



KANAL



& JOHN



ARMLEADER IT NEVER ENDS



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PRESS RELEASE

KANAL – Centre Pompidou
It Never Ends
John M Armleder & guests

It Never Ends, part 1: 24 September - 27 December 2020
It Never Ends, part 2: 4 February - 25 April 2021

Originally scheduled for spring 2020, *It Never Ends*, carte blanche to John M Armleder, will now open in a revised and extended version on 24 September. The Swiss artist will take over the six floors of the Showroom for a period of seven months, before conversion works take place and before the reopening of the premises. This vast interdisciplinary project, entrusted to one of the major artists of the contemporary arts scene, is the confirmation of KANAL-Centre Pompidou's commitment to experimentation and openness.

John M Armleder who was born in 1948 and who lives and works in Geneva, is a painter, sculptor, designer of installations, performer, archivist, curator, collector, editor, bookseller, gallery owner and lots more. As such he has been one of the defining figures of the art world during the past fifty years. KANAL-Centre Pompidou invited the artist to take over the premises of the Showroom of the former Citroën garage for a period of seven months. In the six empty floors, Armleder has set up a dialogue with a series of monumental installations, conceived specifically for this space thus offering audiences a constellation of exhibitions, events and meetings so that they have the opportunity to plunge into his universe as well as that of those near and dear to him.

It Never Ends is a multi-dimensional artistic project that is vital and in constant movement. It is certainly the most important challenge that Armleder has been invited to conceive to date and presents a paradox; it is a personal exhibition, but at the same time one that invites the works of more than a hundred artists; a vast art exhibition, many of which are fleeting, and sometimes even invisible. It may give the impression of being like the ideal museum, but it is above all an experimental, interdisciplinary and polyphonic project. It is, in short, a 'Chinese Portrait' of the person who conceived it, for whom notions of hospitality, collaboration and friendships have always played a key role.

Public Space

The exhibition is organised around a public space that covers the first two floors of the building and that is accessible for seven days a week with no admission fee. Once inside, the entrance the artist has allowed for a restaurant, a place to listen and meet, with at its heart a new installation made with worksite scaffolding, plants, lights, screens... Like an exhibition within an exhibition, it connects the ground floor and the first floor where the artist has produced one of his most important *furniture sculptures* on site. An experimental library (designed and produced in collaboration with the CIVA Culture and Architecture Centre), a temporary printing-press offering workshops for visitors of all kinds and a co-working place complete this public space, all free of charge.

Monumental installations, temporary exhibitions and a programme of live events

It Never Ends continues over the four floors above: each of the spectacular industrial floors of the Showroom is taken over by Armleder in a distinct and specific style. Inside, in combination with a series of immersive art installations, the artist offers a programme of exhibitions that he himself has conceived and staged. These projects comprise invitations to other artists as well as presentations of different collections.

Armleder's project that will be split into two main parts (September-December 2020, February-April 2021), will be launched by an important programme of live projects featuring concerts, performances, projections, meetings and workshops, all conceived in dialogue with the artist. The project, that is structured around meetings that will take place on Thursday evening and at the weekend, with specific live events, practical activities for all types of audiences as well as visits, will be punctuated by four themed weekends with a more intense programme that is designed to offer a more in-depth experience of the main underlying themes of the exhibition.

Hospitality

From the moment that *It Never Ends* was conceived until now, the situation, the artistic context and our lives have all been turned upside down. This is why not only has the artist's project been reprogrammed, but KANAL-Centre Pompidou has also decided to include a moment of pause, reflection and open exchange in January between the two parts in order to take time to address the urgent questions of the moment. We will discuss the future and the changes that are called for, the role of museums today and of KANAL-Centre Pompidou as a future space for art, in particular through the key notions of community, knowledge and 'hospitality.

Commissioners

Bernard Blistène, Director, Centre Pompidou, Chief Commissioner

Yann Chateigné, Associate Commissioner, KANAL-Centre Pompidou

Anna Loporcaro, Assistant Art Director in charge of the public and partnerships, KANAL-Centre Pompidou

Guy Gypens, Programmer, Live Performances, KANAL-Centre Pompidou

Alain Benisty, Music Programmer, KANAL-Centre Pompidou

Jonathan Pouthier, Conservation attaché at the Film Collection Department of the National Museum of Modern Art, Centre Pompidou, Paris

EDITO

After KANAL Brut, *It never ends* assumes the continuing development of the unique identity of the KANAL - Centre Pompidou project.

Over the past 14 months we have taken over the 35,000 m² of the old Citroën garage, left in its raw state, and put on an exhibit in the form of a firework display based on the collections of the Centre Pompidou and enriched on a continual basis by the Brussels art scene, in its most diverse forms. This was the first chapter in the construction of the future identity of KANAL - Centre Pompidou that will be revealed during the official opening.

We now open the second chapter of developing our identity, with a work that revolves around the artist John M Armleder, to whom we have offered carte blanche in the showroom of this iconic building. The choice for John M Armleder is highly significant of course. All of his work over the past 50 years has concentrated on a wide range of artistic disciplines and values such as friendship, encounters, loyalty and hospitality. All of which also form the DNA of the KANAL project.

It Never Ends will open on 24 September and run for 7 months until 25 April 2021. Structural work to transform the old Citroën garage into a 21st century museum will start on Monday 28 September. It will be an open museum, free for all, based on public spaces, a cultural metropolis that you visit for a thousand and one reasons, even to come and see an exhibition. If all goes well these works should be completed within 3 years, so that the project needed so badly by Brussels and its artists will open in the spring of 2024.

But *It Never Ends* also takes place amid the very unusual context of Covid-19 that has turned our lives upside down. The resulting new world status raises the question in particular about the role of culture in our societies (300 people can crowd into a plane, but our theatres, shows and concerts remain desperately empty). KANAL – Centre Pompidou could not remain indifferent to this issue which is essential for the future of our organisation. This is why we have joined forces with John M Armleder to spend time reflecting on this dilemma, a process that will take place during January 2021. A break from the frenzy of our project to question the meaning of our identity and our actions. A task that we want to undertake together with artists and the public. The aim is not to concentrate on the world of tomorrow (who are we to assume we could do that?) but to build bridges, come up with a concept of the museum of the future, realise our “declaration of dependence”.

In the meantime KANAL-Centre Pompidou will be writing a great many more chapters enabling us to work together with the Brussels artistic scene and the citizens of Brussels on what will ultimately be the (I hope ever-evolving) identity of the KANAL project.

Yves Goldstein
Director KANAL – Centre Pompidou

INVITED ARTISTS

Part. 1

24.09 – 27.12.2020

David Adamo	Christian Floquet	Stephen O'Malley
Oren Ambarchi	Francesca Gabbiani	Amy O'Neill
Carl Andre	The Genevan Heathen	Virginia Overton
Anjan	Poul Gernes	Calixto Neto
Fia Backström	John Giorno	Genesis P-Orridge
Bureau Barbier Bouvet	Dan Graham	Laurent Pache
Massimo Bartolini	Amy Granat	Charlemagne Palestine
Francis Baudevin	Piero Golia	Joris Perdieus
Lisa Beck	Wade Guyton	Mai-Thu Perret
Giovanna Belossi	Fabrice Gygi	Jérôme Porsperger
Wallace Berman	Richard Haldrich	Gerwald Rockenschaub
Daniela Bershan	Peter Halley	Ugo Rondinone
Thomas Billas & Théa Hallak	David Helbich	Dieter Roth
Valérie Bodson	Samah Hijawi	Estelle Saignes
Martin Bonnaz	Gregor Hildebrandt	Alexane Sanchez
Monica Bonvicini	Mette Ingvarsten	Carolee Schneemann
Gregory Bourrilly	Ann Veronica Janssens	Peter Schuyff
Ludovic Bourrily	Karen Kilimnik	Teresa Sdrulevich
Petra Van Brabandt	Felix Kindermann	Isabelle Sidaine
Olaf Breuning	Scott King	Haim Steinbach
AA Bronson	Malsy Klasen	Nick Steur
Marcel Broodthaers	Stéphane Kropf	Caroline Sury & Ludovic
Chris Burden	Anita de Laforêt	Ameline
Evelien Cammaert	Alix Lambert	Mary Szydlowska
Yaima Carrazana	Jean-Paul Lespagnard	Eric Thielemans
Valentin Carron	Pierre Lefebvre & Nicolas	Blair Thurman
Axel Claes &	Belayew	John Tremblay
Daniel Wagener	Alexandre Lorgnier du	Laetitia Troilo
Bruce Conner	Mesnil	Pierre Vadi
Isabelle Cornaro	Elaine Lustig Cohen	Xavier Veilhan
Peggy Lee Cooper	Christian Marclay	Kris Verdonck
Stéphane Dafflon	Mentalklinik	Arlette Vermeiren
Philippe Decrauzat	Jérôme Michez	Parker Williams
David Diao	Sarah Minutillo	Steph Wunderbar
Emilie Ding	Rabina Miya	Jordan Wolfson
Jason Dodge	Simon Moretti	
Tim Etchells	Olivier Mosset	
Sylvie Fleury	Radouan Mriziga	

PARTNERS

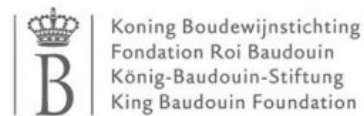
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INSTITUTIONELE PARTNERS



STICHTING PARTNERS



GEPRIVILEGEERDE PARTNERS



PROMOTIONELE PARTNERS



MEDIAPARTNERS



TOERISTISCHE PARTNERS



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