

*«Life is life, it is the same for everyone, provided that we are living...»,
Michel Onfray in his introductory text of the exhibition brochure*

The City of Angers hosts an exhibition of Robert Combas at the
Grand Theatre from 26th April to 25 July 2014.

«GENEVIEVE IN ALL OF HER COLOURS»

This exhibition presents a very important collection of works examining through all forms «Geneviève», the companion and muse of Robert Combas.

Robert Combas is a painter who explores the human passions, his style of painting is a theatre of emotions.

Angers was the perfect place to receive this previously unseen exhibition from one of the pioneers of the movement of free figuration. Indeed, the love story between Robert and Geneviève started in Angers.

The meeting of Robert, the painter, and Geneviève, the dancer, took place in Paris on the night of the 27th – 28th June 1987. Some months later, Geneviève started as a resident dancer at the National Centre for Contemporary Dance in Angers for a choreographic creation "The Globe" by Josette Baiz. The City of Angers thus encouraged the first steps of this new, explosive love.



© LE GLOBE, Acrylique sur toile, 235x235 cm, 1988, 2007, Collection Geneviève Botella.

The essential elements of these works of arts belong to the artist, to Geneviève and to Laurent Strouk, the art dealer of Robert Combas.

Through the course of this exhibition, Geneviève shows multiple faces, from the most sublime to the most terrible. We discover also previous unseen portraits, scenes of love, scenes of daily life, scenes of genre, and scenes of fantasy...Geneviève embodies the muse just as well as the lover, the warrior, the dancer, the animal, the dream, the nightmare...

We will also discover behind closed doors, more intimate works of arts, symbols which retrace Geneviève's life moments with the artist: simple sketches, extracts of letters, notebooks full of

drawings, painted objects, pebbles drawn upon...

As so rightly said by Michel Onfray, who wrote a very beautiful introductory text in the brochure:

(...). Life is life, it is the same for everyone, provided that we are living...Consequently, to them, life was like lots of other couples lives. Painting offers a silent witness to these private adventures: the discovery of each other's bodies, the youthfulness of flesh, the dream of sexuality, its most imminent reality, the question of maternity, the soft and tender moments of daily life, like the sleep, a leg wrapped in a sheet and pyjama protecting the body of the child, or more erotic moments, Robert's hand in Geneviève's knickers, the melancholy or intense pleasure, the majesty in the painted architectures with arcades, or the simplicity of an afternoon nap in the countryside. (...)

This exhibition will surprise because it disrupts the normal codes of your typical art exhibition.

This exhibition invites you to see, to listen, to read, to think, to contemplate, to pause...

The exhibition plays with the notions of representation, we navigate between paintings, drawings, sculpture, music, poetry, stories of life...

Robert Combas is also a poet, he enclosed each painting with a text, a poem.

Robert Combas is also a musician and with his friend Lucas Mancione is part of the group «les Sans pattes» who will be present during the exhibition's preview night for a surprising visual and musical performance.

Music videos produced by Robert Combas and Lucas Mancione, featuring Geneviève acting and dancing, will also be shown during the exposition.

With the headphones, the visitor will be able to listen to love songs composed by Robert Combas and Lucas Mancione, whilst contemplating the works of art.

The artist knows how to shock, appease, involve, question...

It takes place in a theatre since life is one big theatre !

The City of Angers has thus rolled out the red carpet of the Angers' Grand Theatre for a journey into the protean universe of Robert Combas.

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