between the Grand Large district and the Malo-les-Bains dike.

The Frac functions inside a single volume divided into six levels, protected by a diaphanous, insulating envelope that sets up an intermediate bioclimatic zone. The storage, exhibition, cultural liaison and office spaces are modular and as such perfectly adapted to the cross-disciplinary character of today's art. This design concept means the exhibitions can be presented in fresh, innovative ways, while the building as a whole serves as fertile terrain for curatorial and scenographic experimentation.

The Lacaton & Vassal building is thus a full-time venue for bridges between memory, the history of the AP2 workshop and contemporary art installations.



THE FRAC: A SHORT STORY

1982

The Ministry of Culture and the Regions join forces to found the Regional Contemporary Art Collections. Initially based in Lille, the Frac Nord-Pas de Calais has since become the Frac Grand Large — Hauts-de-France.

1983

Appointment of the first Frac Nord-Pas de Calais acquisition committee, with a dual focus: Art & Design.

1989

Creation of the *Élèves à l'œuvre* (Art Works at School) initiative in partnership with the Lille Education Authority and the local Art and Culture Advisory Delegation (DAAC).

1996

The Frac Nord-Pas de Calais moves into the former Rosendaël hospital in Dunkirk.

2004

Trafic d'influences: Art & Design, exhibition at the Tri Postal, the former mail-sorting centre in Lille, plus showings of works from the collection all over the region.

2011

Out of Storage : Provisoire et définitif, exhibition at the Timmerfabriek in Maastricht, Netherlands: over 300 works from the Frac collection.

2013

Opening of the new Frac in Dunkirk: designed by architects Lacaton & Vassal, on the former national shipyards site.

2017

Designed by architects Lacaton & Vassal, the Frac Grand Large — Hauts-de-France comes third in the BigMat International Architecture Award and wins the Special Jury Prize in the Hauts-de-France Region Architecture Awards.

2019

First edition of the GIGANTISME — ART & INDUSTRIE triennial, in partnership with the Lieu d'Art et Action Contemporaine (LAAC). More than 4000 square metres of exhibition space and over 400 works by 160 international artists.



THE EXHIBITIONS

A special feature of the Fracs is the freedom of movement of their collections! Each year over a quarter of the Frac Grand Large collection emerges from its home base to take advantage of a well-established local and regional art network.

Its holdings are also showcased internationally as part of coproductions and travelling exhibitions highlighting the sumptuousness of France's public collections.

ON SITE

5 to 6 exhibitions each year.

100 events, awareness-raising actions and training initiatives.

5 key weekends

(Long Night of Museums, Family Weekend, European Heritage Days, French National Architecture Days and WEFrac - the national weekend of the Fracs).

OFF SITE

40 exhibitions / year including **20 *Élèves à l'œuvre* projects** within 20 schools located in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais regions.

20 awareness-raising actions and training initiatives in the region.

QUITE A COLLECTION: ART & DESIGN FROM THE 1960S UP TO THE PRESENT DAY

Over 1,800 works by 676 French and international artists including Matali Crasset, Julien Creuzet, Luciano Fabro, Kapwani Kiwanga, Tania Mouraud and Gerhard Richter, plus the donation of 525 drawings by Dunkirk artist Christine Deknuydt: the Frac collection is built on a remarkable base of works belonging to all the major art currents of recent times, including Minimalism, Pop, Conceptualism, Arte Povera, Fluxus and Action Painting.

New acquisitions reflect four main emphases: objects, images, mobility and society. The resultant accumulation challenges not only geo-political borders, but also those between disciplines – painting, sculpture, writing, sound – while at the same time exploring the circulation of forms, ideas and imaginative repertoires on different continents.

In addition to its extensive collections of photography and installations, this is the only Frac with an acquisition policy revolving around design. Covering the period from the 1960s up to the present, this internationally recognised collection of icons of European design reflects an acute sensitivity to our social, economic and ecological context.

The Art & Design collection can be accessed via the Frac Grand Large website and the Videomuseum site, which lists a large number of public collections.





GETTING ACQUAINTED

You're an art buff, you're a dabbler or you're just plain curious – whatever, at the Frac no effort has been spared on your behalf.

The Frac is a fascinating world for all ages, where special attention is paid to guiding the whole gamut of visitors in their encounter with the works, and liaison is seen as an active, open-ended conversation. The range of tools available to the public includes catalogues, a booklet for the disabled and an art games booklet. Introductory workshops are open to all, together with holiday-time workshops for children and their families. Each exhibition comes with its own programme of special events aimed at a broad audience: encounters with artists, tours of the building and Thursdays given over to design.

The Frac's many off-site ventures include training activities for a variety of partners, among them libraries, media centres, museums and cultural amenities. There are also collaborations with prisons, day centres, community associations and educational bodies from kindergarten to tertiary level.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS

Wednesday to Sunday: 2 p.m - 6 p.m.

Closed on the December 25, January 1st, May 1st and during the setting up of exhibitions.

TICKETS

Admission: €8

Discounted admission (upon presentation of written proof): €4

Partner museum / 26 and under / seniors 60+ / large family cardholders

Free admission (upon presentation of written proof)

Students, job seekers, 18 and under, friends of the Frac Grand Large, ICOM members, IKT members, CEA members, teachers, press cardholders, disability cardholders or visitors with disabilities, caregivers accompanying visitors with a disability and childcare workers

Admission is free for all visitors on the first Sunday of the month!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (VALID FOR 12 MONTHS)

Pass Frac solo: €15

Pass Frac/Laac solo: €23

Pass Frac duo: €25

Pass Frac/Laac duo: €35

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Public transport: buses are free in Dunkirk!

Bus line C4, « FRAC/LAAC » stop

Train

From Lille (TERGV): 30 min / From Paris: 1h45 / From Brussels: 2h

Eurostar and Ferry

Connection via Calais, then TER to Dunkirk

Plane

Roissy Charles-de-Gaulle airport, then TGV to Dunkirk

Coach

Direct from Brussels (2h) and from many European capitals

ACCESSIBILITY

Everyone is welcomed at the Frac Grand Large. All galleries, entrances, and facilities are wheelchair accessible. For the convenience of all our visitors, folding cane-seats, a wheelchair and visitors' guides in large print are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



GRAND LARGE — HAUTS-DE-FRANCE

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Located in the Grand Large district, the Frac Grand Large — Hauts-de-France forms with its neighbor, Lieu d'Art et Action Contemporaine (LAAC), the Contemporary Art Center in Dunkirk.

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