



Mathieu Pernot, *Priscilla*, Cabine du photomaton (Priscilla, Photobooth), 1995, Gelatin silver print, 190 x 67 cm
© Adagp, Paris, 2026
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PRESS RELEASE | EXHIBITION

VIES MINUSCULES*

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*Small lives

The Pantheon

Exhibition co-produced by Centre Pompidou and the Centre des Monuments Nationaux

Curated by

Curator, Contemporary and Prospective Creation Department,
Musée national d'art moderne – Centre Pompidou
Eva Barois De Caével

Director of the Culture and Creation Department, Centre Pompidou
Mathieu Potte-Bonneville

Assistant Curator, Contemporary and Prospective Creation Department,
Musée national d'art moderne – Centre Pompidou
Aurélien Bernard

In autumn 2026, Centre Pompidou and the Centre des Monuments Nationaux (CMN) will present "Vies minuscules" (Small Lives) at the Pantheon. The CMN will thus join the Constellation program by hosting this multidisciplinary exhibition. The title is taken from the 1984 novel by Pierre Michon, which brings together eight portraits of strangers, distant relatives or fleeting encounters, from which he weaves his own biography. By shining a spotlight on these existences that would otherwise be lost to the sands of time, Michon pays poetic tribute to them.

Inside a monument dedicated to the great women and men of the nation, "Vies minuscules" returns to this guiding theme and examines how art has created space for the lives relegated to the margins of history books, testifying to their role, however infinitesimal, intimate or ignoble, and creating awe-inspiring or delicate mausoleums to their fragile memory. By exploring the forgotten lives that artists have taken as their subject, it offers a new interpretation of history, one that considers "the power and authority of the archive and the limits it sets on what can be known", in the words of historian Saidiya Hartman.

The "Vies minuscules" exhibition draws from the Centre Pompidou collections and will occupy the entire nave of the Pantheon, presenting a selection of works by some 30 artists and spanning more than a century of creation, from **František Kupka** to **Jumana Manna**. Among them, most notably, are **Christian Boltanski**, with an installation, *Monument* (1986); **Mathieu Pernot** and his *photobooth* series (1995-1997); **Teo Hernández** with two films, *Gabriel* and *André Robillard*, *Michel Nedjar* (1985), and **Clarisse Hahn** with a sculpture titled *Pierre*

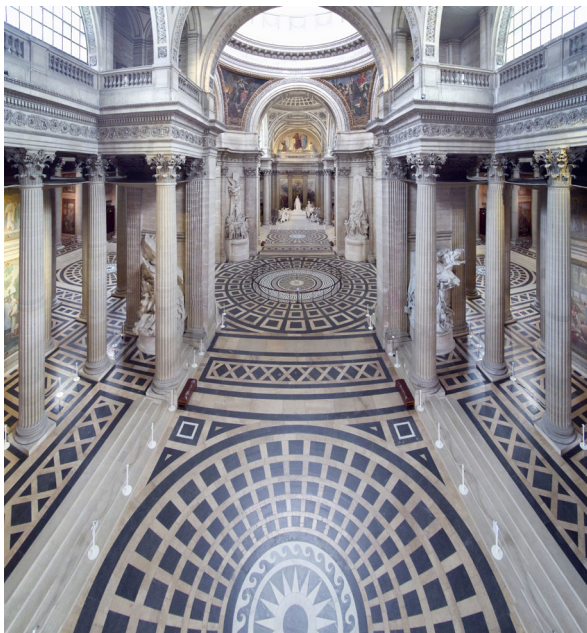
(Stone, 2015).

The works are arranged in three sections :
 Big and small: a modern concern
 The infinitesimal, the intimate and the ignoble
 From minuscule to monumental (and back again).

Exceptional loans and special creations

The exhibition also presents *Les Lettres ordinaires* (The Ordinary Letters) by **Adrianna Wallis**, who wondered what happened to letters that could not reach their recipients: letters of love, friendship, family stories, inner tumult, hope and questions. Since 2017, La Poste has sent boxes of lost mail to her rather than to the recycling facility, tens of thousands of letters from which the artist has produced a series of works.

Sara Favriau and **Adela Součková** have each created a specific work in dialogue with the Pantheon's monumental architecture. In the north transept, Adela Součková unfurls a structure made from wood and painted fabric, in resonance with the monument's allegories, designed like a counter-architecture. Through a maze of miniature bridges, Sara Favriau places the labour of "unskilled workers" and the materiality of work and small lives in the heart of the monument.



The nave of the Pantheon © Christian Gluckman – CMN

Live performances

Because the focus on overlooked lives runs through all modern and contemporary artistic practices, a series of live performances has been created to accompany the exhibition, from literature to music, theatre to dance, cinema to performance.

A 'Nuit minuscule' (Small night) will feature readings by actors and authors. **La Nòvia**, a collective based in Haute-Loire that brings together professional musicians around traditional and/or experimental music, will offer musical experiences with Les Violoneuses, SAND and Jacques Puech.

Author and director **Sébastien Kheroufi** will present *Les Enfants de la patrie* (Children of the Motherland), a play imagined as an epilogue to his new work, *La mort du Môme* (The Death of the Kid), which will be presented at Théâtre de la Colline in November 2026, co-produced by Centre Pompidou and Festival d'Automne.

Artist **Adrianna Wallis** will take up position next to her work, for a reading of some of the letters by her and readers with whom she regularly works.

As part of the retrospective devoted to **Alain Gomis** at mk2 Bibliothèque × Centre Pompidou, the filmmaker has been invited to choose and present a selection of films in cinemas near the Pantheon, in connection with the exhibition.

Centre Pompidou Communication and Digital Media Department

Director
Geneviève Paire

Head of the Press Unit
Dorothée Mireux

Press Officer
Mia Fierberg
01 44 78 13 77
mia.fierberg@centrepompidou.fr

Press Service for Live Events
Opus 64
Arnaud Pain
a.pain@opus64.com
+ 33 (0)1 40 26 77 94

centrepompidou.fr
@CentrePompidou
#CentrePompidou

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Centre des monuments nationaux Communications Department

Director
Marie Yanowitz-Durand

**Head of the Press and Media
Partnerships Department**
Marie Roy
marie.roy@monuments-nationaux.fr

monuments-nationaux.fr
@leCMN

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