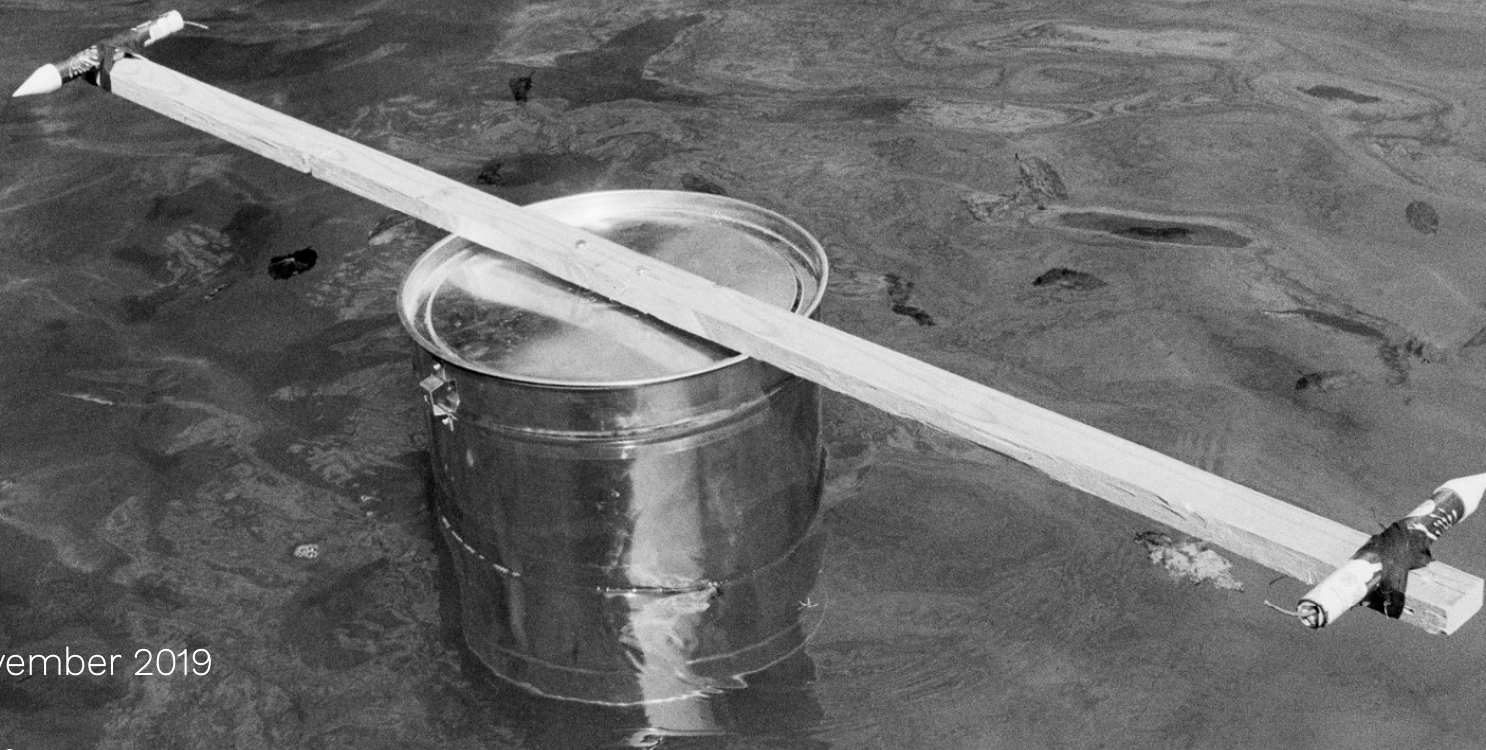


ROMAN SIGNER

Press release
Montsoreau, 21 June 2019

**CHÂTEAU DE MONTSOREAU-
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

Loire Valley



Exhibition from 6 July to 6 November 2019
Vernissage: 6 July
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ROMAN SIGNER

Beginning the 6th of July The Château of Montsoreau – Museum of Contemporary Art gives internationally renowned Swiss artist Roman Signer, recognized for his explosive and brazen performances, carte blanche for an exhibition putting sculpture and photography into perspective and emphasizing the artist's capacity to rethink the principles of contemporary sculpture.

EXHIBITION

«ROMAN SIGNER »

Château de Montsoreau-Museum of contemporary art
6 July – 6 November 2019

6 July 6 p.m. : public vernissage

7 p.m. : Action *Gymnastikball*, 2019



Cover :

Roman Signer, *Eimer mit Raketen* *Bucket with Rockets*, 1982

Roman Signer, *Ballon mit Spazierstock*, 2016,

Foto: Aleksandra Signer

Roman Signer, *Vers la Flamme und Roman Signer*,
Vernagt/Schnalstal/Italie, 27. September 2014, Transart
Festival 2014, Bozen/Bolzano

Roman Signer, *Dachlawine*, 23. September 2017,

Bruneck/St.Lorenzen (IT)

Roman Signer, *Versinken* *Sinking* 1979



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A revolutionary artist

Revolution is commonly considered uncertain, risky and dangerous. The exhibition will occupy the entire 2nd floor of the Château of Montsoreau – Museum of Contemporary Art for a whole of four months. It will reunite some of Roman Signer's seminal pieces including a series of unedited photographs taken between 1972 and 1986. Rendered legendary by the happy, or sometimes catastrophic, “accidents” (*Ballon mit Spazierstock*, 2016), that transform mundane objects into spectacular explosive ones, Roman Signer uses multi media “snapshots” to capture the instantaneous motion portrayed through his work. Signer invites us to discover nature from a distance; indeed, nature is not only his workshop and laboratory, it is a consistent source of inspiration and fascination. Roman Signer's art which is sadly often wrongly perceived as a form of spectacle or considered to be presented for dramatic effect, is shown in the Château of Montsoreau – Museum of Contemporary Art with the intention of staying true to the artist's process and philosophy. The exhibition consequently presents Roman Signer as not only a detail oriented and precise engineer who however humbly refuses to take the stage himself or his work to be categorized simply as a performance.

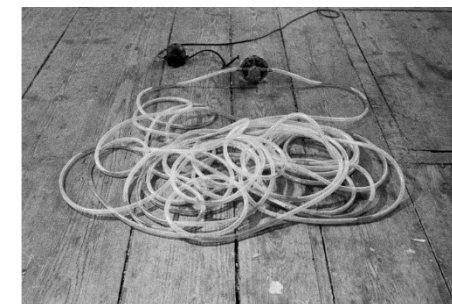
A sculptor of Time

The representation of time is an omnipresent theme in Roman Signer's work and he addresses this challenge differently in each project. Signer's perception of time takes actual form, lengthy and slow, in *Vers la Flamme und Roman Signer*, 2014, where a helicopter comes and disturbs the improbable concert of a pianist in the middle of a lake; short and immediate in *Dachlawine*, 2017, where a series of buckets filled with water spin uncontrollably off a roof. The exhibition as a whole stresses the importance of the four elements (air, wind, fire, water) in Roman Signer's art. These elements are, always the origin and the apex of his creations. Signer re-envisioned ordinary objects like an electric fan or a child's balloon' bestowing them with unforeseen destinies and multi-faceted meaning resulting in what is often described as “poetry of destruction”.

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Château de Montsoreau-Museum of
contemporary art
Passage du marquis de Geoffre
49730 Montsoreau
Ouvert tous les jours from 10 a.m. to
7 p.m.
contact@chateau-montsoreau.com



Roman Signer,
Wasser und Luft Water and Air,
1976

Roman Signer was born in 1938 in Appenzell, Switzerland. His art is deeply influenced by his experience of the Second World War as a child. "I always had the bridge of the Sitter in front of me. It had been covered in explosives. It was there, ready to blow. [...] It scared people. I used to look at the soldiers that would bring and take away the dynamite regularly with fascination." (Roman Signer par lui-même, David Signer, ed Art & Fiction).

As a child, Roman Signer would explore his home town by bicycle. His father was a musician and was friends with Johannes Hugentobler. While he was still in a stroller, Johannes declared "this little one is going to be an artist some day".

In the 1950's Roman Signer entered the Secondary school of Saint Antony. At that time, he was interested mainly by technical aspects, nature and art. Then, he went to Saint Gall for an internship in a radio store, where he stayed for only two months before becoming an apprentice draftsman in construction. He continued working as such in Zurich for a while.

His parents moved to Saint Gall where he developed a taste for culture. He, indeed, started visiting museums and libraries frequently. Meanwhile, he kept on exploring nature and its rivers; he was completely engrossed. At the end of his training course, he worked in an architecture firm in Engadine, then Geneva and eventually Cannes. After having fallen dangerously ill in Cannes, and going through a long recovery period, he returned to Appenzell and eventually decided to become an artist officially. After being accepted at the School of Arts in Zurich, he asserted his love and interest for sculpture and enrolled in a sculpture class in Lucerne. He, then, went to Poland as an exchange student at the Academy of fine arts of Warsaw. That is where he met his wife of 32 years Aleksandra at a painting on wood class. He, then, eventually made his way back to Saint Gall where he worked as a locksmith for the company Metall Keller. In 1969 he was given a teaching job at the Arts school of Lucerne.

The same year the exhibition "when attitude becomes form" took place at Bern. In reality, though, his first official show was in 1973 at the Lock gallery. And even after his daughter Barbara was born in 1982, he continued creating, exploring nature and reminiscing.

Roman Signer is famous for his installations. He is internationally recognized for his originality. For instance, he has shown at the Centre Pompidou and The MOCA L.A./MUKHA. This international "reconnaissance"/success started in 1987 thanks to an ephemeral wall which was made of paper and then blown up; Many pieces of paper were consequently sent flying into the clear blue sky of the Documenta de Kassel. Actually, since then, he has stuck to only working with the international institutions and bienales. He represented Switzerland at the Venice Biennale of 1999, he performed an action-sculpture at the Centre Georges Pompidou in and had a whole show at the Universal Exhibition of Hanovre in 2000 and at the Palais de Tokyo in 2009.

Often referred to as a sculptor of the four elements, his sculptures take form/life/meaning during what he calls "actions". These actions generally take mundane objects and empty them of all meaning to which they might be linked, transforming the perception of the action as an accident.

Roman Signer works with fire or dynamite to feel a sense of risk taking, of purpose, of, in the end, some kind of control (while facing the tragic reality of man : death). Although, Signer prefers presenting a finished project to the spectators/visitors, meaning the result of his experiments via photographs or videos.



Created in April 2016 on the initiative of the French contemporary art collector Philippe Méaille, the Château de Montsoreau-Museum of contemporary art is a radical, committed, living place.

Its permanent collection is the world's largest collection of works from the Art & Language movement.

It is located two hours from Paris, in the Loire Valley World Heritage of Unesco.

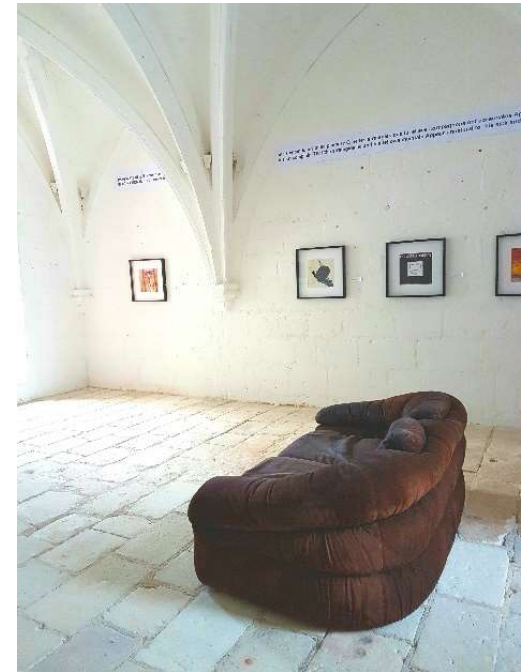
The cultural program of the Château de Montsoreau-Museum of contemporary art is organized around temporary exhibitions, events, meetings, concerts and performances.

Engaged in the dissemination of contemporary art to the greatest number, the Château de Montsoreau-Museum of contemporary art is very active in its policy of lending to institutions.

The programming of the Château de Montsoreau-Museum of Contemporary Art is a mirror of the creative wealth of today's artists. Innovative, experimental and unexpected, the Château de Montsoreau-Museum of contemporary art cultural programming testifies to the venue's commitment to the dissemination of contemporary creation, all artistic practices combined.

Philippe Méaille founded the Château de Montsoreau-Museum of contemporary art in 2016. After loaning his collection to the Macba between 2010 and 2017, he endowed the Château de Montsoreau-Museum of contemporary art with more than 1,000 works from the Art & Language movement in 2017.

Located in the Loire Valley - 2 hours from Paris - the Château de Montsoreau-Museum of Contemporary Art is, since 2016, an essential place of artistic effervescence. Installed in a castle of the Loire, it has an architecture, a collection and spaces of exhibition out of the ordinary which place it among the international institutions dedicated to the current art.



By road
A85 exit n°5 Bourgueil

By train
Station of Saumur : 17km
Station of Tours : 57km

By plane
Angers airport : 59 km
Tours Val de Loire airport : 74 km
Nantes Atlantique airport : 159 km

By boat
Saumur-Montsoreau

Rates

9,80€ adult
5,80€ children (-18 years old)
Free access for – 5 years old.



swiss arts council
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1^{ER} PARTENAIRE
DÉPARTEMENT DE MAINE-ET-LOIRE
anjou

