



Bruno Julliard and Jean de Loisy disclose the outline of Nuit Blanche 2016

Today, Bruno Julliard, first Deputy Mayor, and Jean de Loisy, artistic director of Nuit Blanche and President of the Palais de Tokyo, disclosed the outline of the 2016 edition. It will wander across the city along the Seine, via the City Hall and the Île aux Cygnes (Isle of the Swans) to the future Paris.

The 2016 edition of Nuit Blanche will take place during the night of Saturday October 1st from 7:00 p.m. until daybreak. Jean de Loisy, president of the Palais de Tokyo, will handle the artistic direction of the event, proposing a trip on the theme of the overcoming. The visitors will be invited to go through many self-transformation challenges just as Poliphile, the hero of this Nuit Blanche who, in an Italian illustrated novel of 1467, dreams his travel in pursuit of Polia with whom he is madly in love.

A trip in the centre of Paris

From the Île de la Cité to the modern Front de Seine, the visitors will be taken on a time travel that will carry on to the future Paris with the Société du Grand Paris. Unfolding in the centre of the capital and structured around the Seine river and its bridges, Nuit Blanche will be an opportunity to discover the city differently through a trip designed as a symbolic cartography that invites the visitor to live a love quest.

A Nuit Blanche in 12 chapters

A few days before the event, the French artist Abraham Poincheval will watch out for the Nuit Blanche from the top of a 15 metres perch. As for Alain Séchas' emblematic cats, they will place themselves at the Gare de Lyon in the style of a family waiting for the return of a loved one on the quay.

Nuit Blanche and its 12 chapters will offer the visitors the opportunity to discover the work of the British artist Oliver Beer who will mix live the sound ecosystem of the Seine river under the Pont des Arts. The visitors will begin the trip by crossing a mysterious forest arranged by Stéphane Thidet on the City Hall esplanade. Huge bits of wood floating on a frosted lake will form a perpetually moving living sculpture.

Love will be the core theme of this edition, like the heart drew by Fabrice Hyber for the Nuit Blanche poster. A "broken hearts workshop" will distribute fragmented hearts to the visitors who will be able to have them fixed at the end of the trip in a great "heart fixing workshop".

The visitors will also encounter Bridget Polk's unsteady sculptures. All night long and accompanied by performers, the American artist will never stop building and rebuilding fragile totems along the Seine banks, consisting in a vague piling up defying the laws of gravity. Close to the end of the trip, Alain Fleischer will revisit a 1979 project entitled *Autant en emporte le vent* (Gone with the wind) and will project the image of a woman imperturbably staring at the one who will look at her on a huge fan near the pont Bir-Hakeim.

Free and open to the public, Nuit Blanche 2016 will keep all the elements that made the public and artistic success of this major Parisian event: an open-air gathering of works in the public space, international emerging or experienced artists, and a cooperative approach with other cultural organisations or events. Important institutions will actively take part into the trip as the Musée du Quai Branly, the Pavillon de l'Arsenal or even the Petit Palais.

About Nuit Blanche

Since 2002, the City of Paris organises Nuit Blanche every first Saturday of October. The aim is to offer the public a great popular and festive event based on the works of art setting up in the public space or in emblematic Parisian buildings. Each year, this free event for all welcomes several million visitors. It also exists at the metropolitan scale.

The success met by Nuit Blanche in Paris since its creation in 2002 led several other capitals and great cities of Europe and of the world to organise their own Nuit Blanche, following the Parisian model. From Brussels to Kyoto, from Melbourne to La Paz, more than 25 cities now organise this event.

Jean de Loisy and the Palais de Tokyo

President of the Palais de Tokyo since June 2011, Jean de Loisy is also an independent curator and held various functions in many cultural institutions such as the Centre Pompidou and the Fondation Cartier. He took part in many international events including the biennial of Venice in 1993 and 2001, organized the biennial of Kwangju in 1995 as well as memorable historic exhibitions such as "Hors Limites – l'art et la vie" in 1995, "La Beauté" in Avignon in 2000 or "Traces du sacré" at the Centre Georges Pompidou in 2008 and "Monumenta/Anish Kapoor" at the Grand Palais en 2011. He designed this edition of Nuit Blanche with the Palais de Tokyo's curators in order to promote emerging creations.

Press contacts:

City of Paris: Mélanie Rigaud / presse@paris.fr / +33 1.42.76.49.61

Heymann, Renault Associées : Agnès Renault / e.alzetta@heyman-renoult.com / +33 1.44.61.76.76