

Biography: Eric Fonteneau

Eric Fonteneau was born in 1954. He lives and works in Nantes.

Passionate about drawing, scenography, and geographical and natural themes, he experiments with numerous visualization techniques in the art spaces where he has been exhibiting since the late 1980s.

In 1985, he resided at the Musée de l'Abbaye Sainte Croix, where he designed a work of land art. It was a circle 240 meters in diameter that was installed for a few days on the sea. To do this, he put together a team of friends and technical collaborators, as well as the writer Bernard Bretonniere.

In 1985, the Municipal Library of Nantes invited him to create works inspired by the world of Julien Gracq for the exhibition "Paysage." He gave the writer a tour of his studio in Nantes, where he had accumulated works of a geographical and natural nature.

For the Nantes Library, he also created a series of works that he would also show at the "Le Style et le Chaos" exhibition at the Musée du Luxembourg and at the "L'invention du monde" exhibition at the Centre George Pompidou. Invited to be artist-in-residence at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Honolulu, he met an aviator and ethnographer, Tom Klobe, who helped him create land art works on several beaches. On this occasion, he also met Constance Lewallen, curator of the Berkeley Museum of Modern Art, who helped him obtain a scholarship to come and work in San Francisco.

He lived in San Francisco for a year, where he began an album of drawings made using fine needles to perforate the paper. Depicting coastal areas, these drawings are called "Cartes Blanches" and "Botanica." He exhibited them at the Paule Anglim Gallery in San Francisco in 1999. He also presented a new version of his "Bibliothèque." Since the 2000s, he has exhibited regularly at the Der Spiegel Gallery in Cologne and the Moeller Gallery in Berlin and New York. He developed his "Cartes Blanches" work on journeys through nature. In this spirit, he created an exhibition of Johann Sebastian Bach's journey through northern Germany ("Voyages de J.S. Bach" at the TIF in Tokyo in 2011).

In 2010, he began a series of silhouette drawings made with black stone and black pigment on paper of a consistent size. During his exhibitions, he plays with the way these drawings are presented. He groups them in sets of 3, 5, or 10, arranges them in albums, or separates them depending on the exhibition space. In this way, he inaugurates a new way of working by staging his own work, into which he will later integrate that of others.

In 2012, he exhibited Paul-Louis Rossi's manuscripts, Hopi ethnic works, texts by Aby Warburg, objects, museum display cases, etc. at the Nantes Municipal Library, combining them with his own works. The exhibition was entitled "Un monde analogique" (An Analog World).

Similarly, at La Casa del Lector in Madrid, he created a scenography that included drawings and manuscripts by Jules Verne. At La Garenne Lemot in Clisson, he created a new exhibition entitled "GrandeurNature" (Life-Size) using drawings of tree silhouettes to create a forest scene.

He has participated in the following exhibitions:

"Style and Chaos." Musée Du Luxembourg Paris, 1985

"Landscapes. Julien Gracq." Nantes Municipal Library, 1986

"Crossing." Academy of Arts, Honolulu, 1997

"The Invention of the World." Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, 2004

"On a marché sur la Terre" (We Walked on Earth). Yonne Art Center, 2009
"Voyage de Jean Sébastien Bach" (Journey of Johann Sebastian Bach). Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, 2009
"Passage." Passage Sainte Croix, Nantes, 2011
"La Bibliothèque" (The Library). French Institute, New York, 2012
"An Analog World." Nantes Municipal Library with Paul-Louis Rossi, 2012
"Portraits-Landscapes, the Transformation of Genres." Moscow Museum of Modern Art, 2013
"Nuevos viajes extraordinarios." La Casa de Lector, Madrid, 2015
"Grandeur Nature." Domaine de La Garenne Lemot, Clisson, 2016
"Panorama." Jules Verne Museum (Le Voyage à Nantes), 2016
"Paysage/paysages." Espace d'art de Grenoble, 2016