

# LA VIE EST UNE PLAIE DONT JE NE ME DÉFAIS PAS.

5 AVRIL > 19 JUILLET 2025



Stéphane Pencréac'h,  
*Pieta*, 2012

Visite gratuite du jeudi au samedi de 11h à 19h  
Réservation : [fondationfrances.com](http://fondationfrances.com)  
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# Life is a wound I can't get rid of

From April 5 to July 19

This exhibition *La vie est une plaie dont je ne me défais pas*

(*Life is a wound I can't get rid of*) captures the essence of creation born from a persistent, living pain. An untameable force that, far from being extinguished, becomes the driving energy behind our need to explore, reinvent, and transform the everyday.

The chosen title symbolizes an urgent creative impulse: from this wound – never entirely healed – emerges movement, vitality, and art. Each artist, driven by a restless spirit, invents new spaces for reflection and expression.

Drawing from the Francès Collection, *La vie est une plaie dont je ne me défais pas* invites us to the threshold of reality and into the unsettling territories of the imaginary. The exhibition plunges viewers into worlds that lie at the margins of reason – where the everyday meets the dreamlike, where the familiar becomes strange, and where the visible flirts with the invisible.

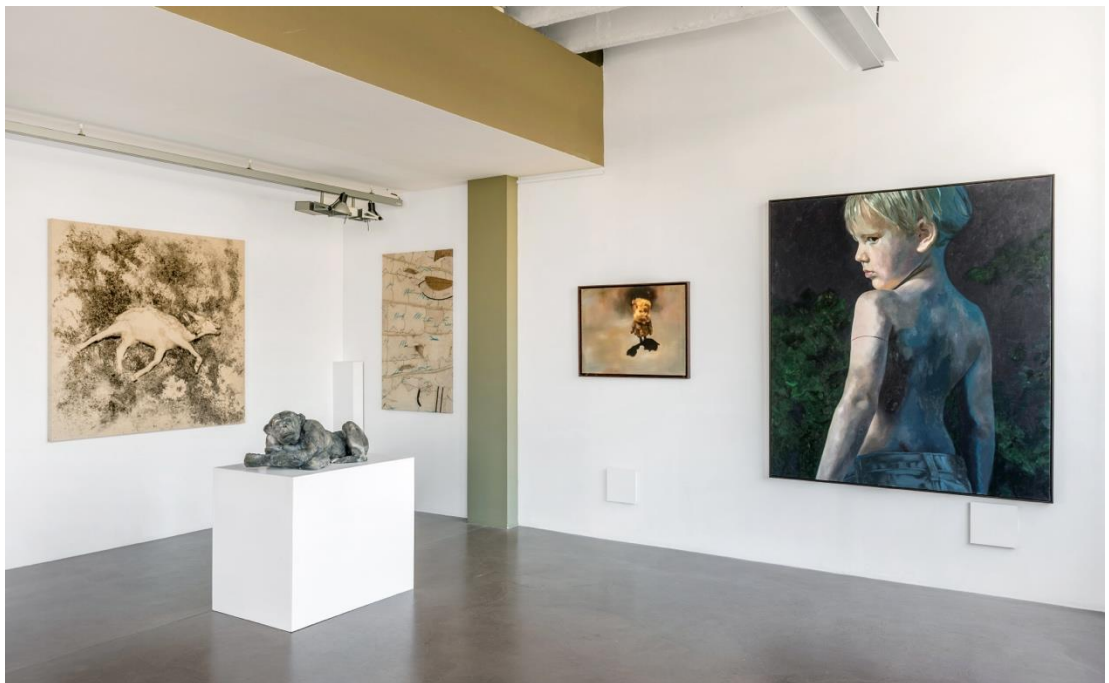
The exhibition features works with a strong theatricality, unfolding open-ended, evocative narratives. Drawing their forms from different disciplines - theatre, dance, circus, cinema, literature - they explore a diversity of registers: marvellous, oneiric, but also tragic and absurd.

These works exhort our emotions, stimulates our imagination and ground us in physical sensation.

Through illusion and artifice, they blur the contours of rational perception and invite us to transcend the limits of the visible world. Along the way, they paint a vivid, ever-evolving portrait of the human comedy, navigating between inspiration, doubt, and anxiety that echoes the tremors of our time and collective history.

## Featuring 42 artists from the Francès Collection :

Farley Aguilar, Markus Åkesson, Gilles Barbier, Nasser Bakhshi, Romain Bernini, Cathryn Boch, Alin Bozbiciu, Guillaume Bresson, Jake et Dinos Chapman, Paul Chiappe, Jan de Maesschalck, Desiree Dolron, Pamela Earnshaw Kelly, Clément Fourment, Nina Mae Fowler, Simon Fujiwara, Marcel Gähler, Gérard Gasiorowski, Robert Gligorov, Guerra De La Paz, Philip Gurrey, Bilal Hammad, Nicholas Harper, Oda Jaune, Eva Jospin, Sergey Kononov, Nicolas Lebeau, Hans Op de Beeck, Stéphane Pencreac'h, Françoise Pérovitch, Flavia Pitis, Nazanin Pouyandeh, Gideon Rubin, Nicola Samori, Hamdan Saray, Wilhelm Sasnal, Andres Serrano, Jim Shaw, Florian Süssmayr, Aaron Young









### **Free and Unhindered Access.**

Far from institutional circuits, the Fondation Francès favours a direct and immersive experience of contemporary art. Its exhibitions – always free and open to all – encourage a genuine, unfiltered dialogue between art and the public. Its unique locations – a private home in Senlis and an industrial building in Clichy – embody its mission to bring art into unexpected spaces: the intimacy of the domestic sphere and the energy of a workplace.

### **A Commitment to Artistic Freedom and Accessibility**

Founded in 2009 in Senlis by Estelle and Hervé Francès, the Fondation Francès stems from the shared vision and dedication of their respective companies: ARROI, a cultural engineering agency established in 2006, and OKÓ, a communication agency founded in 1993. The Foundation is an independent project developed alongside their professional paths.

For over 15 years, the Fondation has nurtured a distinctive artistic approach – rooted in freedom of expression, proximity, and a deep engagement with the issues of our time. Through a collection of 900 works across diverse media (photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, and video), the Fondation examines human excesses and showcases powerful pieces that question our societies.

Each exhibition fosters a dual perspective: introspective and collective – encouraging reflection, empathy, and openness to otherness.

### **A Social and Responsible Vision**

Driven by the belief that art is a catalyst for social transformation, the Fondation Francès promotes an inclusive model of mediation. Each exhibition becomes a platform for dialogue, awareness, and empowerment.

Remaining true to its mission of challenging taboos, the Fondation continues to make art radically accessible – provoking questions, inspiring thought, and defending the freedom to see, show, and imagine.

## **THE FREEDOM TO SHOW AND DISSEMINATE: AN INALIENABLE RIGHT OF ART**

Art is not merely an aesthetic revelation — it is a rupture, an open breach in the substance of reality. To show art is to embrace this rupture, to give it social presence, political weight, and poetic force.

Any attempt to restrict the dissemination of art is an insidious act of censorship, a renunciation of the fundamental freedom that makes creation a territory of emancipation.

### **Art as an Act of Resistance**

For the past 15 years, the exhibitions presented by the Fondation Francès have not only showcased works of art—they have set them free. These works transcend visibility, entering a liminal space where the real and the imaginary entwine.

In doing so, they raise a vital and urgent question: who has the right to decide what can be seen, felt, or shared?

The freedom to show is an act of resistance — a rejection of conformity, of the homogenization of vision.

### **A Committed Stance**

Artists — whether painters, sculptors, performers, photographers or filmmakers — have always faced the forces of control seeking to silence or contain them. But art refuses to be confined. It escapes. It infiltrates the cracks of everyday life. It carves out spaces of disobedience. To exhibit art is to shatter dogmas, to challenge the viewer's gaze, and to confront the obvious with the unexpected.

### **Towards a Democracy of Vision**

Art must circulate freely. By exhibiting works that challenge, unsettle, and provoke, the Fondation Francès advances the democratization of the image. It's not just about showing — it's about stirring response, shaking convictions, and nurturing critical thought.

The freedom to disseminate is a continuing struggle against cultural amnesia, against the flattening of imagination.

### **Art as an Open Wound**

*La vie est une plaie dont je ne me défais pas — Life is a wound I can't get rid of* — rings like a manifesto. Art is a wound that must remain open: a tension between the visible and the suppressed, between what must be said and what is too often silenced.

To assert the right to show and share is to defend a fundamental truth: art lives only through movement, confrontation, and transmission.

**To forbid, censor, or restrict is to condemn humanity to amnesia.**

**To show, to reveal, to disseminate — is to reclaim a fundamental right:**

**to exist through art, in full freedom, with fearless conviction and no compromise.**