



CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Provence

MNÉMOSYNE

Anne & Patrick Poirier

Renzo Piano Pavilion, Château la Coste

10 April - 21 June 2021

Curator Laure Martin

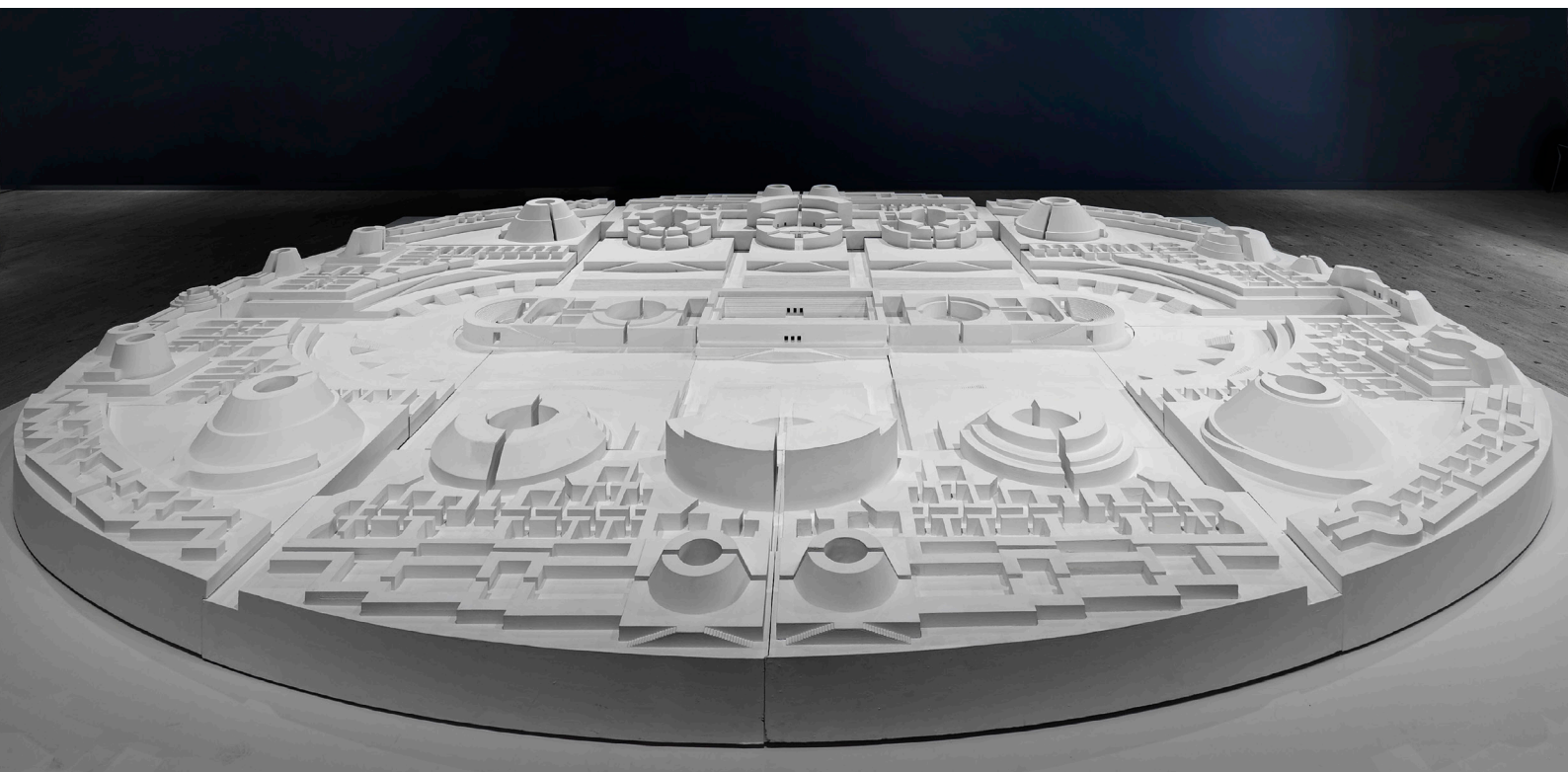
«This exhibition is a journey through the space and time of our memory.

It unites works from various periods that we have chosen to exhibit together in order to highlight both the links between the works themselves, and with the exhibition space. They are imaginary constructions inspired by real archaeological sites that we have come across over the course of our lives as «archeologists-architects».

Since the very beginning of our careers, we have harboured a passion for archeology and ruined cities, both of which have served our love of architecture, as we recognise the close relationship between archeology, architecture, memory and the psyche. Through this link we understood that architecture, be it in ruins or not, could act as a metaphor for memory and the psyche.

The purity of the space created by Renzo Piano led us to select white architectural pieces, a colour chosen to evoke the idea of utopia; white architecture within white architecture, which is itself a cerebral space. »

The exhibition brings together a dozen works from 1979 to 2020 and revolves around a monumental immaculate wood maquette untitled **Mnémosyne** (1990), named after the ancient Greek goddess of memory.



«It was a stay at the archeological site of Aizanoi in Anatolia that inspired this utopic memory. Mnémosyne is a city-museum-library mapped on to a brain. A vast architectural complex constructed over an elliptical surface renders the brain or skull geometric. Mnémosyne is divided lengthways into two symmetrical parts: the two hemispheres of the brain. In the centre are the two sections that create the images of our memory and imagination; these parts are made up of three separate buildings that each communicate between themselves: the theatre of memory, the theatre of forgetting and the amphitheatre of dreams. The space around this cluster is divided further into museums, libraries, observatories and conservatories, such as the observatory of the geometric perfection of the universe, or future memory and forgotten utopias; the conservatoire of images of passion and disorder, and the tower of contemplation or the tower of speculation. The numerous rooms inside these buildings have obscure names, for example: the room of memory fragments, the room of forgotten voices, the room for the journeys of the soul, the room for images of melancholy, the room of missing people, the room of the memory of the future, the room of images of pleasure, the room of forgotten deities, etc. One sees a poetic organisation of the memory and the psyche. The notes, drawings, and maps accumulated over the course of our research are displayed on the walls and act as the keys to enter into the world of *Mnémosyne*.»

A set of preparatory drawings from 1990, *Les archives de l'architecte*, and drawings from 2019, *Mnémosyne*, dernière campagne de fouilles, shows both the genesis of this project and more recent developments of this major piece in the couple's work. Anne and Patrick Poirier often revisit the key themes in their work.

Four plaster architectural works, titled *Lost Archetypes* confirm the duo's passion for architecture. «These pieces are part of a series of utopic works. The very first ones were inspired by the site of Villa Adriana, a solar site erected by emperor-architect Hadrian between 118-138 AD. These different works were constructed in the style of geometrical archetypes: the square, circle, cylinder, triangle and pyramid. Together they make up the model of a utopia whose original map is now lost. We may have found them in the room of lost archetypes during our excavations undertaken in our *Mnémosyne*. But time and oversight had already begun their work of attrition and destruction.»



Lost Archetypes, 1979 © Anne et Patrick Poirier, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand. Photo: Aurélien Mole

In the intimate outdoor space designed by Renzo Piano Anne and Patrick Poirier form a new landscape respectful of «genius loci» and favorable to contemplation, responding to the natural light and the indoor works in the exhibition.

The visitor is invited to sit on *Trône Mesopotamia* (2015) for a still journey, free from the notion of time. «This sculpture in black granite bears the name, engraved in gold letters, of one of the far away civilisations where we once travelled. Civilisations gave us writing, that is to say they gave us memory and history. Civilisations and populations are today in part destroyed by wars and savagery. »



Trône Mesopotamia , 2015 © Anne et Patrick Poirier. Courtesy Domaine du Muy. Photo JC Lett

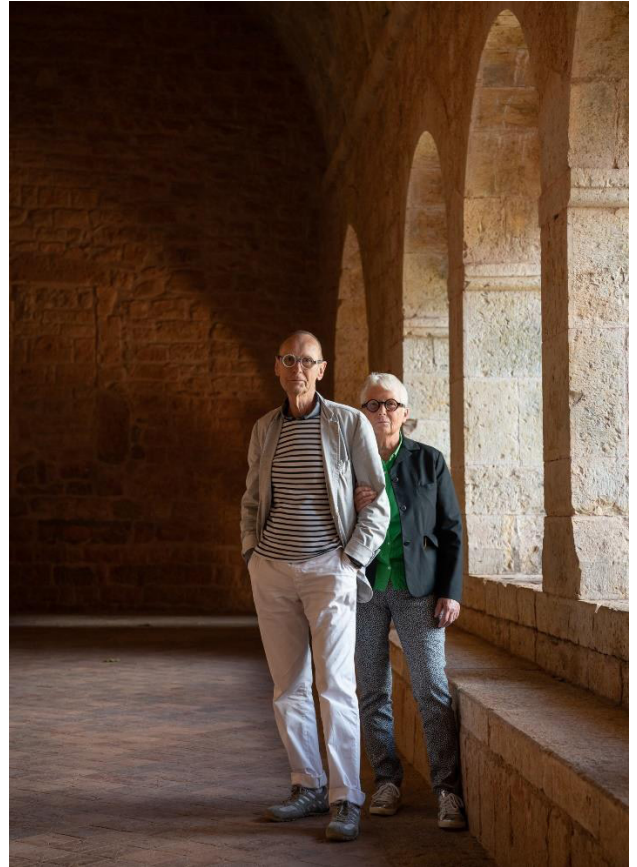
Floating on the water's edge, *Mundo perdido* (2020) is a sculpture of three pyramids in golden bronze, specially created for this space to reflect in the pool. Their forms, as the artists recall, find origins in the memories of travelling to Central America.

«It was upon the return from a trip to Tikal, Guatemala, where ancient Mayan pyramids of dizzying heights emerge from the jungle, that this cycle of architectural works was born in 1979. We were, and still are, fascinated by those long, almost vertical, stairs that ascend to the sacred refuges perched at the top.»

The evocation of a former powerful universe which has long disappeared returns to the notion of fragility which runs through the work of Anne and Patrick Poirier.

ABOUT ARTISTS

Having graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des arts décoratifs, Anne and Patrick Poirier spent four years in the Villa Medici in Rome. From the beginning of their time there in 1968, they decided to work together. Abandoning their respective egos, they brought together their ideas and sensibilities and their collaborative works are the fruits of this shared labour. They are no longer solitary artists working in their studios searching for their own personal language, but travellers, site surveyors, pioneers of different civilisations, religions and cultures (in the East, Middle-East, Central America, the United States, etc.). Rejecting the conventional roles of 'sculptor' or 'painter', they instead assume those of 'archeologist' and 'architect', interchangeable according to the circumstances. They no longer undertake exclusively formal research, but, through an artistic approach to human sciences, they venture into memory, which they consider to be a fundamental value, the basis of all intelligence between all beings and societies. Being children of the war (Anne was born in 1941 in Marseille, Patrick in 1942 in Nantes), they reveal the fragility of civilisations and cultures and their aesthetic is often that of fragmentation, ruin and catastrophe. As multidisciplinary artists, they have developed a polymorphic œuvre for more than 50 years.



Anne et Patrick Poirier 2019 © Ambroise Tézenas – Centre des monuments nationaux

In more than 50 years of working together, they have had solo exhibitions in renowned museums and cultural institutions : Neue Galerie-Sammlung Ludwig, Aix-la-Chapelle (1973) ; Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin (1977) ; CAPC, Bordeaux (1977) ; Musée national d'art moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1978) ; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Bruxelles (1978) ; MoMA, New York (1978) ; Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn (1978) ; PS1, New York (1980) ; Festival d'automne, chapelle Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière, Paris (1983) ; Musée d'art contemporain, Montréal (1983) ; The Brooklyn Museum, New York (1984) ; Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich (1988), Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienne (1994) ; Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne (1999) ; The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (1999-2000) ; CREDAC, Ivry-sur-Seine (2001) ; La Verrière, Bruxelles (2004) ; Festival d'Avignon, chapelle Saint-Charles, Avignon (2009) ; Couvent de la Tourette, Evieux (2013) ; Musée des Beaux-Arts, Nantes (2014) ; Musée d'art moderne et contemporain Saint-Etienne Métropole, Saint-Etienne (2016-2017), Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden, Cragg Foundation, Wuppertal (2016-2017), Maison européenne de la photographie, Paris (2017), De Pont Museum, Tilburg (2018-2019), Villa Médicis, Rome (2019).

They have also participated in a number of international events : Biennale des Jeunes, Paris (1973) ; Venice Biennale (1976, 1980, 1984) ; documenta VI, Cassel (1977) ; Istamboul Biennale (1989) ; Vienna Festival, Austria (1991) ; Lyon Biennale (2000) ; Busan Biennale, South Korea (2002) ; Buenos-Aires Biennale (2002) ; Valencia Biennale, Spain (2003) ; La Havana Biennale (2006) ; Echigo-Tsumari Triennale, Japan (2015) ; Carambolages, Grand Palais, Paris (2016), FutuRuins, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, Italie (2018-2019), Eldorama, Tri Postal, Lille (2019), Homère, Louvre-Lens, Lens (2019).

Their works are part of both public and private collections across the world.

In France they are represented by Galerie Mitterrand, in Switzerland by Galery Alice Pauli and in Italy by Galleria Fumagalli.

Since the passing of their only child Alain-Guillaume in 2002, they have lived and worked in Lourmarin in Provence.

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 & Architecture live in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, the domain allows you to discover 36 major works of contemporary art installed permanently in the open air and 3 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

Exhibition	Mnémosyne
Artists	Anne et Patrick Poirier
Dates	10 April - 21 June 2021
Address	2750 route de la Cride - 13610 Le Puy Sainte Réparate
Times	Everyday / 12pm - 6pm
Site	www.chateau-la-coste.com
Instagram	@chateaulacoste

EXPOSITIONS DE ANNE & PATRICK POIRIER À VENIR EN PROVENCE ET EN OCCITANIE

ANIMA MUNDI, Abbaye du Thoronet, 19 May - 19 September 2021 - <http://www.le-thoronet.fr>

ERRANCES, Domaine du Muy, Le Muy, 14 May - 11 July 2021 - <http://www.domainedumuy.com>

ULYSSE, VOYAGE DANS UNE MÉDITERRANÉE DE LÉGENDES, Hôtel Départemental des Expositions du Var, Draguignan - 4 June - 22 August 2021 - <https://hdevar.fr>

LA MÉMOIRE EN FILIGRANE, Musée régional d'art contemporain (MRAC), Sérignan, 10 October 2021 - 20 March 2022 - <http://mrac.laregion.fr>

PRESS CONTACT

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