



Centre d'art
de Saint-Fons

Press release
25.07.2022



Suzanne Husky, Beaver footprint, 2022
© Suzanne Husky

Suzanne Husky

Les leçons des peuples des marécages

Exhibition

10.09 — 05.11.2022

Official opening

Saturday 10.09.2022
— from 2pm

Media days

Friday 09.09.2022
— 2-6pm
Wednesday 14.09.2022
— from 4pm

Artist Suzanne Husky has been invited to hold a research and production residency at the CAP visual arts centre in Saint-Fons, in collaboration with Veduta/Biennale de Lyon 2022. The French-American artist will exhibit a set of new works created for her most recent project, which combines agroecology, environmental activism and contemporary art.

The artist articulates in her preferred forms – drawn from art history, popular culture, agriculture and handicrafts – the ecological and environmental concerns that are central to her practice. Her reflections highlight the fragility of our planet and its ecosystems, which are under increasing threat from anthropic activity.

The exploitation of resources and the environment through extraction and accumulation are issues that run through her work, and in opposition to which she creates pieces that make up a subtle strategy of resistance. These artworks make an appeal – imploring us to grow closer to the earth, and to learn the forgotten skills it once gave us.

In *Les leçons des peuples des marécages* (“Lessons from the marshland peoples”), Suzanne Husky focuses on the past and present history of the beaver, a mammal that for centuries was brutally hunted for its fur, and nearly to extinction, in both the United States and Europe. Today, new professions are reviving the skills of these

former residents of our rivers, to build natural dykes that slow the flow of water, revitalise areas abandoned by wildlife, promote wetland biodiversity and protect ecosystems from devastating fires.

How could a species of such importance for the environment almost entirely disappear from our imaginations and landscapes?

This exhibition offers the artist a context to stage her emphatically cross-disciplinary propaganda project, which brings together scientists, historian, activists and farmers. In an installation conceived for the CAP space, the artist shows a new film, a new series of watercolours and other items testifying to the research she has conducted locally.

Suzanne Husky's art and work forge the conditions for a kind of sensory activism; a way to reconnect us with the crafts of the earth, of plants and of animals, and to learn lessons from the marshland peoples.

Suzanne Husky is represented by Galerie Alain Gutharc, Paris

Co-curators: Alessandra Prandin and Adeline Lépine

In partnership with : Veduta/Biennale de Lyon*, Saint-Fons Municipal Council, Agence de l'Eau Rhône Méditerranée Corse (a regional body within the Environment Ministry, dedicated to water conservation).



Saint-Fons



In conjunction with: SMIRIL (Syndicat Mixte du Rhône des Îles et des Lônes): a non-profit body that works to conserve several islands in and secondary branches of the River Rhône, and to raise public awareness of this natural heritage, and Grand Parc Miribel Jonage: one of Europe's largest peri-urban parks, covering more than 2,200ha and attracting over 3.5m visitors a year. It is managed by SEGAPAL, a local public company that develops and manages this outstanding amenity, as well as operating it day-to-day..



* All Veduta/Biennale de Lyon site projects are funded by Lyon Métropole, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Cultural Affairs Directorate (DRAC), the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Council and the Rhône Prefecture. The 2022 programme is also supported by the Fondation Carasso.