



Arnaud Labelle-Rojoux, *Stop Making Sense*
Collection of the Musée national d'art moderne – centre de création industrielle.
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PRESS RELEASE | EXHIBITION

ARNAUD LABELLE-ROJOUX

VOYEZ-VOUS ÇA!

15.11.25 → 15.02.26

MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne

Exhibition co-organised by MAC VAL
and Centre Pompidou

Curators

Director of MAC VAL
Nicolas Surlapierre

Curator of Contemporary Collections,
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Frédéric Paul

As part of a five-year partnership between MAC VAL – Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Marne and Centre Pompidou, the two institutions are presenting “Voyez-vous ça!” (Would you look at this!), an exhibition dedicated to and designed by Arnaud Labelle-Rojoux (b. 1950), at MAC VAL. Arnaud Labelle-Rojoux is a unique figure of the French art scene, at once an artist, writer, teacher and performer. Since the 1980s, he has developed a visual, theoretical and performative body of work that is traversed by humour, popular culture and art history, constantly attentive to marginal and non-academic forms.

The exhibition is composed of three sections presented in three rooms and brought together under a single, deliberately non-hierarchical title. In the artist's own words: “Naming an exhibition is no easy thing. It is particularly true for this one, because the three sections it is composed of required an overarching title that didn't single out one in particular. *Would you look at that!* is an interjection that is devoid of any intention other than to focus on the gaze, surprise or even mockery, with all things being able to characterise the whole.”

Each room has its own title, seemingly in code: *LCDB*, *SMS*, *++*. Two acronyms, and a double plus sign.

MAC VAL
Musée d'art contemporain
du Val-de-Marne



Centre Pompidou

The first room is a reference to a book published by the artist in 2023: *LCDB, Le Culte des Banni.e.s* (The Cult of the Banished). This text is a collection of reflections about artists co-opted by others who come from a different field, and about forms of expression that traverse categories of art. From this book, a series of live performances were created, extending the artist's meditation on art and its margins. This performance aspect is essential in Labelle-Rojoux's work. More so than first-person performances, he prefers what he calls "composite pieces", juxtaposing references and connections from past and present: a collage of elective affinities. This room, bringing together musicians, filmmakers, writers and artists, all eminent members of the occult fellowship of "the Banished", is a temple dedicated to the fringes. It will be the venue for several events, starting with a duo performance with artist Xavier Boussiron as part of their long-term project *Le Manifeste de la Passion triste*, (the Manifesto of Sad Passion), blending installation, video, performance and music. The following events, driven by the same spirit, show how trans-generational the artist is.

The second room is what sparked the invitation from MAC VAL. It presents *SMS (Stop Making Sense)*, a work recently acquired by the Friends of Centre Pompidou and loaned along with certain other works from the Musée national d'art moderne during Centre Pompidou's closure for renovations. *SMS* was initially installed in this form at Galerie Loevenbruck in Paris. It is made up of 365 collages identically framed and juxtaposed next to each other, one created each day from October 2021 to October 2022. Collage and the related techniques of photomontage, cut-up, assemblage, remix, mashup and sampling, which are simultaneously visual or textual languages and reservoirs of personal mythologies, are central to the artist's practice. He wrote: "Hiatuses in form, improbable mixtures, rigged systems, secret motives, false erudition, everything is part of creating plural interpretations with no critical guarantee: to each their own." The piece's full title, *Stop Making Sense*, is borrowed from a Talking Heads album and comes from the very first collage, about which the artist wrote this sentence: "Pulling out a single meaning from it would have limited and oriented what occurs visually in each collage, and even more so in the final ensemble."

The third room, titled ++ (*overmore*), is part of the logical continuity of *SMS*. Like most major exhibitions dedicated to the artist, the works are hung according to the principle of remix: here, elements that appeared in other configurations take on new life. Their quantity also provides justification for the chosen title, ++. Pieces from previous exhibitions intersect and create a retrospective in the form of a series (exhibitions: "Rien à branler des chiens", 2003, "L'oignon fait la sauce", 2012, "Étant damné", 2021, "C'est écrit dessus", 2025. Work: *À la main du diable*, 2013, Galerie Loevenbruck, group exhibition: "Les Maîtres du mystère", 2012, Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac). Here, accumulation creates unity. In a previous exhibition, "Esprit es-tu là?" (2016, at Villa Tamaris, Seyne-sur-Mer), the artist noticed that certain obsessions — the intertwining of major and minor registers — have persisted since his years at Beaux-Arts de Paris. "More than the chronology of works, their sum constitutes myself just as much as the objects that translate them."

Echoing the three rooms, Arnaud Labelle-Rojoux's published works are displayed in several glass cases. From *L'Acte pour l'art* (1988) to *LCDB, Le Culte des Banni.e.s* (2023), *Leçons de scandale* (2000), *Twist dans le studio de Vélasquez* (1999), *Je suis bouleversé* (2007), *Les gros cochons font de bonnes charcuteries* (2011) and *Duchamp* (2020), these books testify to a critical and literary body of work that is just as dense as his visual art. "It's no great leap between *L'Acte pour l'art*, Caravaggio and the 'Banished'"

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Instructions for access at :
<https://www.macval.fr/Comment-venir-au-musee>

Open Hours
Tuesday to Sunday and public
holidays, 11:00 – 18:00
Ticketing closes 30 minutes before.
Closed January 1, May 1, August 15 and
December 25.

Pricing

Full price 5 €

Reduced price 2,50 €
Groups of 10+ people, educators,
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job-seekers, RSA recipients, people
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companions, members of la Maison
des artistes, etc.(complete list at
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