

FONDATION DU
CHÂTEAU DE CHILLON
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PRESS KIT

Temporary exhibition 'Christine Sefolosa – Casting off', from 29 August to 24 November 2019

Swiss painter Christine Sefolosa's unique artistic world will be housed in various rooms throughout Chillon Castle from 29 August to 24 November 2019. Her monumental boat series – containing some one-of-a-kind creations – echoes the place, its history and its landscape.

Following Kyoto, Paris, Karlsruhe and New York, Montreux-born artist Christine Sefolosa (1955) has been invited to present around 20 works at Chillon Castle, an entire fleet of vessels for the exhibition 'Casting off'.

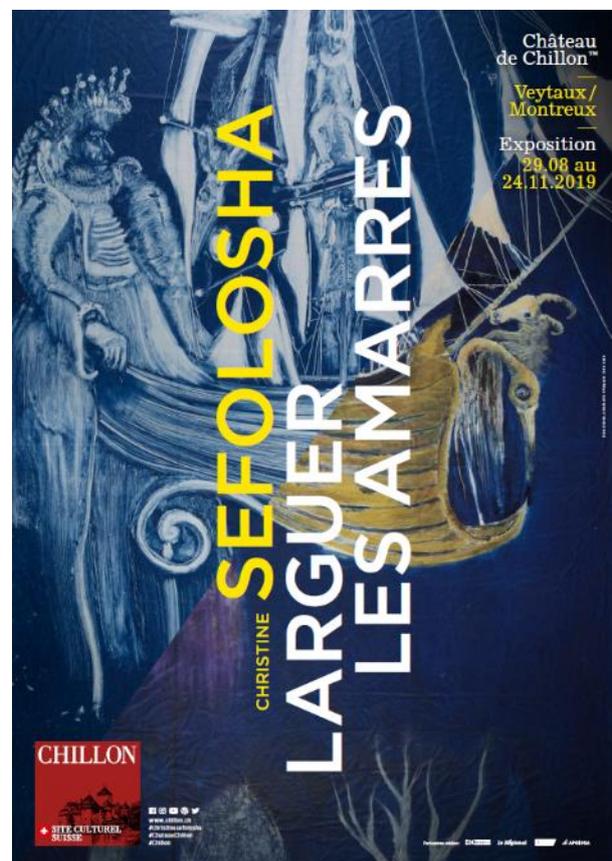
Ghost ships sailing between life and death, polymorphic beings and mythical creatures... just some elements in the world of Christine Sefolosa. Fundamentally unique, Christine Sefolosa's work veers far from artistic trends, and technical and aesthetical conventions. It defies norms and is an artistic blend of medium, materials and the artist's dreamlike world. A world that feeds on her childhood and life experiences, here and in South Africa.

From earth to boats

There are recurring themes throughout the Christine Sefolosa itinerary. They are categorised by the subject at hand but also, most often, by the use of materials, techniques and colours. These themes form groups over time and are connected to series. After the first themes of 'earth' and 'tar', followed by 'processions', boats first appeared in the 2010 exhibition *Vaisseaux fantômes* (Ghost Vessels) at the Polad-Hardouin gallery in Paris. 'They are not devoid of context,' explains Christine Sefolosa, 'the aim was for all of these images to be linked together in a network. I would say that my ships, my morphing (or not) beasts all stem from the same concern: they all speak of transformation, passing from one reality to another. I like to think of it as discovering a hidden side that goes far beyond appearances.'

Series of unique monotypes

Like many other artists, Christine Sefolosa immersed herself in Chillon Castle, its history and surrounding landscape. In Lutry, in the workshop of specialist monumental printer, Raymond Meyer, Christine Sefolosa brought a series of monotypes inspired by



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Chillon to life. Monotypes are unique works, prints obtained by transferring ink from an ephemeral surface. At the beginning of the creation process, Christine Sefoloshia places a large plexiglass sheet on the floor. This is then covered with a thick layer of intaglio ink. On the floor, she will remove part of this layer with an ink roller. Her tools – cloths, paintbrushes or her fingers – help produce a halftone effect. Without a sketch to guide her, she dives in and lets her sensations, or even specific experiences or memories, do the talking. She explains that removing these elements is a means of getting straight to the crux. Once this step is complete, the piece moves to the press, which will print this image on a medium such as Japanese paper. This is then pressed a second time, creating yet another opportunity for chance to enter into the paper printing process. This initial print can then be reworked even further by the artist. The more times it passes through the press, the more colours can be added.

'Casting off'

The series of boats that can be seen at Chillon Castle mainly consists of large monotypes. These vessels are submerged, floating or flying. Christine Sefoloshia says, 'To me, ships seem to have an essential symbolism. They have represented much more to me than piles of metal. They can be personified, transforming into gigantic beings. I feel I can see a formal translation of the subconscious in them. Deep-water shipwrecks harbour a memory, various fragments of life.' Inhabited by spectral figures, skulls or animals, they seem like almost blurry snapshots of a mysterious voyage.

Events and guided tours

Public guided tours with Christine Sefoloshia are due to be held on Saturday 7 September and Saturday 9 November at 2pm, and Thursday 26 September at 5:30pm. Chillon Castle's key autumnal events, such as 'Scary Night at the Castle' (Saturday 12 October) and 'Visiting Museums as a Family' (Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November) will be centred on the artist.

The press conference with the artist will take place on Tuesday 27 August at 10am.

Visuals are available here: <https://www.chillon.ch/en/Z5027/images-logos>

Watch this video to discover Christine Sefoloshia's work and her monotype technique:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmPSQMmfUFY&feature=youtu.be>

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Visiting the exhibition

'Casting off' will literally inhabit Chillon Castle, invading various locations in the famous, historical monument. Christine Sefolosa's works will unleash a delicate, dreamlike world on the various rooms of the castle. Visitors are invited to pass through these haunted premises and enter into the artist's world along two itineraries, one of which is especially designed for families with children.

The tour will begin at the castle entrance, in room 4, where visitors can enjoy an introduction to the exhibition.

The mysterious ambiance of the fortress's underground, vaulted cellars offer an additional dimension to the artist's unique work. The best known of these rooms, the former prison (9) – where the prisoner Bonivard inspired the famous Lord Byron poem – captures the nature of the monotype 'Night Flight' (2017) in its entirety. A different mood altogether will be created in the Loggia Parlamenti (36), home to the large canvas 'Carcass', which has already been exhibited in several locations throughout the world. The same goes for the Corps de Logis (33) where 'The Captain' and 'Sargasso Sea' will be exhibited. The Anken Room offers a more intimate digression, where visitors can see 'King's "Nacelle" Ship' (produced especially for the exhibition) and learn more about Christine Sefolosa's career.

The Coat of Arms Hall (18) will, undoubtedly, be one of the most impressive stops on the tour; there, visitors can admire the series of original monotypes alongside other emblematic works such as 'Black Moon' or 'Skulls'. These monumental creations will be hung in such a manner that they will completely surround visitors as soon as they walk through the door. This museographical choice helps penetrate the artist's real *and* figurative worlds. The Coat of Arms Hall will also house display cabinets containing Christine Sefolosa's sketchbooks and tools. Films, objects and explanatory boards will offer further information on the monotype technique, which is largely unknown to the general public.

In addition to the three public guided tours with the artist (7 and 26 September, 9 November), visitors can also arrange tours with our castle guides in French, German and English by writing to info@chillon.ch. Tours last 60 minutes and cost 90 CHF (excluding castle admission).



Christine Sefolosa, World Boat, monotype 200x520cm, Atelier Raymond Meyer, 2019 Collection de l'artiste © Photographie : Corinne Cuendet

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Exhibition-related events and guided tours

Guided tours of the exhibition with the artist*

Saturday 7 September and 9 November at 2pm, Thursday 26 September at 5:30pm

A special guided tour with Christine Sefolosha to explore the 'Casting off' exhibition and dive into her world.

Scary Night at the Castle*

Saturday 12 October, 6:30pm-11:30pm

Terrible Beasts

Children and grown-ups can come and frolic with the animals roaming the castle: unicorns, sphinxes, and dragons galore. Tickets are available on presale only, from 17 September at www.chillon.ch.

Autumn half-term workshops*

Tuesday 15 and 22 October, 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm

Painting workshop

Children aged 8 to 12 are invited to come and learn about the tempera painting technique and paint their favourite mythical creature.

Visiting Museums as a Family*

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November, 10am-4pm

This workshop forms part of the programme run by the Association des Musées de la Riviera and is a chance for the whole family to test out their monotype-making skills.

*For prices, terms and conditions: www.chillon.ch / info@chillon.ch / +41(0)21 966 89 10

Practical information

CHRISTINE SEFOLOSHA – CASTING OFF

29 August to 24 November 2019

Unaccompanied tour: 6 CHF (children), 12.50 CHF (adults), 10.50 CHF (reduced: student, apprentices, senior citizens aged 60 and above)

Tickets: www.chillon.ch or at the ticket office

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About Christine Sefolosa



©Mario Del Curto

Christine Sefolosa was born in 1955 in Montreux, where she lives and works. From a very early age, she developed a taste for drawing and playing with materials and colours. In doing so, she built up her own artistic universe, her own 'refuge' where she could express herself freely. Aged 20, she moved to South Africa, in a period when it was shattered by the apartheid regime. She gave drawing classes in a Hindu township and met South African artists. This life under the strict apartheid regime left an indelible mark.

Upon her return to Switzerland, Christine Sefolosa signed up for a foundation course with the European branch of the California-based Art Center College of Design in La Tour-de-Peilz. She followed her teacher's advice and abandoned this conformist course in favour of her self-taught work. This decision set the artistic wheels in motion. In 1988, she exhibited her works for the first time in the Galerie la Luna in Vevey. She then met two significant women who went on to encourage her in her work: Geneviève Roulin, the then curator at the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne; and Cérés Franco, French gallery owner and collector. From 1994 onwards, she exhibited at the L'œil de

Bœuf gallery in Paris and, in 1995, she took part in the first exhibit held at Halle St-Pierre. From 1996 onwards, she was invited to exhibit in the United States of America, where she met American artists and learned about their worlds.

Today, Christine Sefolosa exhibits in Switzerland and abroad. She is represented in Lausanne by the Galerie de l'Univers, in New-York by the Cavin-Morris Gallery, in Paris by the Galerie Yeux Fertiles and in Kyoto by the Miyawaki Gallery. She feels a strong attachment to her region and has woven enriching professional ties here, especially with the intaglio printer Raymond Meyer, in Lutry.

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About Chillon Castle

Chillon Castle is an 11th-century fortress and Swiss cultural site that is held dear by both the Swiss, and visitors from near and far. The historical site is one of Switzerland Tourism's top 10 attractions. In 2018, the Fondation du Château de Chillon (FCC – Chillon Castle Foundation) welcomed over 402,000 visitors. Nestled in the extraordinary natural surroundings of Lake Geneva and the Alps, Chillon Castle represents a key stopping point on the heritage and tourist trail. It has boasted international renown since the 19th century.



Prisoner Bonivard's former prison ©FCC / Photo Ronny Perraudin

Materials and contact details

PHOTOS

Link to download a selection of photos of the exhibition and the castle: <https://www.chillon.ch/en/Z5027/images-logos>

VIDEO

Link to a video of Christine Sefolosa explaining her work and the monotype technique:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmPSQMmfUFY&feature=youtu.be>

CONTACT DETAILS

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