
André Masson, a mythology of Being and Nature Museum of Modern Art, Ceret 22 June – 27 October 2019

This exhibition has been recognised as being of national interest by the Ministry of Culture / the Direction Générale des Patrimoines (heritage department) / Department of Museums of France. As such it benefits from a substantial level of public financial aid.

To mark the occasion of the centenary of André Masson's stay in Céret (1919-2019), Céret's Museum of Modern Art is organising a thematic exhibition of his work.

The museum thus continues the exploration into the works of great artists of the 20th century for whom the period in Céret was particularly rich and revealing. André Masson (1896-1987) stayed in Céret from 1919 to 1920. Deeply wounded in both body and soul during his participation in the First World War, he arrived in Céret with Maurice Loutreuil, where he met his first wife, Odette Cabalé and was also introduced to Chaïm Soutine. While in Céret Masson painted several landscapes inspired by Cézane's cubism, paintings he created in a range of light colours, which seem to show his own mental reconstruction. Céret's Museum of Modern Art has four very beautiful paintings of this period, including a view of the town and its surroundings – a theme also chosen by Soutine for one of his paintings which can be seen in the museum.

Landscapes are one of the major themes of the museum's collection – nature and André Masson's mythological vision have been retained as the guiding threads for this exhibition.

The feelings André Masson had regarding nature accompanied him throughout his life. Nature's beauty inspired him and procured him appeasement. But nature is also a theatre of cruelty between species echoing the existential questions of the artist. The doctor who treated his war wounds back in 1917 said to him: 'don't ever live in cities!'. Masson had a prodigious artistic career travelling between Europe and America. The places where the artist lived, the landscapes he admired, transfigured, populated with myths, will be the leading theme of this exhibition.

Number of works presented:

around 131 works including

- 84 paintings
- 40 drawings
- 6 sculptures
- and 1 volume

Curators of the exhibition:

- Nathalie Gallissot, head curator, Manager of the Museum of Modern Art, Ceret
- Jean-Michel Bouhours, art historian, former head curator of the Georges Pompidou Centre, Museum of Modern Art, Paris.



Le Couvent des Capucins à Céret (The Capuchin Convent in Céret), 1919. Oil on canvas, 61 x 73 cm. Museum of Modern Art, Céret. Photo Robin Townsend © Adagp, Paris 2019



Les insectes matadors, (The Matador Insects) 1936. Oil on canvas 89 x 116 cm. Würth Collection, Germany. Photo Peter Falk Schwäbisch Hall © Adagp, Paris 2019



La Montagne Sainte Victoire (The Saint Victoire Mountain), 1948. Oil on canvas, 65 x 54 cm. Belfort, Museum of Modern Art – Donation by Maurice Jardot © Adagp, Paris 2019



Le Labyrinthe (The Labyrinth), 1938. Oil on canvas, 120 x 61 cm. Donation by Basil and Elisa Goulrandris in 1982, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, MNAM/CCI/Philippe Migeat/Dist. RMN-GP © Adagp, Paris 2019

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OPENING HOURS
From 22nd June to 30th
September 2019: open daily
from 10a.m. to 7p.m.
From 1st to 27th October 2019:
Open Tuesdays to Sundays
10a.m. to 5pm. Closed on
Mondays.

Full price: 10€.
Reduced price: 6€.
Free for 12 year-olds and under

Relations with the Press:

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