



— TERRE D'AVENIRS —

ALLEGORIA

Philippe Pasqua

Departmental Domain of Chamarande, Essonne,
France / May 31st - December 30th, 2018



PRESS KIT

Conception: O.D. Essonne - Philippe Pasqua, Face d'off. Mark Defrance



chamarande.essonne.fr

editorial

After an exhibition at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, and before flying to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Philippe Pasqua is the guest of the Departmental Domain of Chamarande until December 30, 2018. With its 17th-century chateau, 18th-century orangery and vast English-style park, the Domain is the perfect setting to host the first major French retrospective of Philippe Pasqua's works: so huge, yet so human.

An unconventional artist, autodidact and virtuoso designer, Philippe Pasqua provokes an emotional dialogue with his spectators through the monumentality of his sculptural and pictorial works, which evoke a fantasy world.

The ALLEGORIA exhibition reveals all the facets of Philippe Pasqua's creative universe, gathering a mix of older works and recent productions. In the orangery are presented his majestic five-meter-long portraits of women; in the main alley, his chrome shark hangs from a ten-meter-high portico leading to the chateau. Inside the chateau, a set of drawings, sculptures, paintings and collages unfurls from the multi-faceted installation *Le chant des méduses* (*The song of the jellyfish*), a work that symbolizes this extraordinary artist's universe. In the meadow, like an echo, are the artist's bronzes of dignified, delicate olive trees with their twisted trunks.

The work of Philippe Pasqua plays in every emotional key, from one extreme to the other. Some of the works are tender, reflecting a deep empathy with their models; others channel a darker, sometimes primitive aspect, or develop an almost childish humor. None of these creations leave you indifferent, and they allow you to see through the eyes of an artist of extreme sensitivity.

We wish you a wonderful visit, to discover the fantastical and deeply human world that Philippe Pasqua has imagined for the Departmental Domain of Chamarande.

Welcome home!



François Durovray
President of the
Department of Essonne

Aurélie Gros
Vice-President in charge of
culture, tourism and external
action

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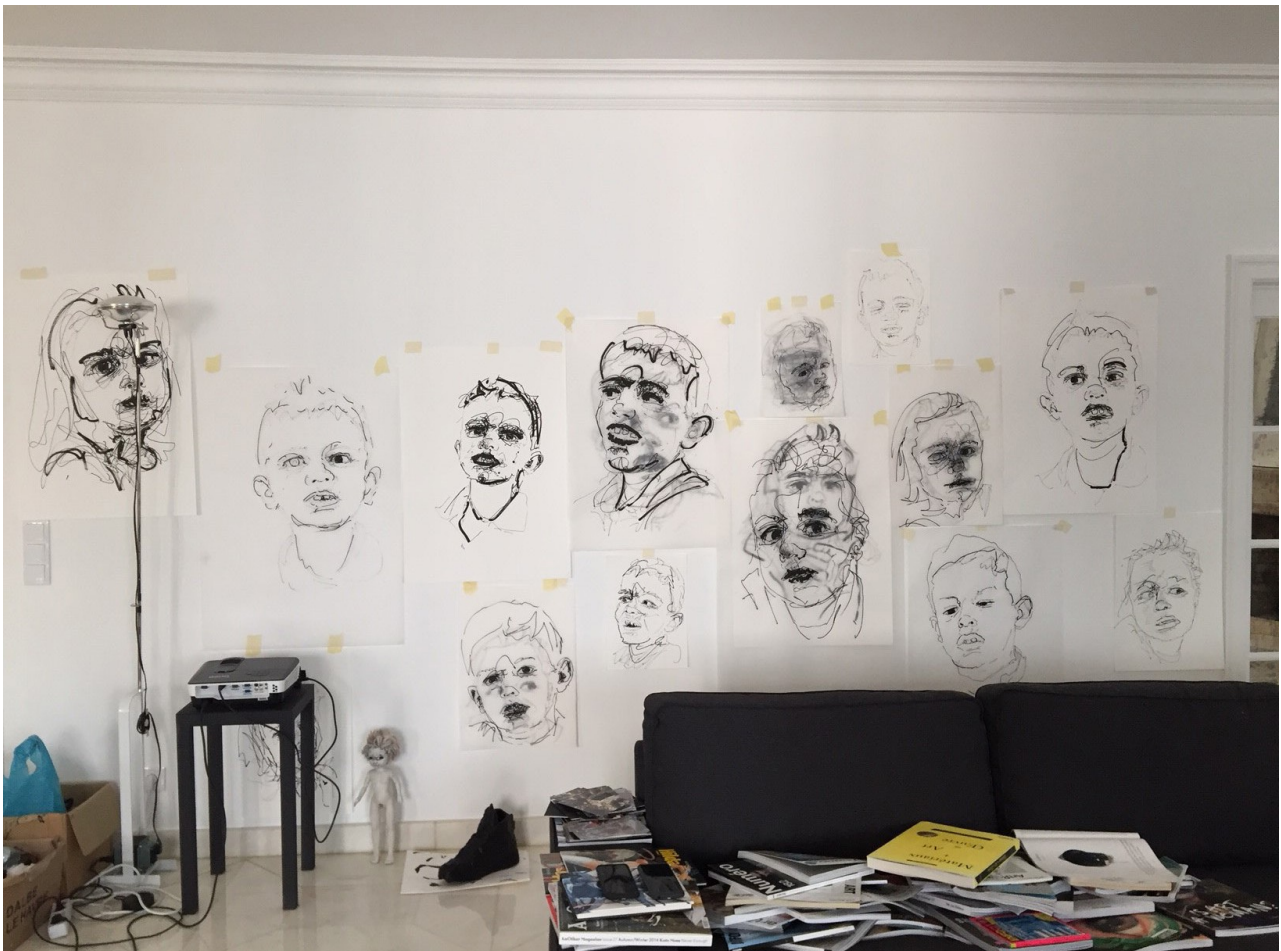
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The artist's studio © Philippe Pasqua

Philippe Pasqua

ALLEGORIA

The Departmental Domain of Chamarande, with its 17th-century castle, 18th-century orangery and the greenery of its park are the perfect environment to host the first major French exhibition of contemporary artist Philippe Pasqua. This exceptional setting is an enchanting showcase for the dreamlike, symbolic universe of the artist's paintings, drawings, collages and monumental sculptures.



Detail from Le chant des méduses, 2016, 400 x 220 x 150 cm, containers in metal, glass, various materials
© Rights reserved

Born in Grasse in 1965, self-taught French sculptor and painter Philippe Pasqua began painting at the age of 17 after being deeply struck by a reproduction of one of Francis Bacon's paintings. The influence of Lucian Freud's work also helped construct his vision of a world of troubled and troubling characters, their faces marked or misshapen. The fragility of the madman and the difference of disability are recurring themes that haunt his work.

As a sculptor, he has been exploring the topic of vanitas since 1987. His concern: to find the essence of humanity through what remains of it beyond life.

He works on representing the material that composes it, the cladding of flesh and bone as mortal as it is timeless: the eternity of the matrix. According to Pasqua: "The skeleton, the skull, it is precisely what I can never see or paint but what carries the flesh. "

The artist's powerful style, both in painting and sculpture, asserts itself in a fantastical and esoteric universe that transcends a child's anguish at the violence of the world, their questioning of the beauty in the ugly, their incomprehension before the irreversible destruction of nature underway.

Over the years, Pasqua has established himself as a major artist on the international cultural scene. His thought-provoking art impresses and disrupts. His works are on display all over the world, in New York, Moscow, Hong Kong, Mexico City, London and Hamburg. Since his first show in Paris in 1990, he has had international exhibitions in the United States, Russia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, London, Israel, Lebanon and Italy. Testifying to the interest he creates, his work has been featured in publications including Le Monde Magazine, the New York Times, Current Art, Vogue Brazil, Technikart specials and others.

In 2017, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco invited Pasqua to show his monumental works, resulting in an exhibition of several major works from May to December (watch the making of the installation of the exhibition "Borderline" at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco:

<https://vimeo.com/216517044>).

Beaux Arts Magazine marked the occasion by dedicating a special issue to the artist, the second of his career. Following a first 50-minute documentary made by TV channel ARTE in 2011, "Pasqua the elusive", TV5 Monde is currently shooting a feature-length program about his life and monumental work in Monaco and Chamarande.

The exhibition saw Pasqua create ambitious works in collaboration with some of the world's best craftsmen.



***Orso, 2015,
180 x 160 cm, oil
on canvas
© Philippe Pasqua***

Pasqua uses his art to explore the palette of his emotions and give them a collective dimension. With his acute gaze, he pierces the tumult of history, going from ancient times to breaking news. He speaks of the depletion of the earth, species disappearing, as well as the grandeur of the universe.

His paintings tell the story of humanity. Ugliness and beauty intersect and his models become icons: disabled children, transgender people, prostitutes or his own family members. All reflect the universal. The intensity of their gazes, the strength of their expressions permeate his paintings. On a technical level, Pasqua displays the same mastery of his distinct style whether drawing or painting, in collage or sculpture.

In 1999, Pasqua took up the concept of *vanitas* in sculpture: he interpreted the subject of the

human skull, which he adorned with precious materials and fragile butterflies. The ephemeral and the inconstancy of existence are confronted with the eternal.

In the last couple years, the evolution of the world and its species has become the subject of the artist's concerns. The theories of Darwin of contemporary scientists, connected with the notion of the sacred - almost the religious - have inspired such works as *Golgotha* and *the Last Supper*.

The ALLEGORIA exhibition shows monumental sculptures as well as a set of paintings, drawings, and collages by Pasqua, spanning his thirty-year career. ALLEGORIA is a journey through the soul of our planet, with its cycles of life, death and resurrection.

Chrystelle Merabli

Why do we collect the works of Philippe Pasqua?

We see Philippe as the little Paul of Jean Cocteau's "*Les Enfants Terribles*": he sets his imagination free by liberating himself from the constraints of the real world. What individual trapped in the shackles of society would imagine a 10-meter-tall stainless steel shark more real than life? Or a dish of charred human skulls? For Philippe, life and death engage in a solemn *danse macabre*, made up of souls who love each other, leave each other, tear each other apart, but always remain inseparable from the soul of the world that drives them.

Chrystelle Merabli and Olivier Tharsis/ Krystel Ann Art



La Cène, 2016, Bronze, steel, fabric @ Philippe Pasqua

Curators of the exhibition:

- Julie Sicault Maillé, in charge of exhibitions for the Departmental Domain of Chamarande
- Henri-François Debailleux, art critic

Henri-François Debailleux is a journalist and art critic. He worked for the *Libération* newspaper for over 30 years and is now a staff writer for the *Journal des Arts*. He has also written for *Beaux Arts Magazine*, *Art Press* and currently, *l'OEil* and *ArtAbsolument*.

He has additionally contributed prefaces to numerous exhibition catalogs (texts or interviews); curated several exhibitions (Lee Bae at the Museum of Modern Art in Saint-Etienne, September-November 2011, the Guimet Museum, September 2015-April 2016 and the Maeght Foundation in spring 2018; Philippe Favier at the MEP (European House of Photography) from April to June 2013; Marlène Mocquet at the Maison des Arts in Malakoff, September-October 2013; Fabien Verschere at the Museum of Modern Art in Saint-Étienne in spring 2014); and sat on various juries and committees (MEP, Colas Foundation, National Contemporary Art Fund purchasing commission).

Philippe Pasqua

BIOGRAPHY / BIBLIOGRAPHY

Born in 1965 in Grasse, France; lives and works in Paris, France.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016

- ART16, London's Global Art Fair, Olympia London with Gallery RX, London, UK.
- Winter, Gallery RX, Paris, France.

2015

- Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, presenting the 'Mâchoire de Mégalodon', Monaco.

2012

- Damien Hirst vs Philippe Pasqua SKULL, Laurent Strouk Gallery, Paris, France.
- Plaisir, Gallery RX, Paris, France.

2011

- Drawing now, Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- Art Paris, Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- Art Miami, Gallery RX, Paris, France.

2010

- Newera, Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- Pasqua - McQuinn, Singapore.
- Art Paris, Gallery RX, France.
- FIAC, Patrick Painter, Paris, France.
- Maillol Museum, Paris, France.
- Vanité, Maillol Museum, Paris, France.

2009

- Monumental sculptures at the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.. Art Paris, Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- FIAC, Patrick Painter, Paris, France.
- FRIEZE, Patrick Painter, London, UK.

2008

- Art Paris, Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- FIAC, Patrick Painter, Paris, France.
- FRIEZE, Patrick Painter, London, UK.

2006

- Soutine and Modern Art, Chem & Read Gallery, New York, United States.

2005

- Quintessence, Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- Hengevoss Dürkop Gallery, Hamburg, Germany.
- Au-delà du corps, Contemporary Art Biennale, Aix-sur-Vienne, France.
- A3, Place Saint-Sulpice, curated by Sophie Actis, Paris, France.

2004

- Beyond Paradise, Gallery RX invited to the Hengevoss Dürkop Gallery, Hamburg, Germany.
- ARTissima, Turin, Italy. Gallery RX, Paris, France.

2002

- Inauguration, Gallery RX, Paris, France.

2001

- Face off, Aeroplastics-Damasquine Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.
- 7th Istanbul Contemporary Art Biennale, Turkey.

2000

- Narcisse Blessé, Passage du Retz, curated by Jean-Michel Ribettes, Paris, France.
- Collages d'hier et d'aujourd'hui, Lucien Durand-Le Gaillard Gallery, Paris, France.

1999

- Fétiches, Fétichismes, Passage du Retz, curated by Jean-Michel Ribettes, Paris, France.
- Naço & Friends, Espace Via, Paris, France.
- FIAC, Paris.
- Lucien Durand-Le Gaillard Gallery, Paris, France.
- Art London, Stephen Lacey Gallery, London, UK.

1998

- 80 artistes autour du Mondial, Enrico Navarra Gallery, feat. Jeff Koons, Rotella, César, Matta, Clemente, Nam June Paik, Kenny and others, Paris, France.
- Hygiène, Espace d'Art Yvonamor Palix, feat. Orlan, Aziz + Cuccher, Sandy Skoglund, Steve Miller and others, Mexico & Paris, France.
- Hygiène, La Source Foundation, La Gueroulde, France.
- Ahrenberg Collection: 50 ans d'histoire de l'art, Museum of Fine Arts, Mons, Belgium.
- ARCO, Madrid, Spain.
- Moscow Art Fair, Russia.
- Chicago Art Fair, United States, with Espace d'art Yvonamor Palix Art Space, Paris, France.
- FIAC, Espace d'art Yvonamor Palix and Nathalie Seroussi Gallery, Paris, France.

1997

- 3 visions de l'art contemporain français, Martini Gallery, Hong Kong, China.
- EXPO ARTE, Guadalajara, Espace d'art Yvonamor Palix, Mexico.
- FIAC, Espace d'art Yvonamor Palix, Paris, France.

1994

- Association Aides, Espace Cardin, Paris, France.
- Chaussures d'artistes, Miro Foundation, Barcelona, Spain.

1992

- Salon des Grands et jeunes d'Aujourd'hui, Paris, France.

1990

- Maison des Arts de Beausset, Beausset, France.

INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

2017

- *Borderline*, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, Monaco.
- *Recomposition*, Gallery RX, Paris.

2015

- Domain of Chambord, France.

2013

- *Philippe Pasqua, Painting, Drawing and Sculpture*, Art Stage Singapore, Singapore.

2012

- Fernet-Branca Foundation, Saint-Louis, France.
- Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- Art Revolution Taipei, Taiwan.
- Work in Progress, THE STORAGE, Paris, France.
- Hyundai Gallery, Seoul, Korea.

2011

- 604 Gallery, Busan, Korea.
- Art Paris, Laurent Strouk Gallery, Paris, France.

2010

- The Storage, Saint-Ouen l'Aumône, France.
- Palimpsestes, Laurent Strouk Gallery, Paris, France.
- Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia.
- Stiftung Ahlers Pro Arte, Hannover, Germany.
- Crâne, ArtCurial, Paris, France.
- Painting and Drawing, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Russia.

2009

- Ahlers Foundation, Hannover, Germany.
- Crâne, Art Curial, Paris, France.

2007

- *Pulsion*, Gallery RX, Paris, France.

2006

- Patrick Painter Gallery, Los Angeles, US.
- Spike Gallery, New York, United States.

2005

- Metz Cultural Centre, Metz, France.

2004

- *Métamorphoses*, Gallery RX, Paris, France.

2003

- Hengevoss Dürkop-Jensen Gallery, Hamburg, Germany.
- Lucille, Gallery RX, Paris, France.

2002

- *Les miroirs de l'âme (Portraits 1989-2001)*, Palais Bénédicte, curated by Erick Oge, Fécamp, France.
- *Bloc Portrait*, Hengevoss-Dürkop Gallery, Hamburg, Germany.

2001

- *Trauma*, Hengevoss Dürkop-Jensen Gallery, Hamburg, Germany

1999

- Lucien Durand Gallery, Paris, France.
- La Machine à Eau, Mons Contemporary Art Centre, Mons, Belgium.

1998

- Espace d'art Yvonamor Palix, Mexico City, Mexico.

1996

- Boulakia Gallery, Paris, France.

1995

- Château de Grouchy, France.
- Espace Dautzenberg, Brussels, Belgium.
- The International Center, Detroit, United States.

1991

- Woo Mang and Partners Gallery, Paris, France.

1990

- Espace Confluence, Paris, France.

CATALOGUES - MONOGRAPHS

2017

- Monumental, Ed. Albin Michel.

2014

- Philippe Pasqua - Autoportrait, entretiens avec Cyr Mald, Ed. Séguier.
- Skull Box, text by André Chabot, Ed. YNOX Paris, France.

2012

- Monograph, Ed. du Regard.

2011

- Girls skulls butterflies, text by Jean Corbu, published by the Laurent Strouk Gallery.

2010

- "Paradise" (English/Russian), Ed. Skira, 250 p.
- "One thousand, Mille pages, mille sculptures, mille dessins".
- Palimpseste, by David Rosenberg, published by the Laurent Strouk Gallery.

2006

- "Oeuvres de 1994 à 2005", Ed. La Différence.

2004

- "Philippe Pasqua", Beaux-Arts Magazine special edition.

2002

- "Paradis blanc", exhibition catalogue, Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- "Interview", interview by H-F. Debailleux. DVD format, Gallery RX, Paris, France.
- "Les miroirs de l'âme", exhibition catalogue, Palais Bénédicte, Fécamp.

2001

- "Trauma", exhibition catalogue, Hengevoss Dürkop Gallery, Hamburg, Germany.

1999

- Monograph, text by Pierre Restany and Jean-Michel Ribettes.

The Departmental Domain of Chamarande

Essonne county council's foremost attraction, the Domain of Chamarande boasts historical, architectural and natural heritage in an exceptional setting between the Belvedere forest and Juine valley. Designated an "outstanding estate", the site covers 98 hectares and constitutes the largest public garden in the Department. Located in the heart of the region, the Domain comprises an artistic and cultural center, the collection of the Departmental Fund for Contemporary Art (FDAC), the Departmental Archives and the Auguste Mione accommodation center.

The Domain of Chamarande is characterized by an artistic project in which the history of the place and the art of its grounds are constantly in dialogue with contemporary creation. With an eclectic program alternating between exhibitions by internationally renowned artists and creators from Essonne, activities, workshops, concerts and shows, in partnership with local associations and organizers, the site has become into a true site of cultural discovery for audiences of all kinds.

Spend an afternoon or a day at the Domain of Chamarande and you'll get a breath of art, a breath of fresh air, and a big breath of Essonne. Throughout the year the Domain has something to offer to each and everyone, with a continually changing range of educational and leisure activities that testify to the cultural vitality of the Department of Essonne.



Departmental Domain of Chamarande © Henri Perrot



Corps narratifs, 2016 © Rights reserved



Cirque Galapiat, 2016 © Alexis Harnichard



Ask'Em Concert, 2017 © Moïse Fournier

Krystel Ann Art Coproducers

Krystel Ann Art is a contemporary art gallery founded in 2016 by two collectors: Olivier Tharsis and Chrystelle Merabli.

Olivier Tharsis created and managed Bik Kreyol in Guadeloupe: a unique cultural space, both restaurant and cabaret, where nights turned into events and an ambitious program brought together music, dance and theater in a single venue.

A place to gather, exchange and experiment, Bik Kreyol occupied a central role in the social and artistic life of Guadeloupe.

After ten years of success there, Tharsis continued as a discoverer of talent by promoting artists on their way to international recognition.

With a Masters in Economics, Chrystelle Merabli established herself in finance and real estate via several companies in Europe, the Caribbean and the United States.

Meanwhile her passion for art led her to invest in a rich collection of contemporary designers, painters and sculptors. Since 2017 she has been completing a course at Sotheby's Institute of Art in order to perfect her skills.

The Krystel Ann Art gallery bases its artistic selection on a demand for singularity: Olivier and Chrystelle seek out difference in approach, originality in expression and sensitivity in aesthetics. Their quest leads them to new artists who venture into unexplored fields, bearing messages, social meaning and sincere emotion.

Like Bik Kreyol, the Krystel Ann Art Gallery wants to bring art to spectacle and spectacle to art. Exhibitions become performances, encounters, a melting pot of ideas and concepts. Creators' statements are offered directly to the public instead of through an elitist barrier, simple communication replacing demands.

Krystel Ann Art's work also includes sponsoring artists: supporting the creative process to enable creators to work independently and opening doors for them is a fundamental requirement.

Krystel Ann Art founded the association Kouleurs et Sens with French and Caribbean cultural experts to promote cultural exchanges between different countries and people, with an emphasis on the need to address major public interest causes such as environmental protection and children's rights.

Since its creation, Krystel Ann Art has participated in two international fairs, taken part in several shows and organized gallery openings:

2016

- January 2016: Exhibition "Ordo ab Chaos" for the artist Goody / Cascais, Portugal.
- March 2016: "Metamorphosis" group show with Guadeloupe artists (Jean-François Manicom, Goody), Portuguese sculptor Moise Preto and Brazilian artist Renato Rodyner / London, UK.
- May 2016: "Vera", Moscow Festival, Russia.
- Oct 2016: "Vera": Lisbon Festival, Portugal.

2017

- Mai 2017 : "Art3F" international art fair / Lausanne, Suisse.
- December 2017: Christmas pop up fashion art group show (Anais Verspan) Carré Doré / Monaco.

2018

- April 2018: "Éclats d'îles", a group exhibition of Guadeloupe artists, an initiative by the Guadeloupe Region, France.

To come in 2018

- May to December 2018: ALLEGORIA, Philippe Pasqua, at the Departmental Domain of Chamarande / Essonne, France.

OPENING

May 31st at 7pm



FOR THE PRESS

Press preview at 5:30pm

Shuttle from Paris (Place d'Italie) at 4:15pm

Press contacts

Local press:

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National and international press:

Pascal Scuotto > pascal.scuotto@gmail.com
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Photos of the exhibits *in situ* are available on request.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ALLEGORIA Exhibition

Philippe Pasqua

May 31st - December

30th, 2018

**Departmental Domain of
Chamarande**

Access

Located 30 km from Évry and 35 km south of Paris, the site is accessible by:

> RER C, Chamarande station, 200 meters from the Domain

> N20, between Arpajon and Étampes, Étréchy-Chamarande exit

Hours

park : everyday

- June to September, 9am-8pm
- October, 9am-6pm
- November-December, 9am-5pm

chateau and orangerie:

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday

- June-September, 2pm-7pm
- October, 2pm-6pm
- November-December, 2pm-5pm

Saturday-Sunday

- June to September, 1pm-7pm
- October, 1pm-6pm
- November-December, 1pm-5pm

EXHIBITION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

KRYSTEL ANN Art

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Our warm thanks to private collectors, including Christophe Février, who support the work of Philippe Pasqua and were kind enough to lend their works for the ALLEGORIA exhibition.

Artist represented by **Gallery RX/France**.



THE STORAGE