

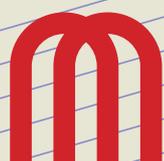
**FONDAZIONE
PALAZZO MAGNANI
REGGIO EMILIA**

**PRESS RELEASE
ENGLISH VERSION**

**JEAN
DUBUFFET
L'ARTE
IN GIOCO**

**MATERIA E SPIRITO
1943-1985**

**17.11.2018
03.03.2019**





Jean Dubuffet
Lieu de campagne aux deux promeneurs, 14 July 1975
Acrylic on canvas, 130 x 97 cm
Collection Fondation Dubuffet, Paris



Jean Dubuffet
Solario (portrait), 1 March 1967
Vinyl on canvas, 100 x 81 cm
Collection Fondation Dubuffet, Paris
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After several decades, Italy is providing the opportunity to attend a major retrospective of the work of Jean Dubuffet, one of the twentieth century's most significant artists and impossible to categorise according to any set standards.

The exhibition will present 140 of Dubuffet's works, including paintings, sculptures, drawings, graphics, artist's books, musical, poetic and theatrical compositions. A specific section will illustrate his work as a collector and expert through the presentation of a core of 30 works by historical *art brut* artists.





Jean Dubuffet
Site domestique (au fusil espadon), avec tête d'Inca et petit fauteuil à droite, 1966
Acrylic on canvas, 125 x 200 cm
Courtesy Galerie Jeanne Bucher Jaeger, Paris

From 17 November 2018 to 3 March 2019, Palazzo Magnani in Reggio Emilia will celebrate Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985), one of the greatest painters of the twentieth century, both iconoclastic and unclassifiable.

The exhibition ***Jean Dubuffet. Art in Play. Matter and Spirit 1943–1985***, aims to present the figure of a universal and multifaceted genius by exploring his numerous creative cycles, his vast research and his innovative, surprising and original technical experiments.

The retrospective, curated by **Martina Mazzotta** and **Frédéric Jaeger**, presents a selection of **140 works** – paintings, sculptures, drawings, graphics, artist's books and music discs – mainly arriving from the Dubuffet Foundation and the Musée des Arts Décoratif in Paris, as well as from museums such as the Beyeler Foundation in Basel, Musée Unterlinden in Colmar, Musée d'Art Moderne et contemporain in Toulouse and in Saint Étienne, Musei Civici in Savona MUSA, Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice and private collections in France, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. A specific section, realised in collaboration with **Giorgio Bedoni**, completes the itinerary with 30 works by historical exponents of art brut deriving from the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne, private swiss collections and from the Gugging Museum in Vienna.



Jean Dubuffet
*La joie de vivre (Paysage jaune avec
petit sauteur au milieu)*, 30 May 1949
Oil on jute canvas
89 x 116 cm
Collection Fondation Dubuffet, Paris



According to Martina Mazzotta and Frédéric Jaeger, 'Dubuffet was an authentic **homme-orchestra**, an artist-chemist in the most ancient sense of the term, whereby art extends the real and **makes the invisible visible**. In his experiments on matter, and later on the pure sign, he adopted a provocative, ambiguous and overwhelming way to reawaken the observer's sense of wonder, surprise and appreciation regarding the world, a world in which truth and reality coincide. With his vital rigour steeped in irony, Dubuffet was able to extend the conventional limits of art in an autonomous, original way that is still potent today: **art in play**'.

The exhibition itinerary focuses on the dialectic between the two opposing and contrasting poles that accompany the entire parabola of Dubuffet's art: two assumptions represented by the notion of **matter**, on the one hand, and **spirit** on the other. There are three main sections: the first, **from 1945 to 1960**, presents all the richness and multiformity of the cycles concerning **matter**. From *Mirobolus*, *Macadam et Cie* to *Matériologies*, Dubuffet feverishly takes advantage of all techniques that allow matter to express itself. The second concentrates on the years between **1962 and 1974**, featuring the *L'Hourloupe* cycle of work, which evolved from a doodle Dubuffet drew while talking on the telephone, and therefore, in a certain sense,

immaterial. Twelve years later it was transformed into a monumental sculpture, revealing an unprecedented way of living and inhabiting a pure conception of the **spirit**. The third part of the exhibition itinerary explores the systematic use of collage that unexpectedly combines space and time, developed between **1976 and 1984** with the *Théâtres de mémoire* up to the *Non-lieux*, where the strong pictorial gesture reveals 'no longer the world but the immateriality of the world'.

The exhibition includes a section dedicated to **art brut**, a term coined by Dubuffet himself in order to define *auteurs* of an unusual form of art, marginal and clandestine that he identifies with the authentic spirit and creative instinct, opposed to the spirit of professional artists. In 1945 he created the first collection designated by this name, which would eventually become known all over the world. On show at Palazzo Magnani will be works by art brut protagonists that Dubuffet loved and collected, who have today become part of XIX and XX century art history. Works by **Aloïse, Wölfli, Wilson, Walla, Hauser** and **Tschirtner** from the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne, from private Swiss collections and from the Gugging Museum in Vienna. Also present are works by an Italian artist particularly dear to Dubuffet, **Carlo Zinelli**, lent by the foundation of the same name.





Jean Dubuffet
Mouchon berloque, 19 June 1963
Oil on canvas, 114 x 146 cm
Collection Fondation Dubuffet, Paris

Jean Dubuffet
Noble port de tête, 1954
Oil on canvas, 81 x 53,5 cm
les Abattoirs, Musée - Frac Occitanie
Toulouse

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For all the works of Jean Dubuffet
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From 1960 on, Dubuffet was constantly involved in the field of **music**, dear to him since childhood and later expressed through musical experiences in the company of artist Asger Jorn, a member of the *Cobra* group. Dubuffet's relationship with music is evidenced here in the use of a vast range of instruments, including electronic devices, with which he created 'new sounds' in a sort of parallelism with the techniques and media of painting. On display will be music videos, paintings, original documents and six discs published by the Galleria del Cavallino in Venice.

In his **artist's books**, Dubuffet introduced a direct and immediate phonetic '**jargon**' of his own invention that used new rules to deconstruct the French language. The books are a linguistic counterpoint to his artwork. Between 1948 and 1950 he wrote and illustrated three surprising books: *Ler dla canpane*, using improvised printing methods on newsprint; *Anvouaiaje par in ninbesil avec de zimaje*, that announces the passage to the '50s and *Labonfam abeber par unbo nom*, erotic drawing created in a spirit that stands half way between feast and cult,

where sacrilege touches on sacred.

The retrospective opens and closes with one *Costume* and a core of *Praticables* from **Coucou Bazar**, a sort of total work of art that includes painting, sculpture, theatre, dance and music, created by Dubuffet between 1971 and 1973 and recreated in its full version in Turin, in collaboration with Fiat, in 1978.

A series of collateral events, organized in collaboration with important institutions, will enrich the exhibition programme: **lectures, seminars, performances, workshops;** moreover, **educational activities** and guided tours for schools - both for students and teachers - have been planned. Fondazione Palazzo Magnani draws particular attention towards people with physical and mental disabilities, in strong collaboration with the project *Reggio Emilia - Città senza barriere*. The exhibition itinerary will be enriched with **3D versions of some works by Dubuffet** for blind people and other facilities for persons with special needs, in the awareness that art is a fundamental key to everyone's wellbeing.

JEAN DUBUFFET. ART IN PLAY
Matter and Spirit 1943-1985
Palazzo Magnani
Corso Garibaldi 29, Reggio Emilia
17 November 2018 - 3 March 2019

Skira Catalogue

OPENING HOURS
Tuesday-Thursday, 10-13; 15-19
Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays,
10-19
Monday: open for schools only

TICKETS
Full: € 12,00
Reduced: € 10,00
Students: (6-17 years) € 6,00
Free entry: children up to 5;
companions accompanying the disabled,
journalists with valid ID.

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