

Press/Media invitation

COPY ART IN GREAT SHAPE
1780-1938-2018...

On Tuesday, November 6, 2018 an exceptional artistic performance with the world's first copier invented in 1780 by James Watt will take place.

This is a unique event, the first in the world.

In Paris on Tuesday, Nov. 6th at the Museum des Arts Forains, from 9:30am to 5:00pm, for the media and invited guests, artists will create original work using a copier that is more than 230 years old. Creating ink that was developed from the original formula, guests will instantly witness the machine in action. James Watt's precious eighteenth century machine is capable of reproducing copies that are anachronistic and with some risk.

The purpose of this event is to support a charity auction in 2019 with the goal of restoring the hydraulic system at the Chateau de Versailles Park, in coordination with the Geste d'Or.

Guests attending the event to date include: ORLAN, Ben, David Peter Brooks, Jean Nouvel, Just Jaeckin, Joël Hubaut, Marc Partouche, Jacques Charbonneau, Jacques Charlier, Charles Dreyfus, Bernard Kouchner, Jacques Seguela, Raphaël Mezrahi, Claude Leveque, Alice Morgaine, Murielle van Boxem, Jean-Paul Favand, Pascal Payen Appenzeller, members of UNESCO etc.

Please note that this performance is part of the International Commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the invention of the photocopier (electric and dry; xerox means dry) by American Chester Carlson. His machine was produced 218 years later, in 1938. To date, 20 exhibitions are scheduled in 7 countries: 6 in France (ORLAN at the Ceysson & Benetiere gallery, Joël Hubaut at the Lara Vincy Gallery, Cejar, Wolfgang Tillmans, Lieve Prins, Jean Mathiaut etc.) 5 in the USA (Whitney Museum NYC), Pati Hill at Lyman Allyn Art Museum CT, CEPA Gallery, Buffalo, NY etc.) 2 in Italy (Pierluigi Vannozzi), Brazil (The Baudot Collection in Rio), 2 in Spain (MIDE: Museo Internacional de Electrografia in Cuenca), Canada (Jacques Charbonneau), Austria (Peter Huemer), not to mention numerous artists who are scheduling display in their galleries as part of the celebration.

The photocopier enabled the development of an artistic movement known as COPY ART and XEROX ART

The origins of the movement began in the 60ties with pioneers such as Bruno Munari, Joseph Kosuth, Sol LeWitt, Robert Barry, Lawrence Weiner, Carl Andre and others who saw the potential of this new machine and the medium to generate unique art.

At the same time, the avant-garde Fluxus "network," declared among other things, that bizarre events like Performance and Installation art are legitimate art forms and that "xerocopie" is innovative art and a form of revolutionary technological art.

In fact, “Copy Art is the antithesis of photocopying” declares Christian Rigal, believed deceased, and theoretician of Copy Art, in 1980, in his book, “The Artist and Photocopy.” Artists invent specific techniques, movement, degeneration, collage, body-art, chromatic decomposition, etc. so that the machine does not reproduce a true copy (even though the fact that was its purpose when invented). And the uncertain result of the process is what fascinates artists. What they created was more or less an intentional artistic accident. At the end of the 70ties and during the 80ties there is an explosion of this new and artistic movement. Joseph Beuys, Andy Warhol, Pati Hill and many others were caught up in this movement and were in contact with one another.

The photocopier spread everywhere in offices, supermarkets, hospitals, copy shops and even homes. It became an inexpensive tool protesters, counter-culture artists, and anyone with an agenda could personally use without censorship. These minority groups were empowered to reach a wider population more so than ever before. “FAST, CHEAP & EASY, the Copy Art Revolution” is the title of an exhibition exploring the significance of the movement, from September 14th to December 15th, 2018 at the CEPA Gallery in Buffalo, NY, USA.

This form of expression is democratic and practiced by more and more artists. They use light, X-Rays and even sounds to create contemporary or even avant-garde works of art. “The photocopier can be interfaced with other generative systems* such as the computer or video...Electricity combined with electronics move our era from the industrial age to the era of communication...This is a novelty that is related to the problem of contemporary art” writes Christian Rigal, approximately 1980.

More information can be found via following this link: <https://www.copy-art.fr> (web site for Jean-Claude Baudot’s collection and related information)

About Jean-Claude Baudot, the collector who initiated the 80th anniversary commemorative celebration.

For 12-years from 1979 to 1991, the French collector, Jean-Claude Baudot, patiently and meticulously assembled around 1600 artworks of copy art by more than 400 artists worldwide. “For me it’s a museum fund,” he says. “This is my way of collecting. Another collection, 3500 antique toys spanning 4000 years, has been on display since 2004 at Musée du Jouet (Toy Museum) of Moirans-en-montgagne. My collection of 550 slot machines has been in the International Museum Gauselmann in Espelkampf in Germany since 2007.”

Baudot has part of his collection on display at the Helio Oiticica Art Center in Rio de Janeiro. It consists of 310 works by 105 artists, “COPY ART / XEROX ART, 80 years, BAUDOT COLLECTION ”

More information is available via the following link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Claude_Baudot