



CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Provence



CHÂTEAU LA COSTE TO HOST PHOTOGRAPHER MARY MCCARTNEY'S FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION IN FRANCE

Moment of Affection
22 June - August 2022

"I have taken my time, looking through every contact sheet and photograph in my archive to discover Moment of Affection. I found simple moments, yet incredibly rich in feelings. And here they are." – Mary McCartney

April 2022 - Château La Coste is delighted to announce the unveiling of Mary McCartney's first solo exhibition in France this summer. Titled "Moment of Affection", the show traces 30 years of the British photographer's career, from her debut through to the present day, and showcases over 20 works from her personal archives, with some works created during lockdown and most of them never exhibited before.

Moment of Affection

The exhibition reveals an underlying thread in McCartney's work: capturing rare moments of unguarded intimacy and connection. From tender portraits of her family to emotionally charged pictures as well as poignant images of nature, her photographs all have an immediate relevance and a powerful universality that resonate with the viewer. Drawing on fundamental themes such as love, desire and grief, McCartney invites the viewer to reflect on an emotion, a memory, while also leaving space for interpretation.

"Collecting images"

Ever since she began taking photographs, McCartney has "collected memories" with her camera, in her own words, "collecting pictures". Capturing gestures and fleeting moments over the years, the photographer has accumulated over 5,000 contact sheets. The idea for the exhibition at Château La Coste came about a couple of years ago when McCartney looked back through her archives with friend and co-curator Gagosian Director Georgina Cohen. Following their collaboration on the exhibition "Mother Daughter" in New York, they went on to select pictures for McCartney's first solo exhibition in France. Today, as the world has dramatically changed, these "mementoes" have acquired a new, powerful dimension.

The Exhibition

Hosted in a beautiful 80-square metre vaulted gallery located in the original "bastide" of Château La Coste, the 23 photographs in the exhibition, mostly photographed on film with a Leica will be organised around two main themes: the quiet and profound emotions that characterise affection, on the one hand, and a rawer expression of love, on the other.

The first group of works includes both portraits and still lifes. McCartney's ability to capture the tenderness of a parent and child relationship most strikingly appears in the pictures of her own family, including a black and white portrait of her mother embracing her sister (*Mother and Sister*, Sussex, 1995) and a colour photograph of her father asleep on a sofa with her baby son (*Family Circle*, Sussex, 1999). The photograph of two young fans at a Morrissey concert gazing upon the singer in a quasi-devotional way beautifully conveys the powerful emotion that music can elicit (*Fervent*, London, 2004).

The second group of works features a more dynamic set of photographs. Highlights include a black and white work celebrating the youthful energy of a young couple kissing (*Snog*, 1999), behind-the-scenes photographs of young dancers preparing at the Royal Ballet (*Kick Back*, New York, 2004) and a picture of two white horses taken on McCartney's family estate in Scotland and demonstrating the photographer's decision to devote more of her work to animals and nature (*Frisky*, Sussex, 2016).

Georgina Cohen co-curator of the exhibition says: *"I'm delighted to co-curate Moment of Affection at Château La Coste with Mary who I have had the pleasure to know as a friend and collaborate with over the past few years. I think this moving and beautiful show reflects universal emotions and will resonate widely with audiences, especially during such unsettling times. It will be uplifting for the soul"*

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT MARY MCCARTNEY

Mary McCartney was born in London in 1969. Her photographic work has long concentrated on the world of portrait and is suffused with a deep personal investment that captures the creative chemistry between the photographer and her subjects.

McCartney's exhibitions and publications include "Off Pointe", an in-depth photographic study of the Royal Ballet after hours. Pictures from this series are today part of the permanent collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. First shown at The Royal Opera House, London in 2004, "Off Pointe" was also presented by The Royal Photographic Society at the Photo London Pavilion Commission at Somerset House in 2019.

In 2008, Mary McCartney presented "British Style Observed" at the Natural History Museum, London and in 2010, she unveiled "From Where I Stand," at the National Portrait Gallery and Michael Hoppen Gallery, London. Her two-volume book "Monochrome Colour" was published by GOST in 2014, with a concurrent exhibition at 3 Grafton Street, London, curated by de Pury de Pury.

In 2015, the "Mother Daughter" exhibition was first shown at the Gagosian Gallery in NYC. Later that year, Mary was chosen to take the official photograph of Her Majesty the Queen to mark the occasion of her becoming the longest reigning Monarch in history.

One of her most recent projects featured actor Mark Rylance and the cast of the theatre production *Twelfth Night*. The behind-the-scene pictures were published in a book entitled *Twelfth Night 15.12.13*.

ABOUT CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Situated in one of the oldest winemaking regions of France, between the historic city of Aix-En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture co-exist in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, Château La Coste invites visitors to discover over forty major works of contemporary art installed in the open air and five gallery spaces dotted across the 500-acre site.

Each year artists and architects are invited to visit the domain and discover the unique beauty of this Provençal landscape, with its famed cypresses, stone pines, olive trees and ancient oaks. They are given the freedom to create a site-specific work in an area of the site that inspires them, so Château La Coste continues to evolve as new projects and installations are developed. Artists and architects who have created permanent works at Château La Coste include Frank O. Gehry, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Louise Bourgeois, Richard Rogers, Sophie Calle, Tracey Emin and Jean Nouvel.

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