

FONDATION VINCENT VAN GOGH ARLES

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LAURA OWENS & VINCENT VAN GOGH



Laura Owens, *Untitled*, 1997

16.05 — 18.10.2020



Vincent van Gogh, *Dandelions*, Arles, April 1889

LAURA OWENS & VINCENT VAN GOGH

FROM 16 MAY TO 18 OCTOBER 2020

In Summer 2020, the Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles will present an exhibition bringing together new works by the American artist Laura Owens with eight paintings by Van Gogh, most made in and around Arles. Owens is one of the most celebrated American artists working today, and her new works will host, and respond to Van Gogh's paintings.

Owens has known Van Gogh's work from childhood, and she has looked at his art in various ways over her career. One of her breakthrough paintings, now in the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art, *Untitled* (1997), shows black birds over a seascape, reminiscent of Van Gogh's *Wheatfield with Crows* (1890). Owens's dramatic use of impasto, especially since 2012, recalls the textures of Van Gogh's most famous works. Van Gogh's interest in setting up an artists' community in Arles is echoed in Owens's efforts to create a space for other artists to exhibit, adjacent to her studio in Mission Road in Los Angeles.

The eight Van Gogh paintings to be shown in Arles include loans from museums with which Owens has a deep connection. *Hospital at Saint-Rémy* (1889) comes from the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, her current residence, while *The Poplars at Saint-Rémy* (1889) is lent by the Cleveland Museum, where Owens grew up. Other key loans include *The Fields*, painted in Auvers-sur-Oise shortly before Van Gogh died.

Laura Owens has often addressed the architecture of the galleries and museums where she has exhibited, and in this vein, she will create a series of wallpapers to cover the entire walls of each room where the Van Gogh works are exhibited. These wallpapers will be based on motifs or colours in the paintings. Two early paintings by Owens will be included – the seagulls and one other – while new paintings made in Los Angeles and in Arles will respond to the Van Gogh works.

Co-curated by **Bice Curiger** (artistic director of the Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles) and **Mark Godfrey** (curator at the Tate Modern), London, the exhibition will show how Laura Owens explores Van Gogh's images, colours, methods and materials, and the manner in which he addressed indoor and outdoor spaces in Arles.



Vincent van Gogh, *The Fields*, Auvers-sur-Oise, 1890

Oil on canvas, 50 x 65 cm
Private Collection

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LAURA OWENS

Laura Owens (b. 1970) has been acclaimed as one of the leading painters of her generation. She was born in Ohio and studied at California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, and Rhode Island School of Design, Providence. She lives and works in Los Angeles. Owens was recently the subject of a mid-career retrospective at Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2017-2018), which traveled to the Dallas Museum of Art (2018) and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2018-2019), featuring some 60 paintings dating from the 1990s to the present.

Over the course of her career, Owens has become recognized for her ranging and experimental approach to the medium of painting – an approach that embraces a breadth of sources from the avant-garde to the pop cultural to the decorative.

Recent solo exhibitions include those at the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco (2016); Secession, Vienna (2015); and Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany (2011).



VINCENT VAN GOGH (1853-1890)

Vincent van Gogh is born on 30 March 1853 in Groot-Zundert in the Netherlands. At the age of 16 he joins Goupil & Cie, a firm of art dealers in The Hague, and subsequently works in the company's offices in Brussels, London and finally Paris. He gradually loses interest in the commercial art world and, in 1878–79, he becomes a lay preacher in a mining community in the Borinage area of Belgium.

In August 1880 Van Gogh decides to become an artist. He wants to be a painter of everyday life, and, above all, of peasant life, following in the footsteps of artists such as Jean-François Millet. Landscapes and still lifes, too, become an important part of his oeuvre. In 1886 in Paris he discovers Japanese prints and he meets Impressionist artists.

Convinced that colour is the key to modernity, Van Gogh leaves for Provence in search of bright light and vibrant colours. Dreaming of establishing a community of artists, in February 1888 he settles in Arles. Gauguin joins him in October, but their collaboration collapses in late December 1888. Disappointed and ill, in May 1889 Van Gogh has himself admitted to a psychiatric hospital in Saint-Rémy, where he remains for a whole year. He continues with his search for an expressive art based on colour and brush strokes, creating more than 500 paintings and drawings during his 27 months in Provence.

In May 1890 Van Gogh moves to Auvers-sur-Oise, where in just over two months he produces the final 70 paintings of an oeuvre that comprises more than 2,000 works. He dies on 29 July 1890 at the age of 37.

Van Gogh's artistic genius and the poignant story of his life transform him into a veritable international icon.

Previous exhibitions at the Fondation

- *Van Gogh: Speed & Aplomb and The Return of the Sower* (2019)
- *Hot Sun, Late Sun. Modernism Untamed* (2018)
- *Calm and Exaltation. Van Gogh in the Bührle Collection* (2017)
- *Van Gogh in Provence: Modernizing Tradition* (2016)
- *Van Gogh Drawings: Influences and Innovations* (2015)
- *Colours of the North, Colours of the South* (2014)

LAURA OWENS & VINCENT VAN GOGH

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Laura Owens, *Untitled*, 1997

Acrylic and modeling paste on canvas, 248.8 x 304.8 cm
Courtesy the artist; Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York, Rome;
Sadie Coles HQ, London; and Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York;
Promised gift of Thea Westreich Wagner and Ethan Wagner



Vincent van Gogh
Hospital at Saint-Rémy,
Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, October 1889

Oil on canvas, 92.2 x 73.4 cm
Gift of the Armand Hammer Foundation
Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles
© The Armand Hammer Collection



Vincent van Gogh, *Dandelions*, Arles, April 1889

Oil on canvas on cardboard, 35,5 x 57 cm
Don de Herbert et Charlotte Wolfer-de Armas, 1973
Kunst Museum Winterthur
© Kunst Museum Winterthur

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THE FONDATION VINCENT VAN GOGH ARLES

FULFILLING VINCENT'S WISH

"And I hope that later on, other artists will emerge in this beautiful part of the country."

Letter from Vincent to his brother Theo (Arles, 7 May 1888)

The Fondation offers a unique approach to Vincent van Gogh in exploring the resonance of his art and thinking with the work of artists today. Vincent's art reached its pinnacle during his stay in Arles from February 1888 to May 1889. Beginning in 1983, likewise in Arles, Yolande Clergue invited contemporary artists to donate a work to pay homage to Van Gogh. Thanks to patron Luc Hoffmann, in 2010 a public utility foundation was established. The City of Arles placed at its disposal the Hôtel Léautaud de Donines, a prestigious fifteenth-century residence which, following its renovation by the architectural agency Fluor, opened in 2014 with over 1,000m² of exhibition space. The Fondation's resolutely contemporary bias is underscored by the integration within the complex of two permanent artworks by Raphael Hefti and Bertrand Lavier.

All year round, thanks to partnerships established with public and private collections, the Fondation presents one or more original canvases by Vincent van Gogh, in company with works by leading contemporary artists such as **Yan Pei-Ming, Roni Horn, David Hockney, Urs Fischer** and **Alice Neel**. Also on display are works by the nineteenth-century masters who inspired Vincent, primarily Jean-François Millet and Adolphe Monticelli. In addition to monographic and thematic exhibitions, the Fondation hosts extramural symposia, which examine changes and developments in the arts and artistic techniques in Van Gogh's own day, as well as Vincent's affinities with other artists and forms of artistic expression. Art mediation and educational programmes are also key areas of focus for the Fondation, which seeks to bring visitors even closer to the artists and themes presented, for example through guided tours and activities tailored to different publics, as well as through workshops held in schools in Arles and the surrounding area. The Fondation shop, conceived as a luminous, colourful and iridescent link between the original building and its contemporary interiors, welcomes visitors in the bright and clear light so dear to Van Gogh.

The Fondation fulfils Vincent's wish to create in Arles a place of reflection, fertile production and stimulating dialogue between artists.

"Then, as you well know, I love Arles so much [...]."

Letter from Vincent to Theo (Arles, 18 February 1889).



Entrance gate *Vincent* (2014)
by Bertrand Lavier
© Fondation Vincent van Gogh
Arles ; FLUOR architecture
Photo : Flavia Vogel

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LIST OF EXHIBITIONS HELD AT THE FONDATION VINCENT VAN GOGH ARLES

Since its opening in 2014, the Fondation has exhibited 63 paintings by Vincent van Gogh, thanks to partnerships with public and private collections (in particular with the Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam, the Kröller-Müller Museum in Otterlo and the E. G. Bührle Collection in Zürich). 47 drawings and one original letter by the artist have also been exhibited.

04.04 – 31.08.2014

Van Gogh Live ! Inauguration with Guillaume Bruère
Raphael Hefti, Thomas Hirschhorn, Gary Hume,
Bethan Huws, Bertrand Lavier, Camille Henrot,
Fritz Hauser, Elizabeth Peyton
Curator: Bice Curiger

Van Gogh – Colours of the North, Colours of the South
Curator: Sjraar van Heugten

20.09.2014 – 26.04.2015

Bertrand Lavier, *L'affaire tournesols*
Curator : Bice Curiger

Yan Pei-Ming, *Night of Colours*
Curator : Xavier Douroux

12.06 – 20.09.2015

Van Gogh Drawings: Influences and Innovations
Curator: Sjraar van Heugten

Roni Horn, *Butterfly to Oblivion*
Curator: Bice Curiger

Tabaimo, *aitasei-josei*
Curator: Bice Curiger

11.10.2015 – 10.01.2016

David Hockney, *The Arrival of Spring*
Curators : Gregory Evans & Bice Curiger

Raphael Hefti, *On Core / Encore*
Curator : Bice Curiger

13.02 – 24.04.2016

Très traits, with Eugène Leroy, Christopher Wool,
Andreas Gursky, Silvia Bächli, Adrian Ghenie,
Roy Lichtenstein, Isabelle Cornaro
Curator: Bice Curiger

Saskia Olde Wolbers, *Yes, These Eyes Are the Windows*
Curators: Bice Curiger & Julia Marchand

Giorgio Griffa
Curator: Bice Curiger

14.05 – 11.09.2016

Van Gogh in Provence: Modernizing Tradition
Curator: Sjraar van Heugten

Glenn Brown, *Suffer Well*
Curator: Bice Curiger

01.10.2016 – 29.01.2017

Urs Fischer, *Mon cher...*
Curator: Bice Curiger

04.03 – 17.09.2017

Calm and Exaltation. Van Gogh in the Bührle Collection
Curators: Bice Curiger & Lukas Gloor

Alice Neel: Painter of Modern Life
Curator: Jeremy Lewison

Rebecca Warren
Curator: Bice Curiger

07.10.2017 – 02.04.2018

La Vie simple – Simplement la vie / Songs of Alienation
with Pawel Althamer, Jonathas de Andrade, Yto Barrada,
Andrea Büttner, David Claerbout, Sanya Kantarovsky,
Jean-François Millet, Nicolas Party, Dan Perjovschi,
Juergen Teller, Oscar Tuazon, Vincent van Gogh
Curators: Bice Curiger & Julia Marchand

21.04 – 28.10.2018

Hot Sun, Late Sun. Modernism Untamed
with Adolphe Monticelli, Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso,
Germaine Richier, Alexander Calder, Sigmar Polke,
Giorgio De Chirico, Joan Mitchell, Etel Adnan, Sun Ra
Curator: Bice Curiger

Paul Nash. Sunflower Rises
Curator: Simon Grant

17.11.2018 – 10.02.2019

The Autumn of Paradise. Jean-Luc Myllyne
Curator: Bice Curiger

James Ensor & Alexander Kluge: Dark Centuries
Curator: Julia Marchand

02.03 – 20.10.2019

Niko Pirosmami – Wanderer Bewteen Worlds
Curator: Bice Curiger

Vincent van Gogh: Speed & Aplomb
Curator: Bice Curiger

Vincent van Gogh: The Return of the Sower
Curator: Lukas Gloor

16.11.2019 – 13.04.2020

... et labora
with photographs from the Ruth + Peter Herzog Collection,
works by Mika Rottenberg, Yuri Pattison, Emmanuelle Lainé,
Andreas Gursky, Michael Hakimi, Thomas Struth,
Liu Xiaodong, Cyprien Gaillard and ex-votos from Provence
Curator: Bice Curiger

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

EXHIBITIONS FROM 16 MAY TO 18 OCTOBER 2020

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ADMISSION

Full rate: €10
Reduced rate: €8
Free admission: children under 12, disabled
visitors, ICOM members, press card, tour guides,
curators, journalists
12-18 & students: €4

AUDIOGUIDE (French/English): €3

OPENING HOURS

From 16 May to 30 September 2020:
Fondation and bookshop open
everyday from 11am to 7pm
and from 10am in July and August.

From 1 to 18 October 2020:
Fondation and bookshop open
from Tuesday to Sunday, from 11am to 6pm

Last admission 45 minutes before closing.

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