



*Come
to me!*

17 November 2007
– 18 May 2008
Musée Jean Lurçat et de
la Tapisserie contemporaine



Dreams
Are
Free!

15 December 2007
– 13 April 2008
Musée des Beaux-Arts

Marie-Jo Lafontaine
in Angers!

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Two museums – two shows

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The city of Angers is hosting **two major exhibitions** in two of its museums, showcasing the work of Belgian artist **Marie-Jo Lafontaine** (b. Antwerp 1950). For the event, this **internationally renowned artist** will show pieces that have been specially made for the *Come to me!* show starting on the 17th November in the Musée Jean-Lurçat et de la Tapisserie Contemporaine and for the *Dreams are free!* show in the Musée des Beaux-Arts from the 15th December.

Marie-Jo Lafontaine's work is multi-faceted. The range of media she uses is extremely diverse: painting and photography, video, and sound. She engages forcefully with the world and society through her particular interest in certain reoccurring themes: identity, individuality, the body, the elements, the ambiguity of human behaviour, society and its future.

Marie-Jo Lafontaine has been **showing her work internationally** for over 20 years in the most prestigious museums and galleries such as the Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Tate Gallery in London, the Pompidou Centre in Paris. She has achieved recognition for her public art, and the city of Frankfurt recently commissioned her to do a performance work for the FIFA opening of the World Cup. Entitled *I love the world*, it involved images projected across the façades of the city's skyscraper banks.

The Musée Jean-Lurçat et de la Tapisserie Contemporaine retraces developments in Marie-Jo Lafontaine's work from the **woven monochromes and sculptures of the seventies and eighties, through to the most recent pieces** (painting-photo-video). Monochrome sculpture and painting are shown, as well as tapestries. For Angers, Marie-Jo Lafontaine has created three new monochrome paintings – evocations of light from climatic and geographical sources.

The theme of the elements (earth/air/fire/water), signs of life and death, are very present in Marie-Jo Lafontaine's work. Photographic work and painted monochrome pieces illustrate the four elements, as do two videos, *Passio* and *Dark Pool*, specifically reworked for the Angers exhibition.

Portraits have been a recurrent theme since the mid-eighties. This figurative work denounces and provokes; it presents a disturbing view of the world (*Die neue Frau*, *Les Bains de St Josse*, or *Kinder der Ruhr*).

The exhibition in the Musée des Beaux-Arts offers a view of today's world seen through the artist's eyes. As people come into the *We can be heroes just for one day* area, a photobooth awaits them, inviting visitors to actively engage with the exhibition space by being photographed. Two series of works based on portraits of teenagers and children – *Babylon Babies* and *Le Jardin d'Enfants* – explore the sense of identity, the body and types of behaviour.

The work entitled *Les Fables de La Fontaine* is a ferocious series of social archetypes: men and women are represented in urban situations wearing animal masks. It evokes a disquieting world where power and money are paramount.

A video, *Jeder Engel ist schrecklich*, in which the central theme is fire, is a sculpture with a conical architectural structure. It is an exegesis of the world, and deals with the fascination and ambiguity of the relationship between violence and beauty.

Lastly, *The world starts every minute* is a sculpture and sound installation based on Laughter in the world. Made specifically for the exhibition in Angers, it is a major event in itself.

For Marie-Jo Lafontaine, each exhibition is always a new opportunity to use site-related scenography.

Musée Jean Lurçat et de la Tapisserie contemporaine
4, boulevard Arago – 49100 Angers

Musée des Beaux-Arts
14, rue du musée – 49100 Angers

Director of the Museums of Angers: Patrick Le Nouëne
Exhibitions curated by: Christine Besson, Françoise de Loisy

Opening times
Musée Jean Lurçat et de la Tapisserie contemporaine:
from Tuesday to Sunday 10 to 12 am and 2 to 6 pm
Musée des Beaux-Arts: from Tuesday to Sunday 10 am to 6 pm

Admission 4 € / 3 € (entry to one exhibition only)
6 € / 5 € (entry to both exhibitions)

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