

Artist Statement: Eric Fonteneau

Eric Fonteneau spends a lot of time in his library. He leafs through his books and explores the repertoire of images of nature. He collects herbariums and algae collections and works with his students at the Natural History Museum in Nantes... From this daily educational work, he draws his fascination for the reconstructed or imagined worlds of the forest.

From the intimacy of his studio, Eric Fonteneau has gradually moved toward expressing himself in the light of green spaces, where he gathers bark, moss, twigs, and various traces of animal life.

As the director of his own work, Eric Fonteneau also expresses himself on paper through dots, lines, and fragments, extending to large, enveloping surfaces. The visitor is sometimes "immersed" in his large mural drawings.

Eric Fonteneau's work is a meditation on the world and on the knowledge necessary to understand it. Although he explores other themes (books, the human figure, etc.), the forest returns as a recurring subject, as a source of inspiration, and above all as a refuge from humanity's harmful excesses.

His tree silhouettes have become the emblem in Nantes of the fight for the environment in the "Grandeur Nature" exhibition at Villa Garenne Lemot, Gétigné. The Nantes Public Library invited him to create works inspired by the "natural" worlds of writers: Julien Gracq, Jules Verne, and Paul-Louis Rossi.