

21 JUNE 2025 → 2 NOVEMBER 2025
OPENING ON SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2025 AT 1PM
MO.CO.

On a Bone Françoise Pétrovitch



Françoise Pétrovitch
Sans titre, 2024
Ink wash on paper, 120 × 160 cm
Courtesy Semiose, Paris
Photo: Pauline Assathiany © Adagp, Paris, 2025

This summer, MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain presents solo exhibitions by two major figures of the French contemporary art scene: Françoise Pétrovitch at MO.CO. and Jean-Marie Appriou at MO.CO. Panacée. In parallel, the 2025 graduate exhibition from MO.CO. Esba (curator Sophie Lapalu) will be held at the remarkable heritage site of the Faculty of Medicine in Montpellier.

Born in Chambéry in 1964, Françoise Pétrovitch has produced a prolific body of work since the 1990s, in which she utilises a number of mediums and techniques, such as ceramics, bronze, video, painting, wash and drawing. By virtue of a constant conversation with the artists who came before her, she takes on the traditional subjects of art history – portraits, landscapes and still lifes – and *folds* them into a new reading of the world marked by an absence of hierarchy. The ambivalent universes she creates, peopled by a galaxy of living beings, from animals to plants to humankind's immense diversity, play on paradoxical atmospheres that waver between the visible and the invisible, light and dark, unaltered and hybridised. This porous approach to boundaries is what enables Françoise Pétrovitch to focus the heart of her work on questions of intimacy, fragmentation, doubles, disappearance, solitude, transition and cruelty.

The MO.CO. exhibition is resolutely ambitious. Designed in close collaboration with the artist, it covers the entire spectrum of mediums and themes she explores in her work, including her relationship with directing, and brings together close to 130 pieces made between 1994 and 2025. Some of these, particularly those from the 1990s, will be shown to the public for the first time, while others – 30 or so – were created specifically for the MO.CO. project.

The exhibition opens with the portrait series *Cinémascopie* (2020-2024), presented in one unbroken sequence along the walls, immersing us in the intimacy of childhood and adolescence – a recurring and characteristic theme in Françoise Pétrovitch's work. Deliberately presented in non-chronological order, the next rooms of the exhibit focus on the work the artist developed in the 1990s, with its distinctive use of a variety of mediums: embroideries on canvas, drawings, and collages made out of school exercise books, postcards, labels and coasters. They show us Françoise Pétrovitch playing with words and language, a sense of quirkiness and subtle humour.

The first floor of MO.CO. hosts a sizeable series of wash drawings that conjure up strange landscapes occasionally reminiscent of Romantic or Symbolist aesthetics, and a gallery of tormented characters in the throes of aimless wandering. It also features large-scale paintings, one of which, of

PRESS CONTACT



Agence Commun'Art
Julie Tournier
jtournier@communicart.fr
+ 33 (0)6 51 54 85 74



Françoise Pétrovitch
Sans teint, 2024
Oil on canvas, 100 × 81 cm
Courtesy Semiose, Paris
Photo: Aurélien Mole © Adagp, Paris, 2025

monumental proportions, was produced for the exhibition. It is a testament to the luminous dimension which imbues Françoise Pétrovitch's work, including when her intent is to capture the notion of the in-between.

The ground floor is dedicated to an immersive video installation co-created with Hervé Plumet specifically for MO.CO. The video *Papillon* [Butterfly] combines five projections inspired by the different layers of glass that the artist painted during the filming process. Two large murals, depicting a butterfly-girl and a bird-rabbit as symbols of metamorphosis, will be painted on site, with the entire room bathed in purple smoky light.

Lastly, MO.CO.'s lower ground floor hosts Françoise Pétrovitch's bronze and ceramic sculptures, a coexistence of fantastic and hybrid creatures staged in collaboration with the artist. This collection includes the character of the

Ogresse [Ogress], as well as the piece *Sur un os* [On a Bone] (2024), which gave the exhibition its title, and depicts a little girl balancing on an ogre's femur. The previously unseen paintings of the *Sans teint* [Colorless] series, surrounding the group of sculptures, play on the ambivalence between the feminine and the masculine.

The exhibition comes with a richly illustrated catalogue in French and English, published for the occasion by Silvana Editoriale, with graphic design by Atelier Tout va bien. It includes a previously unpublished text by Numa Hambursin and a conversation between Françoise Pétrovitch and Rahmouna Boutayeb.

Curators:
Rahmouna Boutayeb and Numa Hambursin, assisted by Deniz Yoruc.



Françoise Pétrovitch
Exhibition view of *Passer à travers* at the Centre Pompidou
© Hervé Véronèse — Centre Pompidou

YOUNG AUDIENCE

***Passer à travers* [Pass Through]**
An exhibition-workshop by artist Françoise Pétrovitch, for ages 3 and up

From June 21 to September 21, free access at MO.CO. (13 rue de la République, Montpellier).

As part of the exhibition *On a Bone* and in connection with the upcoming opening of *Mille formes*, a center for artistic initiation for children aged 0-6 in Montpellier, MO.CO. will host the *Passer à travers* project, designed by Françoise Pétrovitch for the Centre Pompidou.

Artist Françoise Pétrovitch presents an interactive installation where the familiar characters from

her artistic universe come to life in three-dimensional form. Line, stroke, color, and drawing take on a new dimension, transforming into a unique sculptural experience.

A world of plants, animals, and human figures fills the space, standing like an enigmatic horde.

Holiday workshops, art activities, guided tours — find out more about MO.CO.'s programs for young audiences in the agenda section at www.moco.art.

PRESS CONTACT



Agence Communic'Art
Julie Tournier
jtournier@communicart.fr
+ 33 (0)6 51 54 85 74



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

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).

EXHIBITIONS

MO.CO.

On a Bone, Françoise Pétrovitch
Exhibition from 21 June to 2 November 2025
Opening on Saturday 21 June 2025, at 1PM
Curators: Rahmouna Boutayeb and Numa Hambursin
at MO.CO. (13 rue de la République, Montpellier)

MO.CO. Panacée

La cinquième essence, Jean-Marie Appriou
Exhibition from 21 June to 28 September 2025
Opening on Friday 20 June 2025, at 7PM
Curators: Caroline Chabrand et Numa Hambursin
at MO.CO. Panacée (14 rue de l'École de Pharmacie, Montpellier)

MO.CO. Esba

J'accueille avec plaisir tout ce qui viendra ensuite, MO.CO. Esba 2025 Graduate Exhibition
Exhibition from 18 June to 2 July 2025
curator: Sophie Lapalu
at the Faculty of Medicine (2 rue de l'École de Médecine, Montpellier)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Communication contacts
MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain
Margaux Strazzeri
Director of Communication
+33 (0) 4 99 58 28 40
+33 (0) 6 29 86 46 28
margauxstrazzeri@moco.art
communication@moco.art

Press and Media Relations Department
Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole et Ville de Montpellier
direction-presse@montpellier3m.fr
Tél. : 04 67 13 48 78
www.montpellier3m.fr - www.montpellier.fr

MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain
13 Rue de la République,
34000 Montpellier
Open Tuesday to Sunday, from 11 AM to 6 PM (October–May)
and from 11 AM to 7 PM (June–September)

MO.CO. Panacée
14 rue de l'École de Pharmacie
34000 Montpellier
Open Wednesday to Sunday, from 11AM to 6PM (October–May)
and from 11AM to 7PM (June–September)

Photos and Credits
Exhibition visuals available online in the press section
www.moco.art
Username: presse
Password: mocoPresse2024

PRESS CONTACT



Agence Communic'Art
Julie Tournier
jtournier@communicart.fr
+ 33 (0)6 51 54 85 74

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

