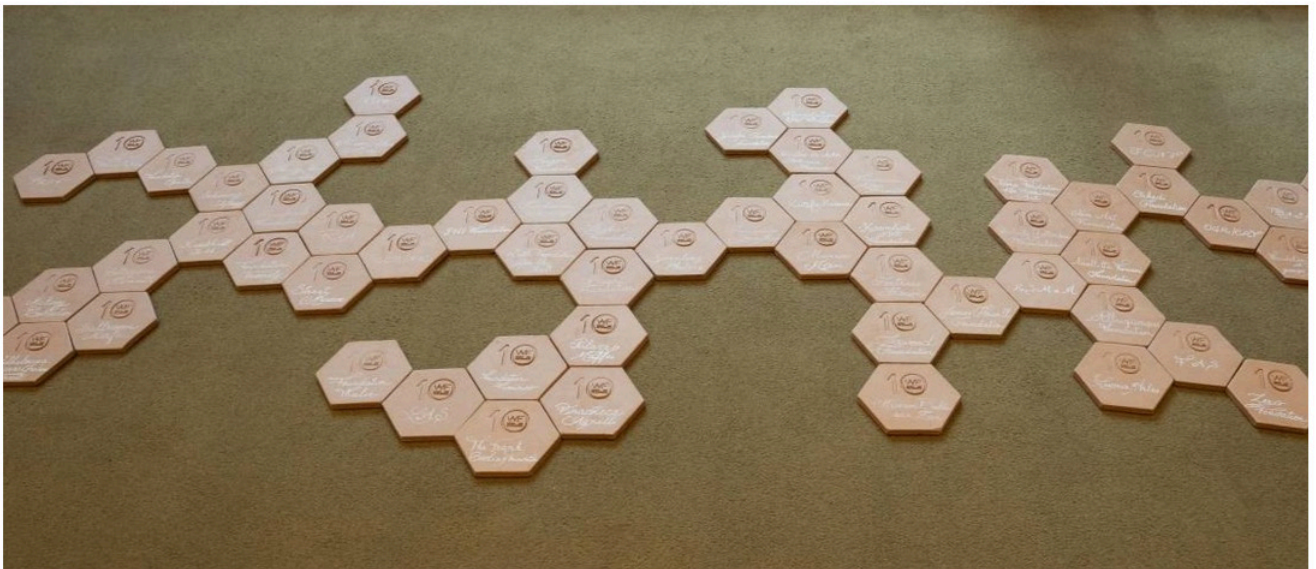




WORLD ART
FOUNDATIONS

Celebrating Art Foundations



WAF's 10th Anniversary Tomettes, given as a souvenir during WAF Global Summit 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal. This terracotta tiles are commonly used in the south of France, where WAF was born.

This year marks World Art Foundation's 10th anniversary! WAF first started with the mission of bringing art foundations together. Today, it has become a hub that enables decision-makers to share their knowledge and experiences to support and inspire each other. As the only network exclusively focusing on private art foundations, our growing membership spans the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

Looking back to our first 10 years and as a farewell to 2024, we would like to highlight art foundations celebrating decennaries of dedication to advancing and supporting the arts. Follow along and discover the foundations commemorating milestone anniversaries in 2024: 10 years of Fondation Thalie, 20 years of Langen Foundation, 30 years of the Hartung-Bergman Foundation, 40 years of Fondation Cartier, 50 years of Fondation Dubuffet and 60 years of Fondation Maeght!

Fondation Thalie



View from Fondation Thalie's 10th anniversary exhibition: Regenerative Futures. Courtesy of Fondation Thalie.

Fondation Thalie, was founded in 2024 by Nathalie Guiot, an author, editor, and exhibition curator. It first started as the association "Thalie Art Project" which then became a foundation, counting with an exhibition space, an art collection and a residency program based in Brussels, Belgium.

The foundation operates and hosts its exhibitions by both historic and emerging international artists in a house dating from the 1920s. They aim to promote dialogue between the visual arts and know-how through its exhibition program and their support to the work between the arts and the path towards ecological transition.

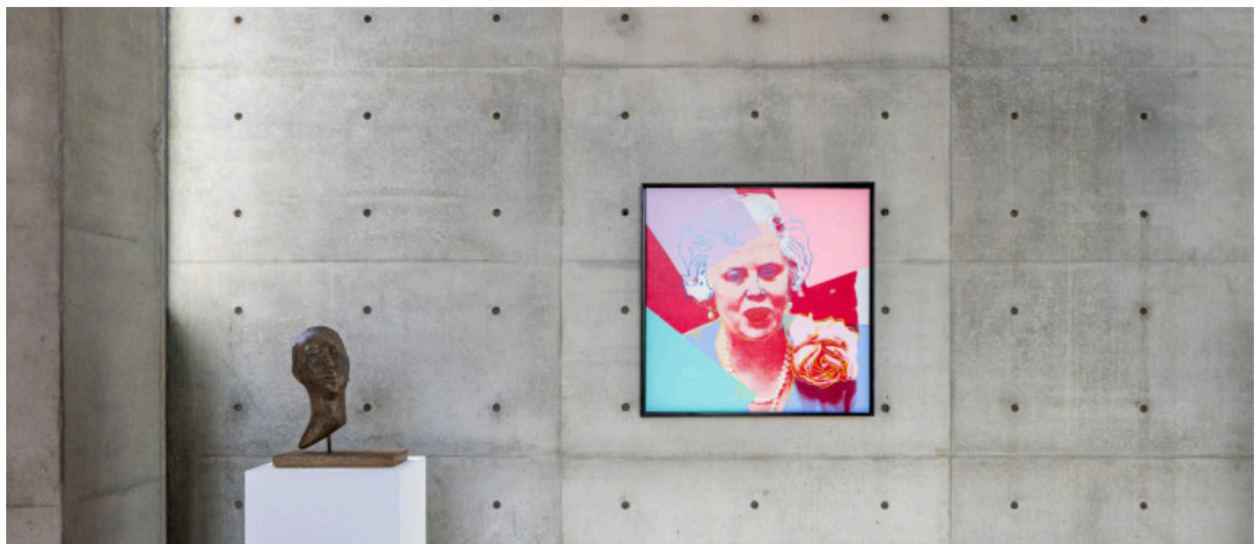
Their activities also include a podcast cycle titled “[Créateurs Urgence Climat](#)“, touching on creators facing the climate emergency. Their residency programme is open to artists and authors in Brussels but also in Arles, France. For the writing residency the foundation works along their own publishing house: Editions Ishtar, dedicated to contemporary writing.

“I wanted a place that brings together and fosters a community; a place for artists, the primary actors in this long-term project. A public meeting place for sharing and hosting encounters around creation. Traversing across modes of operation, the domestic space of the foundation aims to represent processes of engaged creation through speech, gestures, dance and texts; a sharing of knowledge and an ambition to de-compartmentalize artistic practices. A place that activates thought and prompts investigation into the great challenges of our society through the medium of art.”

-Nathalie Guiot, Founder

Earlier this year, the foundation announced that their headquarters in Brussels will close in 2025, although their work and mission will continue.

[Langen Foundation](#)





View from Langen's 20th anniversary exhibition: Three Generations – One Fascination. Courtesy of the Langen Foundation. ©Sebastian Drüen Fotografie.

The Langen Foundation opened its doors in 2004 at a former NATO military base renamed 'Museum Insel Hombroich'. This project started in 1994 by the German collector Karl-Heinrich Müller in a building designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando. The building houses the collection started in the 1960s by Viktor and Marianne Langen.

The collection showcases mainly Oriental Art and Modern Art. Counting approximately 350 Japanese works, it offers a representative overview of Japanese art from the twelfth to the twentieth century including religious art, ceramic pieces and paintings from the prehistoric Jōmon era and Buddhist statues from the Nara and Heian periods. Their modern art collection includes works from major international artists.

Although the foundation was founded 20 years ago, in 1979 Viktor and Marianne had already established a private museum in their home in Ascona, Switzerland. Since its opening the Langen Foundation has regularly showcased changing exhibitions of international artists, along with parts of the Langen collection.

Earlier this year, on the occasion of their 20th anniversary, a comprehensive exhibition was shown, focusing on the collected works of the children and grandchildren of the founding couple. For this special show, nine family members, who were influenced by the passion of their parents or grandparents, provided insight into their very personal exploration of art, in order to honour the life's work of the founders.

[Fondation Hartung-Bergman](#)





Villa Fondation Hartung-Bergman. Courtesy of Fondation Hartung-Bergman.

The Hartung-Bergman Foundation was created in 1994, following the wish of two key figures of modern art and abstraction: the German-French painter Hans Hartung (1904-1989) and the Norwegian artist Anna-Eva Bergman (1909-1987). The foundation is located at Hans and Anna-Eva's property, acquired by the couple in the sixties: a two-hectare olive grove on the hills of Antibes where they lived and worked until the end of their lives. They preserve their collection of works and archives and showcase the work of both artists.

The foundation houses a research laboratory in art history and welcomes researchers, art historians, critics, museum curators and exhibition commissioners. Their research activities support young researchers, the promotion and dissemination of their projects, as well as their integration into the academic fabric. As part of this initiative, they launched a biennial program around a major theme arising from the heritage of the foundation.

Their activities also include the production of catalogues raisonnés, temporary exhibitions, publications, the organization of seminars and collaborating with institutions in France and abroad for off-site exhibitions. Opening only for several months of the year, the foundation is currently closed but will be reopening its doors on May 2025. The building where the foundation operates was originally designed by Hartung and built in 1961 as a home and studio, today it constitutes a remarkable architectural ensemble, listed as 20th century heritage. Their premises counts with three separate buildings: the artists' former home, which is now a research centre and then nestled in the olive groves are the two studios.

Fondation Cartier



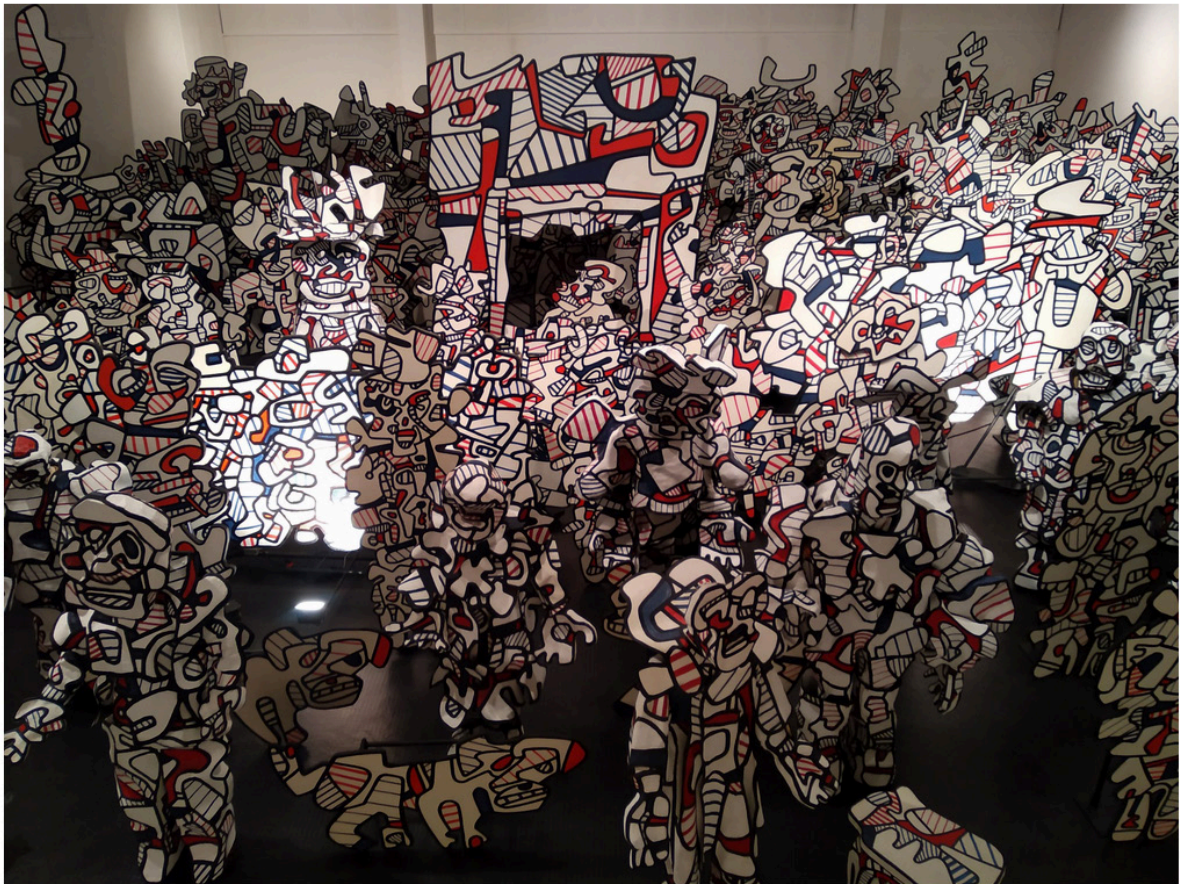
Facade of Fondation Cartier's new headquarters, located at Palais Royal in Paris, France. ©Martin Argyroglo.

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, was established in 1984, by the french luxury brand Cartier International, as a creative space for artists and a place for the general public to encounter art. Since its beginnings, the foundation is dedicated to promoting and raising public awareness of contemporary art. Their main goal is to present the work of renowned French and international artists, as well as young artists with promising talents. With this aim, to this day they have presented over 160 exhibitions expanding from all disciplines: painting, cinema, architecture, music, fashion, photography, philosophy and the performing arts.

Last October, Fondation Cartier celebrated 40 years of "openness to the world and commitment to artists!". On this occasion, the foundation released an anniversary publication entitled ["Voir venir, Venir voir"](#). The book celebrates the rich history of the institution, its programming and its collections. The illustrated publication offers a visual chronicle of its forty-year endeavours and their journey as the pioneering first corporate foundation in France.

As part of its 40th anniversary celebrations, Fondation Cartier also announced that it will leave its current premises and move to a new location on the Place du Palais-Royal in Paris at the end of 2025. Their new headquarters was also designed by renowned French architect Jean Nouvel, as it is the case for their current location.

Fondation Dubuffet



Exhibition view of Fondation Dubuffet's Anniversary Exhibition: a chronicle of 50 years of activity. Courtesy of Fondation Dubuffet.

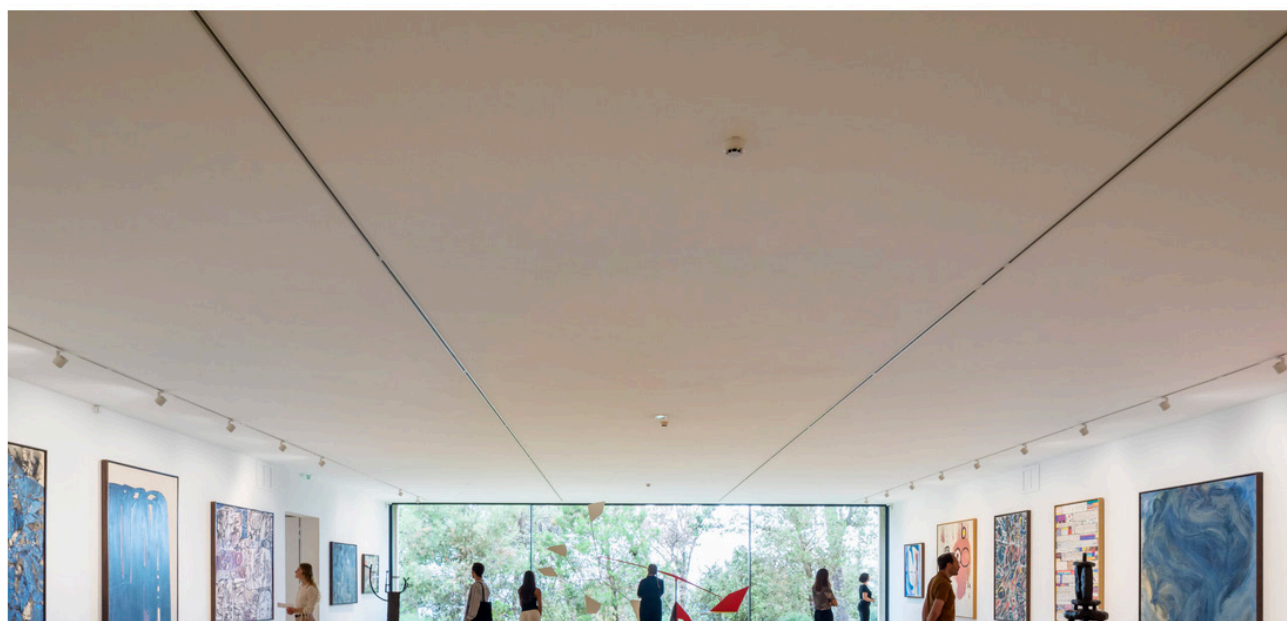
Fondation Dubuffet was founded in August 1973 by French artist Jean Dubuffet to maintain a significant collection of his works and to ensure that his name and work are respected. Their mission is to protect and promote his creation. They also acquire and preserve the original works, as well as all archives and documents that are of interest for the knowledge of Jean Dubuffet's thought and his artistic, literary and musical work.

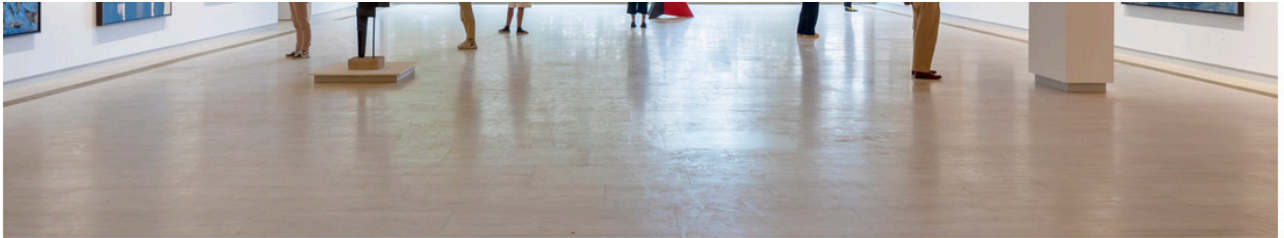
The foundation is situated on two locations: one in the 6th arrondissement of Paris and the other at Périgny-sur-Yerres in the Val-de-Marne French department. The latter is known as villa [Closerie Falbala](#) and has been listed as a historic monument since 1998. Nestled in the middle of the Périgny forest, it consists of an outdoors museum in the shape of a monumental work of art.

Their activities include updating and publishing the artist's Catalogue Raisonné, publishing books, films or CDs, and organizing exhibitions in France and abroad: loaning works from the collection and collaborating with curators and other institutions and making available their archives and photo library. As holder of Dubuffet's moral rights, the foundation also issues the certificates of authentication of his work.

Throughout 2024, the foundation has celebrated its 50th anniversary, reviewing its past activities as well as envisioning the future of the institution. As a commemoration, they have organized an anniversary exhibition entitled "Fondation Dubuffet: a chronicle of 50 years of activity". The show comprises three parts: one part is devoted to a timeline chronicling the foundation's activities. The second part is dedicated to the major works in the collection: donations from the artist, bequests from his daughter and more recent acquisitions. Then a final part evokes the artist's studio highlighting the initial endowment, an essential contribution when the foundation was set up.

[Fondation Maeght](#)





Fondation Maeght's new exhibition gallery. Courtesy of Fondation Maeght.

Fondation Maeght was established in 1964 by Aimé and Marguerite Maeght. This visionary couple, as publishers and art dealers, represented and were friends with some of the most important artists of the era, for instance Joan Miró and Georges Braque. Their foundation was the first private foundation dedicated to the visual arts in Europe and France's first private art institution. Today, the foundation is among the world's leading cultural institutions presenting modern and contemporary art in all its forms.

Located in Saint Paul de Vence in the south of France, its original building was conceived by Catalan Architect Josep Lluís Sert. This year, the foundation celebrated their 60th anniversary with an expansion of their espace presenting new exhibition galleries. Designed by Italian architect Silvio d'Ascia, the expansion consist of the addition of a 585m² gallery as well as an adjacent, 85m² gallery. Both spaces are built out towards a pine forest, seen through large panoramic windows. The expansion enriches the Foundation's programming by offering additional space for conferences, screenings, performance, seminars, and concerts, diversifying and solidifying the foundation's activities.

Season's greetings!

We hope you enjoyed getting to know more about each of the foundations for which 2024 marked a year of great celebrations. We would like to take this occassion to extend our warm greetings as the year comes to an end. Thank you for supporting WAF and for being active agents of this network, we look forward to receiving a new year full of hope and exciting projects!

Peter Deckers, Helena Stork - Co-Founders
and the WAF Team.