

HUMEURS



FABRICE HYBER

VILLA CAVROIS

12 JUNE -

15 SEPTEMBER, 2024

FABRICE HYBER

Born in 1961 in Luçon, France, Fabrice Hyber studied science before going to the École des Beaux-Arts in Nantes. As a quantum artist, he employs a multidisciplinary approach to question notions of hybridisation. Acknowledged as one of the most inventive contemporary artists of his generation, in 2018 he was elected a member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts.

From "L'Hybermarché" at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris in 1995, to "Eau d'or, Eau dort, ODOR", which won him the Golden Lion at the 1997 Venice Biennale, his works are continually moving into new dimensions.

His unceasing quest to reimagine and repurpose resulted in his famous POFs (Prototypes d'Objets en Fonctionnement), a series of playfully reinvented, everyday objects. All of which were exhibited together for the first time in 2012, at the MAC/VAL, Val de Marne's contemporary art museum.

Hyber's constant exploration of the living world led him to adopt the colour green as a symbol of his artistic endeavour, and his many installations, such as "L'Homme de Bessines" in the gardens of the Palais Royal, Paris, in 2022, and "Ted Hyber", opposite Osaka railway station in Japan, bear witness to the universality of his vision. In Vendée, in the valley where he grew up, his dream forest is in the process of becoming a reality, thanks to the thousands of tree seeds sown there at his behest. This initiative earned him the title of ambassador for the French Forestry Commission's "Save Our Forests" fund. The poetic metamorphoses he creates reveal the artist's relentless focus on an art of interaction, offering a glimpse of a whole new field of possibilities.

"HUMEURS" AT THE VILLA

The artist Fabrice Hyber has been invited to take possession of Villa Cavrois, a "total work of art", completed in 1932 by the architect Robert Mallet-Stevens. In this 3 part exhibition, the multiple overlaps between their artistic universes are uniquely revealed. For a number of years now, Hyber has shown an unfailing commitment to regreening, of which the valley in Vendée is an example, and here this is expressed more subtly in Humeurs, where the kitchen garden once again becomes the centre of attention, amongst the cutting beds, greenhouses, tools, games, rose garden, chicken coop, manure heaps and orchard to which the grounds were originally home.

Ever playful, the artist has staged his POFs in a number of the villa's most iconic rooms, with the aim of interrogating and revealing all the rationality and practicality of Robert Mallet-Stevens's work of art. This invitation to reinterpret modern architecture through the prism of play and joy, however, in no way conceals the artist's deep commitment to the societal challenges of sustainable development.

POF

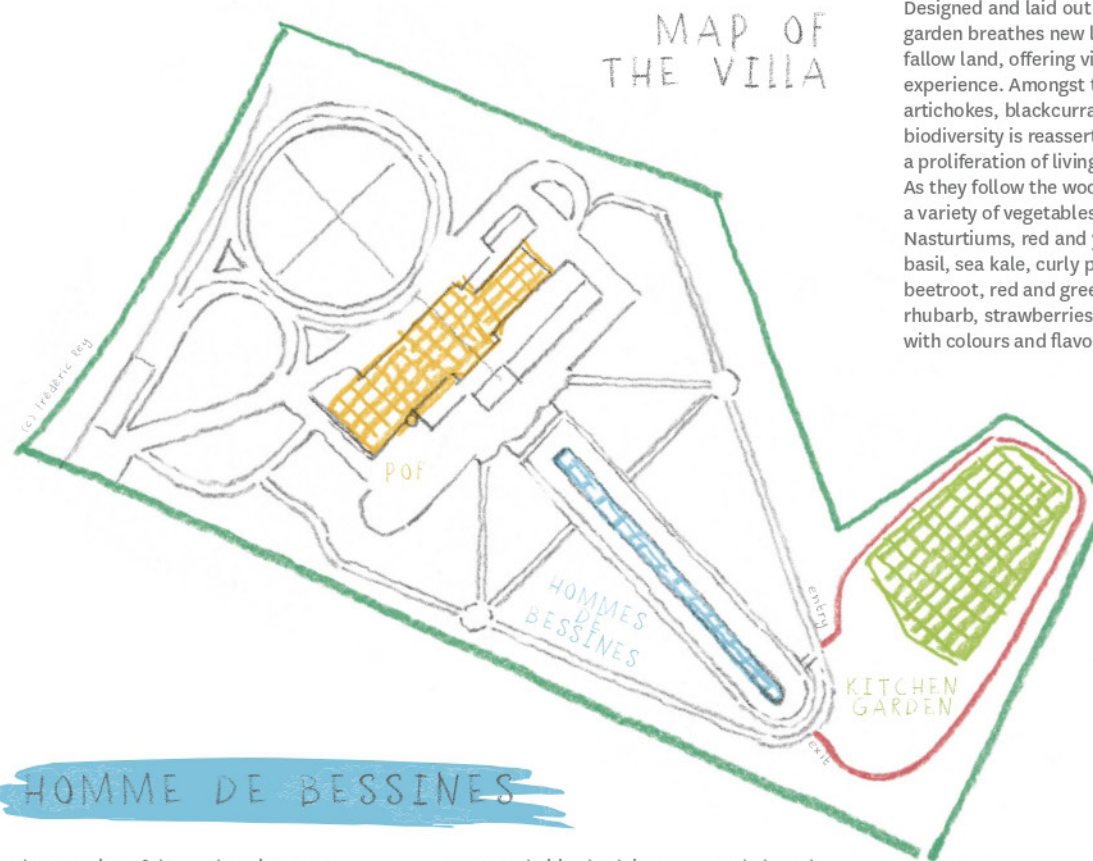
With his POFs (Prototypes d'Objets en Fonctionnement), the artist is experimenting with the process of transformation, as he reinvents ways of using and representing the objects that shape everyday life. Born from an idea, a sketch or a conversation, POFs test Hyber's hypothesis that every choice opens up a profusion of possibilities, in turn crystallised by reality alone.

POFs are not seen as finished products, but rather as invitations to contemplate, to be curious. Whether it's Le ballon carré (POF n°65) or L'horloge folle (POF n°154), Hyber punctuates the tour of the inside of the villa with his revisited objects, installations that visitors must digest in order to glimpse a new space-time continuum.

KITCHEN GARDEN

In artistic reminiscence of the Cavrois family's kitchen garden, Fabrice Hyber's kitchen garden invites visitors to go to the bottom of the villa garden. Not far from the first rows of shrubs that once formed the orchard, the artist offers his interpretation of a modern kitchen garden. Grown following the principles of permaculture, vegetable tubers rub shoulders with wild flowers, dozing under the spell of the aromatic exhalations of culinary herbs once used by household staff to embellish the recipes of summer.

Designed and laid out by Fabrice Hyber, the new kitchen garden breathes new life into over 500 sq m of formerly fallow land, offering visitors a totally new type of tour experience. Amongst the sunflowers and Jerusalem artichokes, blackcurrant bushes and rows of pumpkins, biodiversity is reasserting itself, reclaiming the land in a proliferation of living things that knows no boundaries. As they follow the woodchip path, visitors will come across a variety of vegetables: Nasturtiums, red and yellow chard, chives, borage flowers, basil, sea kale, curly parsley, coriander, potatoes, zinnias, beetroot, red and green cabbage, rocket, rhubarb, tomatoes, rhubarb, strawberries, French marigolds... A garden packed with colours and flavours!



HOMME DE BESSINES

On the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of Hyber's flagship installation, 34 women and men of Bessines line up alongside the water mirror. Fabrice Hyber created a series of anthropomorphic sculptures half his height, in response to a public commission from the town of Bessines. In 1991, more of these startling figures began to invade

towns and cities both in France and abroad. Symbolically sporting Hyber's iconic green, the 86cm sculptures feature water spurting from various bodily orifices. In an attempt to combine Fabrice Hyber's contemporary gaze with Mallet-Stevens's architectural avant-gardism, the sculpture-fountain offers new perspectives over the villa and its grounds.

Information about the POFs and other works exhibited on the indoor tour route is available via QR codes. Our reception team can provide you with the corresponding hard copies and answer any questions you may have.

The Centre
des monuments
nationaux and
the team at
the Villa Cavrois
would like to thank

Fabrice Hyber
and his team,

Henri van Melle,

Métropole Européenne
de Lille,
Voix du Nord,
France 3 HDF,
Brasserie Cambier,
Gueule Noire.



Villa Cavrois
60 avenue du Président
John Fitzgerald Kennedy
59170 Croix

03 20 73 47 12
www.villa-cavrois.fr

Watercolour of the vegetable garden
at the Villa Cavrois © Fabrice Hyber
Graphic design: Aurore Danneels
Printed by us



CENTRE DES
MONUMENTS NATIONAUX

