



CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

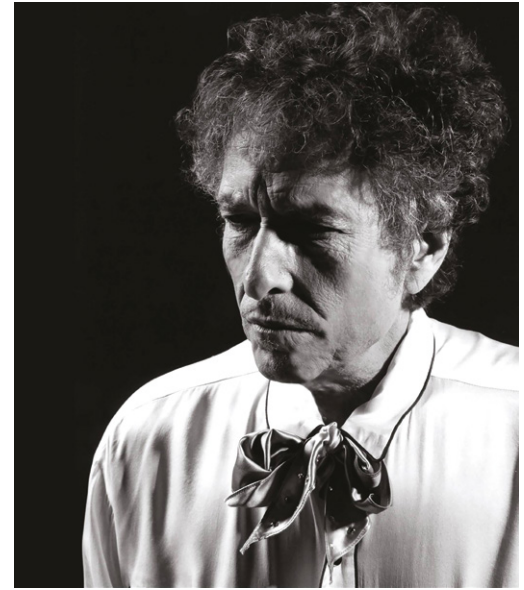
Provence

Bob Dylan

Drawn Blank in Provence

Renzo Piano Pavilion

9th May - 15th August 2022



Bob Dylan's first permanent sculpture in France to be unveiled at Château La Coste. The unveiling will coincide with a new exhibition of Dylan's paintings from his critically acclaimed Drawn Blank series. Seminal works by Monet, Matisse and Chagall will also be on display.

Château La Coste in Provence has been chosen by Bob Dylan as the venue for the first permanent installation of his sculpture in France. Entitled Rail Car, the new site-specific ironwork sculpture has been created by the Nobel Prize-winning songwriter, musician and artist in order to be installed in the Château's outdoor art estate. The monumental installation will be unveiled in May.

That unveiling will coincide with an exhibition featuring 24 of Dylan's paintings, entitled Drawn Blank in Provence. Another first - Dylan's first painting exhibition in France - this display works to contextualise the artist's work within this new milieu. The selection of his paintings, canvases based on drawings Dylan originally made whilst on tours of Europe and America between 1989 and 1991, will be displayed in Château La Coste's Renzo Piano-designed art gallery. Alongside them will be works by artists including Claude Monet, Henri Matisse and Marc Chagall, all of them masters of 20th Century art whose practice was profoundly influenced by their time in the South of France.

The exhibition, which will be accompanied by commentary from leading art historian, theoretician, educator, and director of the Hunter College Galleries, Joachim Pissarro, reveals the influence of these pioneering artists on Dylan's The Drawn Blank Series (2008–2013).

There will also be a focus display of a large-scale triptych, created by Dylan in 2021, installed in the Richard Rogers drawing gallery from May 9th for four weeks alongside the unveiling.

About Bob Dylan

Although internationally known as a singer and songwriter, Bob Dylan is also an author, film director, actor, disc jockey and visual artist. One of the most influential and, at times, controversial figures in the music of the past five decades, he has sold over 110 million records around the world and since 1988 has played around 100 shows a year in the 'Never-Ending Tour'.

Born into a close-knit Jewish community in Duluth, Minnesota, on 24 May 1941, Dylan was originally named Robert Allen Zimmerman. The family relocated to Hibbing and Dylan went to the University of Minnesota in 1959 but dropped out after a year. Moving to New York in 1961, he began to play at various clubs and signed up with Columbia Records. The following year he produced his first album and officially changed his name to Bob Dylan. After his initial interest in rock 'n' roll, his focus fell onto folk and protest music; he was heavily influenced by Woody Guthrie.

Dylan dates his origins as a visual artist to the early 1960s when a few drawings reached the public gaze on such album covers as *Music from Big Pink* (1968). It was around this time that he received his first oil paints as a gift for his 27th birthday and asked his neighbour, the American artist Bruce Dorfman, to show him how to use them. According to Dorfman, Dylan first aimed for the style of Vermeer, followed by Monet and then Van Gogh, eventually finding Chagall, whose work he had admired during a visit to the Guggenheim Museum in New York. In 1974 Dylan spent two seminal months studying art with American artist Norman Raeben and his interest in painting really took hold. A book of 92 drawings titled *Drawn Blank* were published in 1994, and exhibitions of reworked versions of these images were mounted at the Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz in Germany in 2007 and the following year at Halcyon Gallery in London. Dylan's first major series of work as a visual artist –

The *Drawn Blank Series*, *The Asia Series*, *The Brazil Series* and *The New Orleans Series* – have been exhibited in such prestigious locations as the Accademia Albertina delle Belle Arti in Turin, Italy, the Asahi Exhibition Centre in Roppongi, Tokyo, Copenhagen's Statens Museum for Kunst and the Palazzo Reale in Milan. In August 2013, *Bob Dylan: Face Value* was exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London. Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, commented: 'Bob Dylan is one of the most influential cultural figures of our time. He has always created a highly visual world either with his words or music, or in paints and pastels.'

Mood Swings, a major exhibition of new work by Dylan, opened at Halcyon Gallery in November 2013. Heralding the first public showing of the artist's iron works – seven gates created from vintage iron and other metal parts – the sculptures reveal the artist's lifelong fascination with welding and metalwork. The major exhibition *The Beaten Path* opened in 2016 and marked an extraordinary turning point in Dylan's visual art career. According to Jonathan Jones, art critic at the Guardian, 'A real artist made these drawings and paintings. Their integrity is compelling. They demand to be looked at, for their awe and wonder at the beauty and grandeur of being alive. These are the pictures of a true poet.' A truly unprecedented body of work, *Mondo Scripto*, opened at Halcyon Gallery in October 2018, presenting a selection of Dylan's most iconic songs, handwritten in pen on paper and accompanied with a corresponding drawing.

Now in his ninth decade, Dylan remains restlessly creative. In 2019 a landmark retrospective exhibition, *Retrospectrum*, opened at MAM Shanghai, before beginning a tour that will cover Asia, Europe and the USA in the coming years. In November 2021, *Retrospectrum* opened at the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, where more than 120 of Dylan's paintings, drawings and sculptures were exhibited in the USA for the first time. The exhibition embodies what American author Bill Flanagan describes as Dylan's 'indomitable will'; from the start, 'Dylan has been a man of vision and a man on a mission'

About Château La Coste

Situated in the midst of Provence between the historical city of Aix-En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where Wine, Art and Architecture live in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, the domain allows you to discover 40 major works of contemporary art installed permanently in the open air and 5 gallery spaces, offering you a unique experience at the heart of its 500-acres. Artists and architects are invited to visit the domain and discover the beauty of Provence. In turn, they are encouraged to choose a place in the landscape that speaks directly to them and are given the freedom to create a work that would live there. Château La Coste continues to evolve as new projects and installations are developed.

INFORMATIONS

Château La Coste

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www.chateau-la-coste.com

Open everyday
10am - 7pm

CONTACT PRESSE

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