

THE GRIMALDI FORUM

July 20th 2000 - The Inauguration

On July 20th 2000, the Principality of Monaco will inaugurate a new cultural and congress centre: the Grimaldi Forum.

Overlooking the seafront, just a stone's throw from the hotels and Casino, the Grimaldi Forum makes a major contribution to the Principality's economic and cultural life. Its design is adapted to large-scale business and trade conventions as well as to prestigious cultural events. Faced with competition from other European establishments, the Principality chose to go further still and launch a new class of venue. The Grimaldi Forum, the fruit of this decision, is an exceptional site with almost 12,000 sq. m. of exhibition space, adaptable to all types of event, offering unrivalled technical possibilities and whose scenographic facilities have nothing to envy those of any great opera house.

The Grimaldi Forum is a place for business tourism. It also sets out to become a cultural institution in its own right, whose reputation will develop around a twofold programme of cultural events:

- The organisation of cultural happenings using an ideal combination of skills and know-how and, in certain cases, in partnership with renowned cultural institutions. Each event will be supervised by a specialist in the relevant field, thereby ensuring the acknowledgement of the art world, yet at the same time making it accessible to publics from all walks of life. Thematic exhibitions dedicated to major artistic movements, questions of heritage or civilisation, subjects that will encompass contemporary art in all its diversity (plastic arts, architecture, design, audiovisual creation, live performances) will take place each summer at the Grimaldi Forum.

- The "Monaco Danse Dances Forum" (MDDF), an all-embracing event on the theme of Dance to be held for the first time in December 2000, promises to become an outstanding event in the professional dance calendar. Functioning as different "sections" - auditions, a "professional market", symposiums and awards - the MDDF will come alive with shows, workshops, debates and exhibitions featuring the very best in international dance. It will also provide a platform for meetings and exchange between choreographers, dancers, composers, and creators from the plastic arts, cinema and many other disciplines.

The Grimaldi Forum also plays host to Monaco's most prestigious cultural entities - the Philharmonic Orchestra, the Monte-Carlo Opera and Ballets - for exceptional performances and other international shows.

"AIR-AIR"

July 21th to August 27th - The Exhibition

"AIR-AIR" uses records built up by a specialist organisation, "Le 27^{ème} Stratagème & Inflate-unit-research", to look back over the ways in which inflatable structures are used by a host of creative disciplines: architecture, plastic arts, fashion, science, industry, aeronautics, etc. The exhibition considers inflatables as a technical innovation that continues to transform society, but also opens our eyes to the dream-like and sometimes utopian artistic experiences it has inspired.

Inflatable objects can be traced back to ancient times, with ship's sails, skins swollen with air for carrying water, and other everyday inflatable objects from containers to playthings. Air and inflatables were also a subject of study for Middle Ages alchemists. Moving on to the seventeenth century, the first successful flight was made in an inflatable structure.

The early twentieth century saw the arrival of the tyre, an offspring of the automobile and aeronautic industries. The "inflatable medium" has also lent itself to advertising, sport and leisure, with inventions such as beach toys. Turning to architecture, the first inflatable structures were developed by American engineer Walter Bird, in 1948. Around then, both civil and military engineering were adapting the same technique to dams, barrages, inflatable dinghies and decoys (inflatable tanks and aircraft). The aeronautic industry turned its attention to new forms of dirigible, inspired by the discovery of helium, an inert gas that replaced hydrogen. Little by little, spectacular creations began to emerge from laboratories and workshops: lunar habitats, inflatable space laboratories, weather balloons, etc.

The 1960s and 70s, marked by the explosion of Pop Culture and the consumer society, inspired the creation of utopian inflatable structures, in particular in town-planning and architecture. An exhibition devoted to this phenomenon, held at the City of Paris Museum of Modern Art in March 1968 and organised by *Utopie* magazine and AJS-Aerolande, presented the different applications of these inflatable structures in all their diversity: industry, plastic arts, architecture, design, product engineering, transport and advertising, to name but some. More recently, in 1999, the Architectural League of New York organised an exhibition in New York, and at the I.F.A. in Paris, of inflatable structures in architecture and design. The Hot Air Balloon Art Festival held in Tokyo in April-May 1999 also exhibited inflatable artworks.

The economic slump and oil crisis of the 1980s brought the use of inflatables to an abrupt end. Only industry and science, civil and military engineering and the aerospace industry continued research into new applications. However, since 1997 inflatables have once again fired the imagination of a new generation of plastic artists, designers and events organisers.

"AIR-AIR" is an inter-disciplinary exhibition that promotes exchanges between artists from a variety of fields. It builds valuable bridges between plastic arts, architecture, design, industry, the cinema, etc. It also provides an opportunity to present these disciplines in a single space, at the same time developing specific display concepts for each one (exhibition, Web site, audiovisual).

Research and technological progress continue to push back the limits of inflatable structures and their applications, at the same time preserving their original characteristics: portable, adaptable, fun, unconventional, compact and quick to install.

The variety of environments in which inflatables can be used - water, land, air, space - and the fact that certain works can be lit from the inside allow for spectacular scenic design. The different display concepts give rise to unexpected contrasts, original exhibition circuits, and installations and presentations in which spectators becomes players, taking on an active role in the scenario offered to them.

"AIR-AIR" is also a source of new creations. A "call for projects" was enthusiastically welcomed, and the many positive responses from plastic artists, designers, architects et al confirmed the continued attraction of the inflatable. Some twenty artworks, specially designed and created for the Grimaldi Forum and with the building's specific architecture in mind, will be produced for the exhibition.

Beyond the undeniable artistic value of the exhibition, "AIR-AIR" is also a light-hearted celebration that is open to all, surely the most appropriate way to mark the inauguration of the new Grimaldi Forum.

"AIR-AIR" IS:

- an exhibition that brings together some one hundred works from institutional collections (the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris and the French *Fonds Régionaux d'Art Contemporain*), French and international galleries and almost twenty artworks that have been specially produced for the Grimaldi Forum;
- airairshow.com, a Web site presenting the works in the exhibition in addition to the specific projects;
- air-airarchives.com, online archives on the theme of inflatable structures;
- a publication;
- a 26-minute documentary (Dieter Prod.);
- films and workshops throughout summer 2000.

"AIR-AIR": FEATURED ARTISTS

PLASTIC ARTS: Richard BAQUIÉ-Virginie BARRÉ-Michel BLAZY-Jean-Luc BLANC-Marie BOURGET-Jean-Baptiste BRUANT-Lee BUL-Paul Mac CARTHY – Martin CREED-Simone DECKER- Jiri Georg DOKOUPIL-Philippe DURAND (to be confirmed) - Sylvie FLEURY & Sidney STUCKI- Peter FRIEDL (to be confirmed) –G.R.A.M.- Fabrice GYGI (to be confirmed) -Thierry HAUCH- Hans HEMMERT-Carsten HÖLLER-Fabrice HYBERT-Choi JEONG-HWA-Wendy JACOB-Izuru KASAHARA-Jeff KOONS (to be confirmed) – Yayoi KUSAMA - Bertrand LAVIER-Sabine LANG & Daniel BAUMANN- David LEROY & Elisa BLANC- Thom MERRICK-Jean-François MORICEAU & Petra MRZYK- Takashi MURAKAMI- Tetsuya NAKAMURA- Naoko OKAMOTO-PANAMARENKO-Présence PANCHOUNETTE-Philippe PARRENO- Philippe PARRENO & Maurizio CATTELAN-Bruno PEINADO-Javier PEREZ - Philippe RAMETTE-Pierre REIMER-Pablo REINOSO-Gerwald ROCKENSCHAUB-Risa SATO- Alain SÉCHAS-Roman SIGNER-Andy WARHOL (to be confirmed) -**ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN:** ARCHIGRAM (to be confirmed)– Martin Ruiz de AZUA- Matali CRASSET- Jean-Pierre DAVID- Hans-Walter MÜLLER-INFLATE Studio- Quasar KHAN- ORA-ÏTO (to be confirmed)-Gætano PESCE-RADI Designers – Denis SANTACHIARA – **FASHION:** Giorgio ARMANI (to be confirmed)- -Jean-Charles de CASTELBAJAC- COURRÈGES (to be confirmed)- LANVIN-Issey MIYAKÉ

WORKS LOANED FOR THE EXHIBITION

Richard BAQUIÉ Balloon-Event of 29-03-1982, 1982 FRAC Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

Marie BOURGET The Bubble, 1993 FRAC Franche-Comté.

Martin CREED Half the Air in a Given Space, 1998 Art & Public Gallery, Geneva

Sylvie FLEURY & Sidney STUCKI Masked Maniacs 1997 Philomène Magers Gallery, Munich

Wendy JACOB Squeeze Chair (Red Wool),1997, FRAC Montpellier

Choi JEONG-HWA Artificial Evolution, 1995 Galerie OZ, Paris

Quasar KHAN Chesterfield (4-piece suite), 1967 Fonds national d'art contemporain

Jacques-Henri LARTIGUE Abel Gance, Beauvallon 1927
Zizou, 1911 Association des Amis de Lartigue (to be confirmed)
Bertrand LAVIER Dolly, 1994 FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais.
Takashi MURAKAMI Dragon, 1997
Dob Dob, 1997 Emmanuel Perrotin Gallery, Paris
PANAMARENKO Aerostat, 1970 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris - Panama. Aerostat
Présence PANCHOUNETTE The Pressure of Dreams, 1974 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
Philippe PARRENO, Speech Bubbles, 1997, FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais.
Philippe PARRENO & Maurizio CATTELAN La Dolce Utopia, 1996, FRAC Poitou-Charentes
P. PARRENO & B. JOISTEN & D. GONZALEZ-FOERSTER & P. JOSEPH Video Ozone, 1989
Fonds national d'art contemporain
Javier PEREZ Inflatable Shirt, 1994 FRAC des Pays-de-la-Loire
Gaetano PESCE Up Chair, 1969 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
Gerwald ROCKENSCHAUB Untitled, 1998 Vera Munro Gallery, Hamburg
Denis SANTACHIARA Pisolò Bed 1996 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.
Roman SIGNER Balloon Under Ice, 1988 FRAC Poitou-Charentes

WORKS PRODUCED FOR THE EXHIBITION

Michel BLAZY –Raining Air
Jean-Baptiste BRUANT
Sylvie FLEURY – Rocket
HAHA- Dirigible (to be confirmed)
Izuru KASAHARA- Ghost Smiles
Yayoi KUSAMA- Balloon's Height (to be confirmed)
Sabina LANG & Daniel BAUMANN- Labyrinth
Hans HEMMERT- Balloon (to be confirmed)
Carsten HÖLLER – Toboggan
David LEROI & Elisa BLANC-BERNARD - Inflatable van with aircraft ailerons
Tetsuya NAKAMURA – Kagerou
Naoko OKAMOTO -Rocking Doll
Bruno PEINADO – Project for a Michelin Man
Philippe RAMETTE - Small Hot Air Balloon (to be confirmed)
Pierre REIMER - Air Pocket
Risa SATO – Baby and Small House
Xavier VEILHAN – Zodiac Dugout (to be confirmed)

"AIR-AIR" - CONTACTS

Exhibition Commissioners: Marie-Ève Mestre & Stéphane Magnin
e-mail: Lhoosl@aol.com

Artistic Consultant: Pierre Nouvion

Head of Cultural Events: Catherine Alestchenkoff
e-mail: calestchenkoff@grimaldiform.com
Tel.: + 377 99 99 20 02
Fax: + 377 99 99 20 01

Press Relations: Claudine Colin Communication

Tel.: +33 (0)1 42 72 60 01
e-mail: cocom@easynet.fr