Come and interact with a fern; explore a resistant herbarium; discover plant preservation using AI; taste the richness of the prickly pear; take part in a workshop to create plant paper; listen to tales of Japanese knotweed; experience rituals of healing and transincarnation; attend a calabash offering; discuss the links between contemporary art and flora with philosophers, scientists, conservationists and artists; celebrate and meet the finalists and winners of the COAL Prize and the COAL Culture & Diversity Student Prize 2023; enjoy a convivial and festive evening surrounded by THEBADWEEDS... These are just some of the events that SANS RÉSERVE invites you to attend on 6th December 2023!

CREATE, EXCHANGE, INVENT SANS RÉSERVE

Offering a shared space in which to express yourself without reserve, at a time when the reserves on which our current and future lifestyles are based are being depleted, through new types of creative practice that move beyond traditional art reserves, whilst challenging conservationist thinking and inventing new ways of preserving living territories - this is the ambition of SANS RÉSERVE, the new meeting place launched by COAL for creative artists committed to the environment.

SHARING AND EXPERIMENTING WITH PLANTS

The first edition of SANS RÉSERVE is in keeping with the theme of the COAL 2023 Prize dedicated to plants. It invites French and international artists, philosophers, scientists and protectors of nature to sow the seeds of creation and action, to germinate new research and experimentation, to act, to heal, to reiterate, to feel the richness of plants, their balances and dynamics, from seed to calyx, from molecule to ecosystem, so that inventive and resilient plant thinking can flourish in the world of tomorrow.

‘If you do not plant yourself, you will never grow’ - this is the teaching of plants, which tame the depths to better grow towards the light, reminding us where to land, to better orient ourselves. Swarming from all sides, they synthesise the blue planet into a green world, the colour of hope and renewal, the banner of ecology, the glimmer of a living world, hoping and inspiring a habitable Earth. They are our radical otherness, yet they are everywhere, around us and within us. They pass through us and make us up, metamorphosed in the food we eat, the air we breathe, our remedies, our goods, but also our thoughts, from the human and social sciences to artistic creation.

This day is in memory of Raphaël Abrille.
**DETAILED PROGRAMME**

**TALKS AND ROUND TABLES**

The following round tables on artistic practices committed to ecology will bring together experts, artists, researchers and stakeholders in artistic initiatives concerning plants and resilience practices.

**11.30AM - Rewilding art**
With the nominated and winning students of the COAL Culture & Diversity Prize Chloé Boulet (École Supérieure d’Art de Dunkerque – Tourcoing), Nikita Leroy (Villa Arson) and Louisa Selleret (École nationale supérieure de création industrielle), Emmanuel Tibloux, Director of the École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, and the artist Erik Samakh. Moderator: Lucile Deschamps, Fondation Culture & Diversité

How do young designers, creating in and with nature, work with the preservation of the living world?

**2PM - Poetics, Imaginaries and Stories of Alliances with Plants**
With nominated artists for the COAL Prize 2023 Sandra Lorenzi (France), Shivay La Multiple (France), Fabiana Ex-Souza (Brazil), as well as Jean-Pierre Pierron, philosopher, author of the book Pour une insurrection des sens, (Actes Sud, 2023). Moderator: Christopher Yggdre, curator and artistic director of the Fondation L’Accolade.

Drawing on rituals, healing practices, initiation tales and immemorial knowledge, how does contemporary creation work with plants?

**3PM - For an art of resilience**
With Nicolas Deshais-Fernandez, landscape designer, DPLG and botanist, and nominated artists for the COAL Prize 2023 Jean-Sébastien Poncet (France), Paula Valero Comín (Spain), and Rita Alaoui (Morocco). Moderator: Thomas Delage, Head of the Mobilising Citizens for Biodiversity Department at the Office Français de la Biodiversité (French Biodiversity Office).

Drawing on their capacity for adaptation, robustness and diversity, artists co-create with plants to repair damaged territories, ecosystems and degraded crops.

**4.30PM - The advent of the plant turn**
In English
With nominated artists of the COAL Prize 2023 the Al-Wah’at collective (Palestine, UK, Sweden), Azra Svedružić & Demirel Pašalić (Croatia), Barbara Mydlak (Poland), Laura Cinti (UK) as well as Michael Marder, philosopher, author of Plant-Thinking – A Philosophy of Vegetal Life (Columbia University Press, 2013). Moderator: Alexandra McIntosh, Director of the Centre International d’Art et du Paysage, Île de Vassivièrè.

The plant world has recently been the subject of a luminous and in-depth critical exploration, extending beyond the boundaries of botany to include philosophy, social sciences, politics and the arts. Can we speak of a ‘greening of human consciousness’ that reintegrates plant life back into ours, to borrow the phrase of philosopher Michael Marder?

**AUDITORIUM OF THE MUSÉE DE LA CHASSE ET DE LA NATURE**
TWELVE CARTES BLANCHES FOR ARTISTS OF THE COAL PRIZE 2023

First introduced to Europe to produce dye and then considered undesirable, the prickly pear is now under threat. During a residency in Sakiya, Palestine, the Al-Wah’at Collective, winners of the COAL Prize 2023, explored and reactivated the many potentials of this exceptional cactus, taking advantage of the plant and of its narrative raw material, which is closely linked to colonisation.

Areej Ashhab, Ailo Ribas and Gabriella Demczuk (Palestine/United Kingdom/Sweden), members of the Al-Wah’at Collective, are interested in care practices and the exchange of knowledge between humans and non-humans in ecosystems generally regarded as hostile and lifeless, in order to counter the anthropocentric and colonial narratives that are made in these arid lands.

Scattered around the museum like weeds, the Resistant Herbarium, designed by Paula Valero Comín, updates the heritage of plants at the same time as that of humans. Establishing links between the resilience of urban plants and the contribution of women to the protection of the living world, Paula Valero, to the sound of a baroque repertoire, launches a call to resistance as an act of celebration and homage to the memory of committed women.

Paula Valero Comín (Spain) proposes acts of radical communication within a shared meeting space, creating poetic and political disruption and interference in areas of public life as well as everyday life.

Fabiana Ex-Souza, winner of the COAL Prize special mention of the jury, challenges us to reflect on the teachings of the non-human, inviting us to question our relationship with nature. Using maize seeds, the artist weaves a dialogue with Oxóssi, an entity from the Afro-Brazilian pantheon, encouraging us to embrace the ‘filosofia das matas’ (philosophy of the forests).

A performance set at the heart of duality, where ancient and modern, nobility and nature, are subjected to radical questioning: a call to decolonise our perception, to recognise the plurality of narratives and to reassess our relationship with nature, far removed from the constructions imposed by a persistent colonial past.

Afro-Brazilian artist and researcher Fabiana Ex-Souza develops a transdisciplinary practice linked to the ecology of care, combining performance, video, installation, photography and plant materials.

Barbara Mydlak offers an alternative, cyclical and resilient way of producing paper, based on the overlooked potential of organic waste such as dead leaves, decomposing plants, unsold florists’ items and cemetery wreaths. In this workshop, learn how to make handmade paper from recycled plant fibre.

Barbara Mydlak (Poland) explores the ephemeral as-
pect of the process by which matter decomposes. Creating from moving and dying, she develops an ‘art of survival’ that takes the form of biodegradable and changing installations.

11AM - 6PM PROJECTION
3PM - 4PM INTERACTIVE TALK
LIVING DEAD: ON THE TRAIL OF A FEMALE
| With Laura Cinti and Marc Williams Debono, neurobiologist

Using cutting-edge technologies to help preserve plants and endangered species, Laura Cinti introduces the public to current uses of new technologies (drones and multispectral imaging) to search for plant species.

Laura Cinti (South Africa) is an internationally renowned artist-researcher working in the field of biology. With her collective, she develops living technoscientific works and organises events and workshops focusing on the intersections between art and biotechnology. Marc Williams Debono is a neurobiologist, in charge of the IDF Art & Science pole of the collective Culture 91 and Director of the publication L'intelligence des plantes en question (Ed. Hermann, 2020).

2.30PM & 6.15PM PERFORMANCE
ALMOST NATURAL
| With Azra Svedružić & Demirel Pašalić
Two 30 minute performances and an installation

Surrounded by weapons and paintings of hunting, the artist, blindfolded, makes paper flowers, which she ‘plants’ on a table set with fossil-fuelled food. Reminding us that there is no such thing as an innocent gaze, and that all the resources of our civilisation are extracted from the natural world, ‘Almost Natural’ is a reflection on the complex interconnection of culture and nature, and its harmful consequences.

Azra Svedružić & Demirel Pašalić (Croatia) have been collaborating since 2015. Together through their work they seek to implement social and environmental justice through creative practice in an approach that is both critical and educational.

4.30PM - 5.30PM RITUAL & TALE
THE SONG OF THE STEM PEOPLE
| With Jean-Sébastien Poncet and Delphine Thouilleux, storyteller.

Through Japanese knotweed, the earth speaks to us. The story of its journey to us is a tale punctuated by earthen objects. In a first-person narrative, the plant tells us about its journey from Japan to Europe and how, after decades of conflict, it finally builds a special kind of alliance with humans. The tale unfolds at the same time as a ritual involving the preparation of knotweed tea.

Jean-Sébastien Poncet (France) explores the condition of the rural designer through a workshop practice that looks outwards. As part of an economy of means, his creations are conceived as markers of the territory and tools for intermediation between humans and non-humans.

4PM - 6PM EXPERIENCE
A CONSULTATION WITH FERNS
| With Sandra Lorenzi, accompanied by Bernard Blancan, actor inventor
15 minute sessions, by groups of three

Using a quantum measuring instrument, discover the curve of your past-present-future psychic activity in connection and interaction with a fern.
Artist and poet Sandra Lorenzi (France) is developing a reparative body of work in which the question of ‘taking care’ is central. Based on material, energetic or symbolic entities, her drawings, sculptures, and installations encourage the creation of alternative narratives to the current accepted discourse of History.

4.30PM - 6.30PM HENNA RITUAL
LAWSONIA CATAPLASM GARDEN
| With Rita Alaoui

Putting plants and their healing properties back at the heart of our healthcare systems is the purpose of Rita Alaoui’s project, which invites us to rethink our methods of healing in the face of a systematic, interventionist and polluting pharmaceutical industry. Honouring ancestral Moroccan know-how, Lawsonia Cataplasm Garden explores the healing powers of henna through a treatment ritual.

Rita Alaoui (France/Morocco) explores our relationship with the wild world and imagines connections with the extraordinary, focusing her approach on the representation of a dreamlike, sacred and healing nature. Following a protocol reminiscent of botany and archaeology, she places the collection, accumulation and observation of organic objects found in nature at the centre of her work.

11AM - 9.30PM INSTALLATION
IN SEARCH OF THE WOODY FRUIT: SKIES CONTAINING ALL WATERS
| With Shivay La Multiple
Offering from 5PM to 6PM, installation after

Always attuned to the song of plants and their words, Shivay La Multiple pays tribute to the fruit of the calabash tree in a ritualised performance using plants gleaned from the surrounding area. Transformed into utilitarian, decorative, musical or religious objects, used as poison or medicine, this woody fruit with its many uses, forms and stories is omnipresent across all cultures.

Shivay La Multiple (France/New Caledonia) seeks to teach reason to the language of dreams and to create lines of escape into new worlds, multiverses and pluriverses. They are inspired by the concept of the poetics of relationships, while remaining influenced by the many places they have crossed.

8.45PM - 9PM RITUAL OF TRANSINCARNATION
FOR LACK OF FLAMME, I BRING THUNDER
| With Sandra Lorenzi

Ferns are primitive plants that have existed since the Devonian era. Wise and resilient by nature, ferns have been traced and used in many cultures and continents. Its physiological richness provides remedies and is now paving the way for new plant-human relationships. In connection with the fern as a therapeutic and spiritual guide, this poetic and performed ritual explores our animal-plant-mineral transincarnations.

5PM - 9.30PM PERFORMANCE AND DJ SET
THEBADWEEDS
| With Rocio Berenguer

They grow out of oblivion, out of cracks, out of the most inhospitable, wild and anarchic places, coexisting with us and between us. A gesture of resilience, and living proof of resistance, this trans-species music group, half human and half plant, comes straight from the plant kingdom to share their message with humans. Instagram @thebadweeds.

Rocio Berenguer (Spain), artist and choreographer, projects humanity into a trans-species world, between reality and fiction, through her transdisciplinary creations.
COAL PRIZE AWARDS CEREMONY 2023

COAL - CULTURE & DIVERSITY STUDENT PRIZE

The COAL 2023 Prize, a benchmark initiative promoting creative work committed to the environment, was awarded to the Al-Wah’at Collective for its ‘Wild Hedges’ project. The jury’s special prize went to Fabiana Ex-Souza for her ‘Trouxas de mandinga’ project. Two special mentions were also awarded this year: the NOVA_XX mention, in partnership with the Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles/Paris, to Laura Cinti for her project ‘Ai in the Sky’, and the Ateliers Médicis mention to Shivay La Multiple for their project ‘Ciel qui parlent’. The COAL - Culture & Diversity Student Prize is awarded to Louisa Selleret.

7PM - 8PM CEREMONY
AWARDS CEREMONY AND SPEECHES ON 15 YEARS OF ART AND ECOLOGY

With the nominated and winning artists of the COAL Prize and the Student COAL Prize - Culture & Diversity 2023; the guests of honour Joëlle Zask, philosopher and Thierry Boutonnier, first artist winner of the COAL Prize; Luc Allaire, General Secretary of the French ministry of Culture and Alban de Loisy, Chief Executive of the Fondation François Sommer; the members of the jury and this edition’s partners - Cathy Bouvard, director of the Ateliers Médicis; Thomas Delage, Head of the Mobilising Citizens for Biodiversity Department at the Office Français de la Biodiversité; Maïté Delmas, Honorary Attaché to the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, co-chair of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation; Catherine Dobler, founder of the Fondation LAccolade; Alexia Fabre, Director of the Paris Beaux-Arts; Christine Germain-Donnat, Director of the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature; Olivier Lerude, projet manager for Territoire de culture durable, Île-de-France Regional directorate of cultural affairs, French ministry of Culture; Michael Marder, philosopher, Ikerbasque research professor at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) Vitoria-Gasteiz; Alexandra McIntosh, Director of the CIAP - Ile de Vassivière, Contemporary art centre of national interest; Stéphanie Pécourt, Director of the Centre Wallonie Bruxelles/Paris; Erik Samakh, artist; Irène Varano, Sales Director of the Galerie ArtConcept; and COAL’s co-founders Loïc Fel, Lauranne Germond and Clément Willemin.

Discover the winning projects of the 2023 edition of the COAL Prize and the COAL Student Prize - Culture & Diversity, presented by the artists. Attend the official prize-giving ceremony and keynote speeches on the intrinsic links between art and ecology, by renowned speakers, COAL co-founders and members of the 2023 jury. COAL’s co-founders will look back on 15 years of commitment to a culture of ecology.

By invitation only

Al-Wah’at collective

Fabiana Ex-Souza

Laura Cinti

Shivay La Multiple
The European Union and the Art Climate Transition network (ACT)
ACT is a European cooperation project on ecology, climate change and social transition initiated by 10 cultural operators from 10 European countries - including COAL, the French representative - working in performing and visual arts. ACT is a project supported by the EU’s Creative Europe programme.

The French ministry of Culture
Its mission is to promote artistic creation in all its forms and to enable the democratisation and dissemination of cultural works. It has supported the Prix COAL since its creation in 2010.

The French Office for Biodiversity (OFB)
The French Office for Biodiversity is responsible for protecting and restoring biodiversity in France and its overseas territories. It works to preserve life in aquatic, terrestrial and marine environments, using the expertise of its 2,800 staff, including 1,700 environmental inspectors. This public institution also works to mobilise a range of stakeholders, decision-makers and citizens around biodiversity: the State, local authorities, associations, businesses, scientists, farmers, fishermen, hunters, nature sports enthusiasts, people involved in the arts and culture, etc.

The Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature and the Fondation François Sommer
Recognised as being of public utility since its creation on 30 November 1966, the Foundation was created by François and Jacqueline Sommer, pioneers in the realisation of a humanist ecology. Faithful to the commitments of its founders, it works to protect a biodiversity in which mankind has its rightful place, to use nature’s resources respectfully and to share the wealth of our natural, artistic and cultural heritage.

The Fondation Culture et Diversité
The Fondation Culture & Diversité’s mission is to promote access to the arts and culture for young people from low-income backgrounds. Since its launch in 2006, it has been designing and running long-term on-site programmes with its cultural, educational and social partners.

Fondation L’Accolade - Institut de France
The Fondation L’Accolade promotes artistic creation aware of its environment, and encourages approaches, projects and actions by artists on the themes of water, the environment, the fragility of life and the feminine, through research and creative residencies and exhibitions in France and the United States. It also looks after the ‘matrimoine’, the legacy of women of historical or artistic importance.

This edition also benefits from a partnership with:

The Ateliers Médicis
The Ateliers Médicis are committed to encouraging the emergence of new and diverse artistic voices, and to supporting artists with unique and contemporary approaches. They welcome in residence artists from all disciplines, and support the creation of works that are linked to the local area. They encourage or organise encounters between artists and local residents. Located in Clichy-sous-Bois and Montfermeil, in the department of Seine-Saint-Denis, they occupy a prefiguration building. A large-scale facility with national ambitions will be built by 2025, reaffirming the place of artistic creation in the suburbs.

The Wallonie Bruxelles/Paris Centre
Through its resolutely de-sanctuarising and transdisciplinary programming, the Centre is mandated to disseminate and promote the work of artists based in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. In this way, it promotes emerging and confirmed approaches, from the peripheral to the established.
COAL

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

SANS RÉSERVE
6th December 2023
At the musée de la Chasse et de la Nature
62 rue des Archives, 75003 Paris
Free admission by reservation, subject to availability

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COVER IMAGE CREDIT
Suzanne Husky, Euro War Rug, Carpet, 2m x 2.85m, 2015.
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