



FONDATION  
D'ENTREPRISE  
**HERMÈS**

# Faire Corps – Selection from the Collection of the FRAC Grand Large

an exhibition at Le Forum, Hermès Maison Ginza

OUR GESTURES DEFINE US AND SHOW WHO WE ARE

PRESS RELEASE — June 12, 2025

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is pleased to present the group exhibition *Faire Corps*, featuring selected works from the collection of FRAC Grand Large, a regional contemporary art collection based in Dunkirk, France. At Hermès Maison Ginza Le Forum, recent initiatives have focused on building an ecosystem of collaboration with other institutions as part of efforts to engage with issues in art and contemporary society, and this exhibition emerged in line with these efforts.

Founded in Lille in 1982 as FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais and relocated to Dunkirk in 1996, FRAC Grand Large has built a public collection of over 2,000 movements since the 1960s. In addition to working with museums and art centers, FRAC Grand Large acts as a regional hub, organizing exhibitions in schools, hospitals, and other community spaces, while also contributing to the development of international art networks.

In line with contemporary art practice, the collection encompasses works spanning multiple media (painting, sculpture, video, installation, performance), as well as design, and addresses ever-present if sometimes latent issues in both art and society today, sworks by 750 artists and designers. The collection contains contemporary art and design reflecting a wide range of French and international creative such as hierarchies and gender. In addition to exploring the plasticity and boundaries of creative media, the works also acknowledge the historical borders surrounding Dunkirk, situated near Belgium and facing the UK across the English Channel. This geographic context evokes the shifting power dynamics, geopolitical tensions, and fluidity that define today's global landscape.

The title *Faire Corps* is a French expression meaning "to become one," or "to harmonize." Curated in collaboration with Keren Detton, Director of FRAC Grand Large, this exhibition centered on the theme of "the social body" features works by 13 artists from Europe (France, the UK, Belgium, Italy, Greece, Romania), the United States, and Japan, spanning the years 1973 to 2025.

"Art is what makes life more interesting than art." So said Robert Filliou, an artist associated with Fluxus, conveying the ambiguous relationship between art and everyday life. This exhibition showcases works that illuminate the social body as it functions on both individual and collective levels, while reflecting on the fluidity of daily life and systems of order as shaped through art.

The exhibition begins with iconic photographs from the 1970s, including Helen Chadwick's *In the Kitchen*, which questions gender, and André Cadere's *Round Wooden Bar*, both examples of performance rooted in bodily expression. It also features Ana Torfs' video work *Sideshow* and Nefeli Papadimouli's costumes and video installation *We Are Forests*. Symbolic representations of bodily vulnerability appear in works by Jesse Darling and Paul Maheke, while Tarek Lakhrissi explores tensions between foreign and native languages. The exhibition also includes projects by the artist collective Åbäke, which creates works involving expertise and the sharing of manual know-how, and Osaka-based Kohei Sasahara, forming a space where diverse perspectives and actions intersect. Drawings by Christine Deknuydt, an artist who died young in Dunkirk, probe the boundaries of existence through an experimental approach in which traces seem to be erased by the act of drawing.

"FAIRE CORPS"  
ORGANIZED BY THE FONDATION D'ENTREPRISE HERMÈS

# ARTISTS



## Åbäke

Formed in London in 2000. Åbäke is a collective of artists, publishers, authors, educators and designers working in the fields of art, performance and graphic design. They create situations, objects and texts that tell stories while reflecting on the contexts and the mechanisms of art production. Their interdisciplinary and participatory projects explore the social dimensions of design, starting with questions about how graphic practices shape culture and communication.



## André Cadere

Born 1934 in Warsaw. Cadere grew up in Romania and began working in Paris in 1967. His best-known series, *Barres de bois rond* (Round Wooden Bars, 1970–78), presented a radical form of art that critiqued established art spaces and institutions. By bringing the uninvited work to exhibition openings and placing it in public spaces, Cadere encouraged viewers to reconsider and reconstruct the underlying logic of art. He died in 1978. Since his death, Cadere's influence on conceptual art has continued to grow, and his work is in the collections of institutions including Tate Modern (London) and the Centre Pompidou (Paris).



## Helen Chadwick

Born 1953 in London. Chadwick is known for challenging stereotypical perceptions of the body through elegant yet unconventional forms. Her work explores themes such as the roles of women, identity, and expression, employing refined techniques in unorthodox ways. In 1987, she became the first woman nominated for the Turner Prize. Her works are in the collections of Tate Modern (London), the Victoria and Albert Museum (London), and The Museum of Modern Art, New York. She died in 1996.



## Jesse Darling

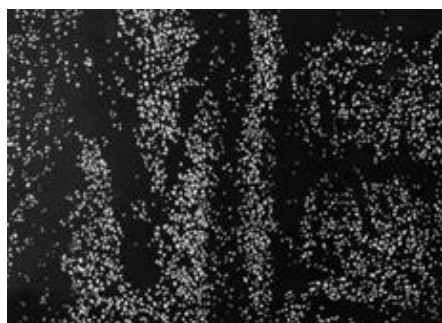
Born 1981 in Oxford (U.K.). Darling draws on personal experience, as well as the coexistence of official and countervailing histories, to explore how the body's inherent vulnerability and the inevitability of death are reflected in civilization and social structures. His work recontextualizes human artifacts, including fictional figures and mythological symbols. Forms that appear wounded yet liberated expose their fragility and evoke the need for care and healing. Darling won the Turner Prize in 2023. In Japan, he participated in Yokohama Triennale 2020: *Afterglow*.

# ARTISTS



## Christine Decknuydt

Born 1967 in Dunkirk (France). Decknuydt's work features motifs such as furniture and other everyday objects, animals, landscapes, and cosmic imagery, recurrently depicted in various thematic contexts. Figurative elements are often accompanied by short, humorous poetic texts that function as captions or titles. Through an alchemical approach to materials and incorporation of text that she called "hybridization," she produced ambiguous, multilayered forms that imbue her entire body of work with a poetic sensibility. She died in 2000.



## Jessica Diamond

Born 1957 in New York (U.S.). Diamond began in the mid-1980s to express her distinctive views on power, sex, and business by painting slogans and images directly onto walls in black in a style reminiscent of graffiti. Her stance rejected the materialism of contemporary consumer society. In 1991, influenced by the work of Yayoi Kusama, she created the series *Tributes to Kusama* (1992–97), reinterpreting Kusama's key ideas and motifs through a vocabulary of words and visual cues. In Japan, her solo exhibition *Eros (Rain): Two* was held at Ota Fine Arts (Tokyo) in 1999.



## Pauline Esparon

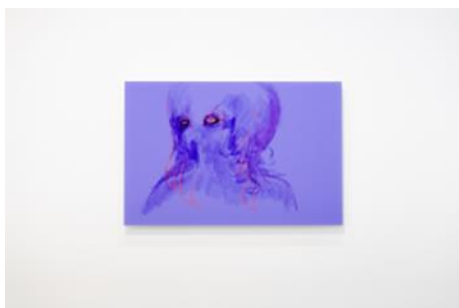
Born 1993 in Evreux (France). Esparon has established a distinctive design approach that employs intuitive processes to explore the inherent qualities of materials, allowing these properties to shape the final form. Through inventive adaptations of conventional techniques, she unlocks the latent potential of standardized materials, assigning them new functions or repurposing them as collectible objects. Her practice also brings fresh perspectives to existing industries and local crafts, while generating value from post-manufacturing industrial waste. Her work is in the collections of Le Mobilier National (Paris) and CNAP (Paris).

# ARTISTS



## Tarek Lakhri

Born 1992 in Châtelleraud (France). Lakhri is an artist with a background in literature and is also active as a poet. Working across installation, performance, video, text, and sculpture, he engages with political and social issues around transformative narratives within magic, weirdness, codes, and love. His profound use of language engages with performativity and reflects on poetic, erotic, and nostalgic queer future. He participated in the Biennale of Sydney (2020) and *Anticorps* (Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2020).



## Paul Maheke

Born 1985 in Brive-la-Gaillarde (France). Maheke works with drawing, video, and performance to explore how marginalized bodies, narratives, and histories are rendered visible or invisible. As a form of resistance to identity politics and an effort to subvert dominant systems of power and control, he incorporates non-human entities such as ghosts and spirits. Reinterpreting the body as an archive to be reinvented and a territory with its own map, Maheke investigates how collective imagination and archetypes that define our relationships with others are constructed. Recent solo exhibitions include *To Be Blindly Hopeful* (Mostyn, Llandudno, UK, 2024).



## Bruno Munari

Born 1907 in Milan (Italy). Munari was inspired by the Italian avant-garde movement Futurism, and began producing visual art. Starting in the 1930s, he was involved in book editing and cover design as a graphic designer and art director. After World War II, he also created numerous product designs for companies such as Danese. Munari was awarded the prestigious Italian design prize Compasso d'Oro in 1954, 1955, and 1977. From the 1940s on, he gained international recognition as a picture book author with experimental books designed to stimulate children's imaginations. He received the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 1974, and died in 1998.

# ARTISTS



## **Nefeli Papadimouli**

Born 1988 in Athens. Papadimouli works in a wide range of media, from participatory action in public spaces to sculpture and video, with installation and performance currently at the center of her practice. Following the tradition of avant-garde art, her works blur the boundaries between categories of artistic activity and emerge as a fusion of “in-between” media. She has exhibited at the 17th Biennale de Lyon (2024–25) and the Asian Art Biennial in Taiwan (2024). She has received numerous awards, including the Pierre Cardin Prize (2023).



## **Kohei Sasahara**

Born 1984 in Tokyo. Sasahara creates installations grounded in research on surrounding environments and the relationships constructed within them. His practice consistently explores human life through a wide range of media and methodologies, aiming not only to produce art but also to connect with broader fields such as anthropology and architecture. Recent major projects include *Social Practice Post-Pon* (Sendai Mediatheque, Miyagi, Japan, 2023)



## **Ana Torfs**

Born 1963 in Mortsel (Belgium). Torfs explores issues surrounding perception, memory, representation, and the construction of images through a range of media, including video, print, slide projection, film, sound, photography, silkscreen, and tapestry. In Japan, her work was featured in *Reading Cinema, Finding Words: Art after Marcel Broodthaers*, which toured The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto (2013) and The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (2014).



# IMAGES FOR THE PRESS

Images may be downloaded from the following website. Please access the [URL](https://reservation-jp.hermes.com/press/login.html), and enter the ID and password

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## MAIN

Nefeli Papadimouli, *We Are Forests* | 2021 | Video installation | 13 min. 43 sec  
©Nefeli Papadimouli- Collection Frac Grand Large — Hauts-de-France



1

1 ĀBĀKE | *The Handshake* | 2014 | Collaboration with Kazutaka Furukomi and Rakkan Ohata | Wood, *urushi* (lacquer), gold foil | ©ĀBĀKE-  
Collection Frac Grand Large — Hauts-de-France



2

2 ĀBĀKE | 2014 | *Come with me if you want to live* | Collaboration with Kazutaka Furukomi (left hand and right hand) | Wood, *urushi* (lacquer), gold foil | Photo: Ābāke ©Ābāke

※Submitted later

Artist Portrait of Nefeli Papadimouli  
Artist Portrait of Kohei Sasahara  
Artist Portrait of Maki Suzuki by ĀBĀKE

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3



4

3 André Cadere | *Exhibition with Galerie des Locataires, Avenue des Gobelins, Paris, April 3-8, 1973* | Silver print on paperboard

Photo: Emmanuel WATTE© Courtesy Succession André Cadere et Galerie Hervé Bize - Collection FRAC Grand Large —Hauts-de-France

4 André Cadere | *Round wooden bar* | 1978 | 21 segments painted black, white and red wooden | 198 cm Diameter:9.4cm | Picture:Emmanuel WATTEAU© Courtesy Succession André Cadere et Galerie Hervé Bize - Collection FRAC Grand Large —Hauts-de-France



5



6

5&6 Helen Chadwick | *In the Kitchen* | 1977 | 12 pigment prints from archives | 43 × 33 × 2cm (framed)

©Helen Chadwick - Collection FRAC Grand Large —Hauts-de-France



7



8

7&8 Pauline Esparon | *L'écoucheur ottoman* | 2020 | Coarse hemp yarn, springs, linen felt | 53 cm Diameter:58 cm

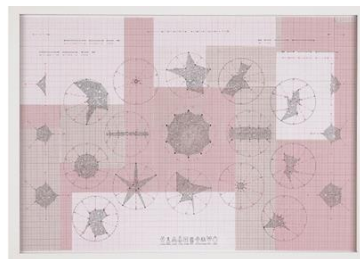
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9



10

9 Nefeli Papadimouli | *Kind of Us (Chapeau à porter à huit)* | 2019-2020 | Sculpture | Artificial leather, Steel, cardboard, paint, wood, plaster, adhesive tape | 190 x 190 cm | Photo: Emmanuel WATTEAU  
© Adagp, Paris, Nefeli Papadimouli - Collection FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France  
10 Nefeli Papadimouli | *Relational cartography / We Are Forest* (Dunkerque, June 2021) | 2024 | Pencil, color pencil, various paper 42 x 59.4 cm (framed) | ©Nefeli Papadimouli and The Pill®

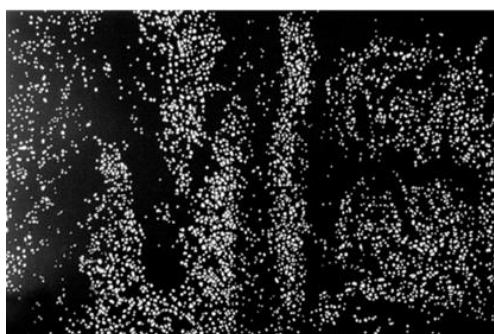


11



12

11 Tarek Lakhrissi | *Hard to love* | 2017 | Video 4 min. 47 sec. © Adagp, Paris - Collection FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France  
12 Ana Torfs | *Sideshow* | 2019 | New Media, Video, HD projection (16:9), stop motion, 39 min, looped, HD color projection, silent, Duration: 39 minutes, Edition: 1/5 + 1 EA. | Photo: Ana torfs © Adagp, Paris,- Collection FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France



13



14

13 Jessica Diamond | *Me constellation* | from the series *Tributes to Kusama* | 1992-1993 | Painting, mural painting, latex paint on wall, variable dimensions © Jessica Diamond - Collection FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France  
14 Bruno Munari | *Seeking comfort in an uncomfortable chair* | Impression offset | Photo: Frac Grand Large  
© Bruno Munari. Courtesy Corraini Edizioni, Maurizio Corraini s.r.l., Collection FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France

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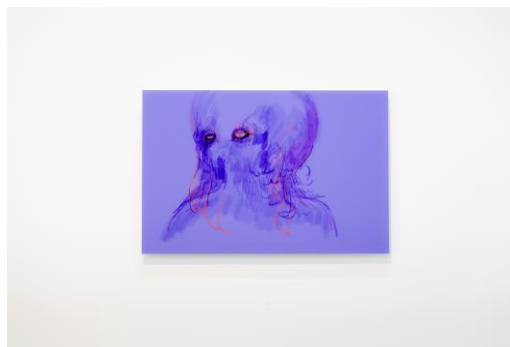


16

15&16 Kohei Sasahara | *Sunny* | 2016 | Installation | Three-dimensional work, forgotten umbrellas on a tent structure, tent, 250 umbrellas, variable dimensions (Tent: H 2.5m, 3m per side) | Photo: Aurélien Mole© Kohei Sasahara – Collection FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France



17



18

17 Paul Maheke | *Lost Track of the Swarm* | 2016 | Three-dimensional work, installation, light ceiling: wood, fluorescent tubes, colored filters, diffusing fabric, rubber cockroaches, herbs, seeds, and synthetic hair | 25 x 300 x 200 cm  
© Adagp, Paris - Collection FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France

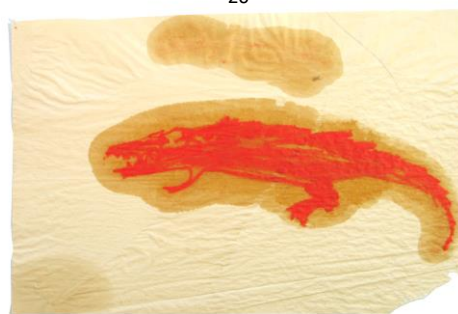
18 Paul Maheke | *The Mauve Hour IV* | 2021 | Print, UV print on transparent acrylic diasec 3 mm / dibond 2 mm  
| 46 x 70 cm | © Paul Maheke - Collection FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France



19



20



21

19 Jesse Darling | *Epistemologies (collapsed cabinet)* | 2018 | Three-dimensional work, Installation, 1 steel structure, 1 stand, 1 plexiglass plate, 23 birds, 60 green foam chips, Steel, stand, plexiglass, artificial birds, green foam chips | 125 x 110 x 110 cm  
© Jesse Darling - Collection FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France

20 Christine Deknuydt | *L'effet miroir* | undated | Drawing | 12,9 x 17,4 cm | Photo: Ludovic Linard | © Arlette Deknuydt- Collection FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France

21 Christine Deknuydt | *Faire l'autruche* | undated | Drawing, tracing paper | 49.8 x 64.5 cm | Photo: Ludovic Linard © Arlette Deknuydt- Collection FRAC Grand Large — Hauts-de-France

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## Faire Corps

### Selection from the collection of the FRAC Grand Large

Sat, July 19 – Sun, October 12, 2025

Åbäke  
André Cadere  
Helen Chadwick  
Jesse Darling  
Christine Deknuydt  
Jessica Diamond  
Pauline Esparon  
Tarek Lakhri  
Paul Maheke  
Bruno Munari  
Nefeli Papadimouli  
Kohei Sasahara  
Ana Torfs

Co-curators: Keren Detton (Director of the FRAC Grand Large)  
and Reiko Setsuda (Director of Le Forum – Fondation d'entreprise Hermès)

Hours: 11:00-19:00 (Last entry 18:30)

Closed: Wednesdays

\*Please check the website for up-to-date information on opening  
days and hours

Admission: Free

Venue: Hermès Maison Ginza Le Forum

(8F / 9F, 5-4-1 Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Tel: +81(0)3-3569-3300)

Organizers: Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, FRAC Grand Large–Hauts-  
de-France

Under the auspices of Embassy of France / French Institute of Japan



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the Hauts-de-France Region and the Dunkerque Grand Littoral / Urban Community

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Faire Corps  
Selection from the collection of the FRAC Grand Large  
Related events

Details will be posted on the website as soon as they are fixed.

Performance by Nefeli Papadimouli

Date: Saturday, July 19, 2025  
TBD

Talk session

Speakers : Keren Detton (Director of the FRAC Grand Large)  
Reiko Setsuda (Curator of Le Forum – Fondation d'entreprise Hermès)

Date: Saturday, July 19, 2025  
TBD

Guide tour

The background to the exhibition and the respective artworks will be explained. This will be held at any time during the exhibition.

Talk session

Speakers : Maki Suzuki (ÂBÄKE), Kazutaka Fukukomi (Lacquer artist) and Reiko Setsuda (Curator of Le Forum – Fondation d'entreprise Hermès)

Date: TBD

Press Contact Information:

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