

8 JULY → 15 OCTOBER 2023
OPENING ON FRIDAY 7 JULY 2023

NEO RAUCH

The Dream of Reason



Nest, 2012
300 x 250 cm
Oil on canvas
De Heus-Zomer Collection
Photo : Uwe Walter, Berlin
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Courtesy of the artist, Galerie EIGEN + ART Leipzig/
Berlin, and David Zwirner

From July 8 to October 15, 2023, the MO.CO. is organizing the first French retrospective of the painter Neo Rauch.

Born in 1960 in Leipzig, the painter Neo Rauch is considered one of the greatest contemporary German artists, noted as a figure surrounded by an aura of legend and mystery. His work, globally acclaimed, has influenced a generation of European painters, especially in France, who discovered him at the beginning of the 2000s. Molded by his artistic apprenticeship in East Germany—behind the Iron Curtain—and later associated with the emergence of the New Leipzig School, Neo Rauch has developed a singular style: figurative and seemingly narrative but altogether resistant to easy interpretation.

Enigmatic and ambiguous, Neo Rauch's paintings require long, slow viewing to appreciate their complexity of composition, games of scale, and abundance of symbols. They forge unexpected links between periods and places, history and the present, and depend on references to the Italian Renaissance, German Romanticism, and Socialist Realism. Practicing a “dreamlike” mode of painting in which he freely assembles scenes and allusions, Neo Rauch offers the

spectator multiple, idiosyncratic reflections on history, heritage, the power of art, the role of the artist, and the impasses of our contemporary society.

The ambitious MO.CO. exhibition brings together a hundred works by the artist, including more than forty paintings, often of impressive scale. Titled *The Dream of Reason*—in reference to Goya's *El sueño de la razón produce monstruos*, which has particularly inspired Neo Rauch—this retrospective traces the unique and unusual career of the painter from the early 1990s to the present. Starting with an ample selection of drawings and watercolors, the exhibition extends over the three levels of the MO.CO., presenting major paintings on loan from collectors and museums worldwide. Many of the works have never before been shown in France. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue, the first French publication on Neo Rauch, including an interview with the artist.

General curatorship:
Numa Hambursin, general director of the MO.CO.

Curatorship :
Pauline Faure, senior curator assisted by Deniz Yoruc and Julie Chateignon



PRESS ENQUIRIES

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ABOUT MO.CO.

MO.CO. is an artistic ecosystem that goes from training to collection, production, exhibition and mediation, due to the convergence of an art school and two contemporary art centers: the MO.CO. Esba (Superior School

of Fine Arts of Montpellier), the MO.CO. Panacée (laboratory of contemporary creation) and the MO.CO. (space dedicated to exhibitions of international scope).



MO.CO. Montpellier contemporain, 2022 © Photo : Salem Mostefaoui

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Summer 2023

ANA MENDIETA

From 3rd June to 10th September 2023

Opening: Friday 2nd June at 6pm at MO.CO. Panacée

NEO RAUCH

From 8th July to 15th October 2023

Opening: Friday 7th July at 6pm at MO.CO.

Autumn 2023

SOL ! #2, LA BIENNALE DU TERRITOIRE

From 14th October to 14th January 2024

Opening: Friday 13rd October 2023 at 6pm at MO.CO. Panacée

HUMA BHABHA

From 18th November 2023 to February 2024

Opening: Friday 17th November 2023 at 6pm at MO.CO.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain
13 rue de la République,
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Open Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 7pm (June-September) and 11am to 6pm (October-May)

Photos and credits
Visuals of the exhibition available online on the press area
www.moco.art
Login : press
Password : moco2019

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