

## About Us: Esox Lucius / Le quai (294<sup>M9</sup>)

**Founded in 2002, Esox Lucius is a non-profit organisation that develops visual art productions and contemporary arts programs in a rural context.**



Since April 2018, the organisation has been based at the former railway station of Saint-Maurice-lès-Châteauneuf in the Saône-et-Loire department. Esox Lucius presents exhibitions, concerts performances and lectures at its historic venue, known as Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>). It organises artistic initiatives including residencies and workshops, while developing public contemporary art programmes for diverse audiences.

Anchored in its rural area, where nature plays a key role in everyday life, Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) connects artists, local communities and the wider public. It works to create a dialogue between the local and the global, exploring the ecological, social, and poetic issues of our time.

For more than twenty years, the association has been a key cultural actor in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region, cultivating a loyal audience defined by its social and geographical diversity.

Esox Lucius receives support for its projects from the French Ministry of Culture (DRAC Bourgogne-Franche-Comté), the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Regional Council, the Saône-et-Loire Departmental Council, and the Community of Towns council (Brionnais Sud Bourgogne). It is also a member of the regional contemporary art network Seize Mille, which allows it to collaborate with young artists and promote its projects to a wide audience.

## Introducing Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>)

Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) is located in the former railway station of a village with an exceptional setting. The interior design of the exhibition spaces was created by the designer Philippe Million, who adopted a particular sensitivity to the building's origins and history. Artists and creators are not only offered a space for displaying artwork: we encourage them to engage with the building and its gardens, its history, and its rural context in their proposals. We consider Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) as a space to be shared, open to the public and in direct dialogue with its experimental rural context. We ensure that the space is welcoming to all, that our programming is based on equality, inclusivity, and transgenerationality.

In organising solo and group exhibitions, Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) follows the recommendations of the French Association for the Development of Contemporary Art Centres (DCA). In the case of new artistic production, funding is allocated on a project-by-project basis according to the DCA reference framework.

Since the opening of Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>), the gardens have also served as exhibition spaces. Inaugurated in 2018 with Vincent Ganivet's work *Double Hélicoïdale*, the gardens are now in the process of becoming a designated bird refuge in partnership with La Ligue Protectrice des Oiseaux. We now seek to welcome works that foster and celebrate non-human life, with the goal of enriching human perception.



*Voyage-voyage*, Benjamin Grivot (2024)  
*L'albatros* Jacqueline Gueux (2020)  
*Asleep on the Raft*, Guillaume Constantin (2021)  
Front garden and entrance of Le quai (294<sup>M9</sup>)  
Ganivet's Sculpture in back garden.

## A place for artists in residence

In addition to presenting four exhibitions every year, Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) also organises artist residencies. Residencies vary in length and format and result in “in situ” production, solo exhibitions, production of new artworks, publication of artist editions. We also participate in the Pôle Position programme for emerging young artists organised by the Seize Mille contemporary art network. The team supports resident artists throughout their stay, considering their proposals carefully and adapting to their needs and wishes.

## A place for educational & mediation projects

We develop and organise educational encounters adapted to school groups, from primary to high school, whether at Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) itself, with exhibitions visits and specific mediation-projects, or at partner institutions (visual arts programme in secondary schools run with the Regional Council of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté).

We also offer events for the general public including mediation activities, creative workshops, yoga sessions, etc., allowing the public to experience art in a sensitive and creative way.



The village of Châteauneuf for the Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>)  
Bookmark of the book *Relevé de desserte*, during the opening of the residency of artists Muriel Issard, Ross Louis, Manuel Zenner (2024)

## A place in the heart of a rural context

The Burgundy-Franche-Comté region is the largest rural region in France. Our institutional mission cannot ignore the territory we inhabit and care for. A unique feature of Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) is its location in a village of 600 inhabitants in the Brionnais-Charolais region, surrounded by gardens. We encourage the artists who visit to consider this context in relation to their work.

The element of travel, particularly by train, has always been an inspiration for the invited artists and a way to connect with our audience.

The rural setting and the possibilities offered by the gardens are also open to reflection: far from the fantasy of an isolated environment, we experience rurality as a dynamic and fluid space,

shaped by human and professional activities, always in tune with the seasons. Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) exists within this evolving environment, where the boundaries between city and countryside, work and leisure, nature and technology are intertwined, fragile, and complex. Our programming makes these transformations and questions tangible. Through a cycle of exhibitions and public encounters, we aim to shape our space into a sharing and collective experience. It is together, with artists, audiences and staff, that we can imagine desirable futures.

## The venue

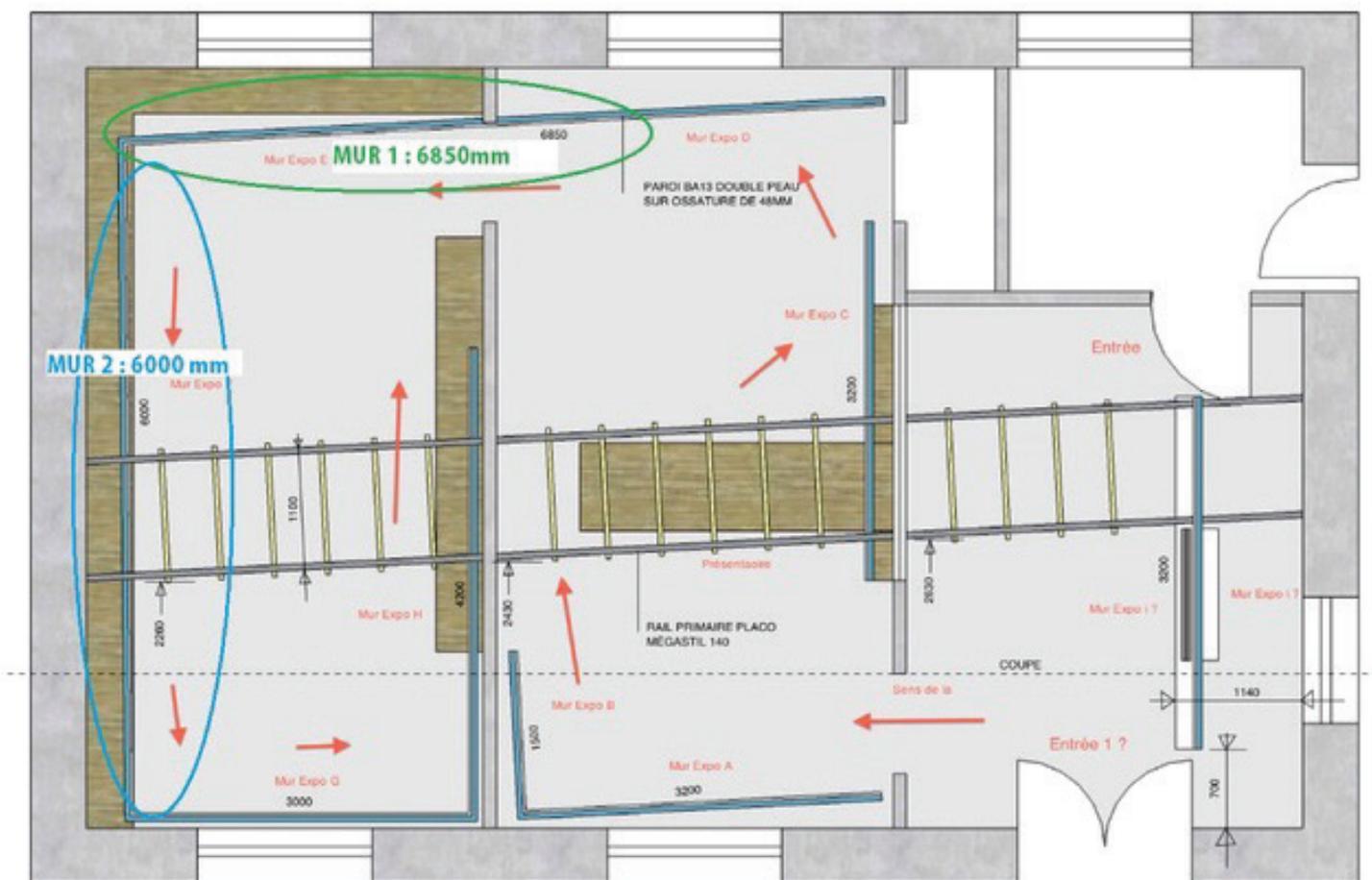
Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) consists of three adjoining spaces. Two exhibition spaces, each measuring approximately 20m<sup>2</sup>, (the former train station waiting room and luggage storage room) and a reception area (the former ticket office) which can also be used by artists on an ad hoc basis. The gardens cover approximately 1,500m<sup>2</sup> and are also a potential playground, with the aim of making this environment an “LPO” bird refuge in 2026 and taking this joyful constraint into consideration.





*Cours vite, mords fort (Run Fast, Bite Hard)*, Lucie Drazek (2025)  
*Marché(g)art*, Group exhibition (2024)  
*Impromptu*, Anita Molinero (2020)  
*Pôle position*, Group exhibition (2022)  
*Point de côté (Stitch)*, Céline Cléron (2021)

## Technical information



### Insurance

MAIF / €77,000 at all times.

Additional insurance contracted for each exhibition is based on the value of the works on display.

### Safety

TecnoAlarm intrusion protection, installed by an approved company (MC PROTECTION).

The exhibition spaces, offices and artist residence apartments are equipped with fire alarms.

### Accessibility

Due to its historic architectural design, the interior areas of the station are unfortunately not wheelchair accessible. We are working on grant applications to adapt certain areas.

# Case study: Exhibition "Sentir la gravité des souffles"

Exhibition "To Feel the Gravity of Breathing" by Julie C. Fortier



Esox Lucius invited artist Julie C. Fortier to create an exhibition for Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) entitled *Sentir la gravité des souffles* (Feeling the Gravity of Breathing). Offering a reflection on the changing environment and our fluctuating lives, the exhibit brings together artworks that question our relationship with the earth, migration, and the traces left behind by bodies and winds.

The pieces were installed in the spaces of the old train station so as to respond to each other, inviting the public to take its time, to rest on the fragranced carpets, to consider nature in its least legible dimensions, to activate its senses, to perceive differently. With bright colours and delicate scents diffused through photography, video, drawing, and installation, the artist-perfumer proposes a contemplative visual and olfactory journey.



## About the artist

Julie C. Fortier has for several years been reflecting on the passage of time, the presence of emptiness and the notion of erasure. Her experiences with and research into reality explore attrition (loss of time, loss of energy, non productivity, loops, erasure) and lacunar spaces (blank screens, empty space, memory blanks).

Recently the artist has been focussing on the world of smells and flavours in order to examine notions such as the ephemeral, the passing of time and changes in nature, the presence of emptiness and memory. All her fragrances are natural and created from organic and self-collected materials.

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## Chauffailles

### Une réflexion sur l'environnement

**Saint-Maurice-les-Châteauneuf**  
Une nouvelle exposition est installée dans les locaux d'Esos Lucius. Les œuvres de Julie Fortier seront à découvrir.

Pendant près de deux mois, l'association Esos Lucius, basée à Saint-Maurice-les-Châteauneuf, convie Julie Fortier, artiste d'origine canadienne et désormais basée à Rennes, pour son exposition "Sentir la gravité des souffles", dans ses locaux, au quai CBA(M). Les pièces installées tissent des liens avec les différents espaces de l'ancienne gare, qui sert aujourd'hui de lieu d'exposition, et se répondent pour offrir au public une réflexion sur l'environnement changeant et sur nos vies fluctuantes.

"Avec une volonté de prendre son temps, d'ouvrir les yeux et d'écouter la nature jouée dans ses dimensions les moins habituelles, les installations et odeurs créées par l'artiste parfumuse nous engagent dans un voyage tant visuel qu'olfactif. Un voyage à cet égard au-dessus de notre quotidien".

Un rapport à la nature de plus en plus tendu, imprévisible

Cette exposition réunit des œuvres qui interrogent notre relation à l'environnement, aux flux migratoires, aux traces

lâchées par les corps et les vents. Par la photographie, la vidéo, le dessin ou l'installation, elles nous invitent à réactiver nos sens, à ralentir, à percevoir autrement.

Les œuvres de Julie Fortier invitent le public à s'interroger sur son rapport avec la nature. Celui-ci devient de plus en plus tendu, imprévisible. "Ce qui, hier encore, semblait stable, domestiqué, sous contrôle, se révèle aujourd'hui insaisissable, parfois même catastrophique. Face aux bouleversements climatiques, à l'effondrement de la biodiversité ou à la perte de repères sensoriels, l'humain se voit replacé dans une position plus humble, au sein du tissu vivant."

Les frontières entre ce qui était solide et ce qui est mouvant se brouillent. L'immobilité fait place à la migration; celle des corps, des espèces, des souvenirs, des savoirs. Les paysages, les récits se déplacent et la nature, peu à peu, reprend ses droits. Elle pousse dans les interstices, envahit les ruines, murmure à travers les vents et les parfums.

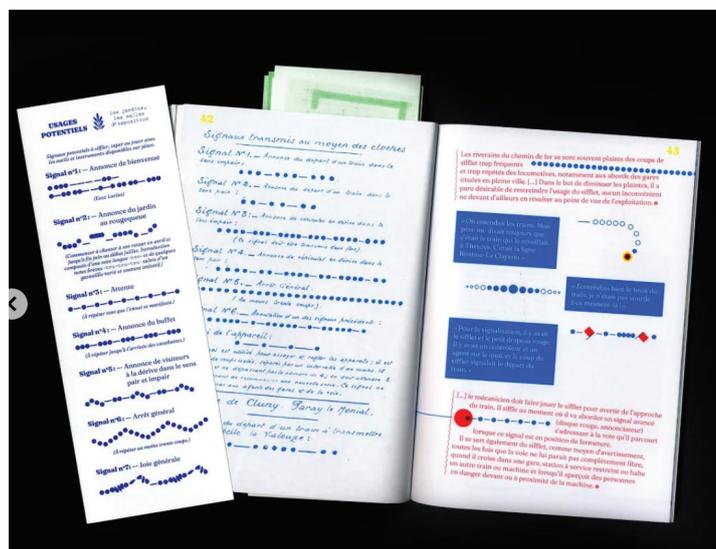
"Saurons-nous écouter ce que le monde nous murmure et à nous raconter? Saurons-nous accueillir les ondes, les signaux, les échos – parfois imperceptibles – qu'il nous envoie? Peut-on encore composer avec ce qui nous dépasse, tisser des liens sensibles, imaginatifs, réparateurs, entre nos perceptions intimes et les grandes dynamiques planétaires?"

L'artiste d'origine canadienne et désormais installée à Rennes, exposera pendant près de deux mois ses œuvres.

■ Du 4 octobre au 30 novembre. Ouverture les vendredis, samedis et dimanches de 14h à 18h ou sur rendez-vous. Informations au 07 83 02 24 17 ou sur [expositions@art-blogs.com](mailto:expositions@art-blogs.com). Vernissage samedi 4 octobre de 14h à 18h.

# Case study: Residency "Relevé de desserte"

Residency "Train Station Service Statement" with Muriel Issard, Ross Louis, Emanuel Zenner



The result of a weeklong residency by Muriel Issard, Manuel Zenner (Zenner-Issard) and Ross Louis, *Relevé de desserte* (Train Station Service Statement) is an edition to be activated in situ to experiment with the boundaries between memory, imagination and the archives attached to the former train station of

Saint-Maurice-lès-Châteauneuf. During the residency, the artists invited local residents to Le quai (294<sup>M9</sup>) to share and discuss the train station's archives, while also collecting memories from the Le Colombier nursing home. To conclude the residency, *Relevé de desserte* was distributed to the public activated during an afternoon of performances, which invited visitors to explore the train station and its gardens with the edition in hand, moving between traces of reality and fiction. The edition consists of a silkscreen-printed poster, performance protocol bookmarks, and a series of texts and images combining archival documents, fictional speculations and residents' memories of the site.



## About the artists

### Ross Louis

Ross Louis is a researcher-artist, professor of performance at the École supérieure d'art d'Avignon and member of the MARGE research laboratory at the Université Jean Moulin, Lyon 3. His projects often take the form of interactive editorial objects and performance protocols that question the relation between place, everyday life and the archival document.

### Zenner & Issard

Together Manuel Zenner and Muriel Issard work as a collective specialised in graphic design and particularly in book design and printed matter. Their expertise also extends to artistic direction, digital design and art installation. They have collaborated with institutional and private structures in the field of culture and science as well as with artists, academics, publishing houses, associations and educational teams. They also tutor workshops and student critics in art schools and universities.

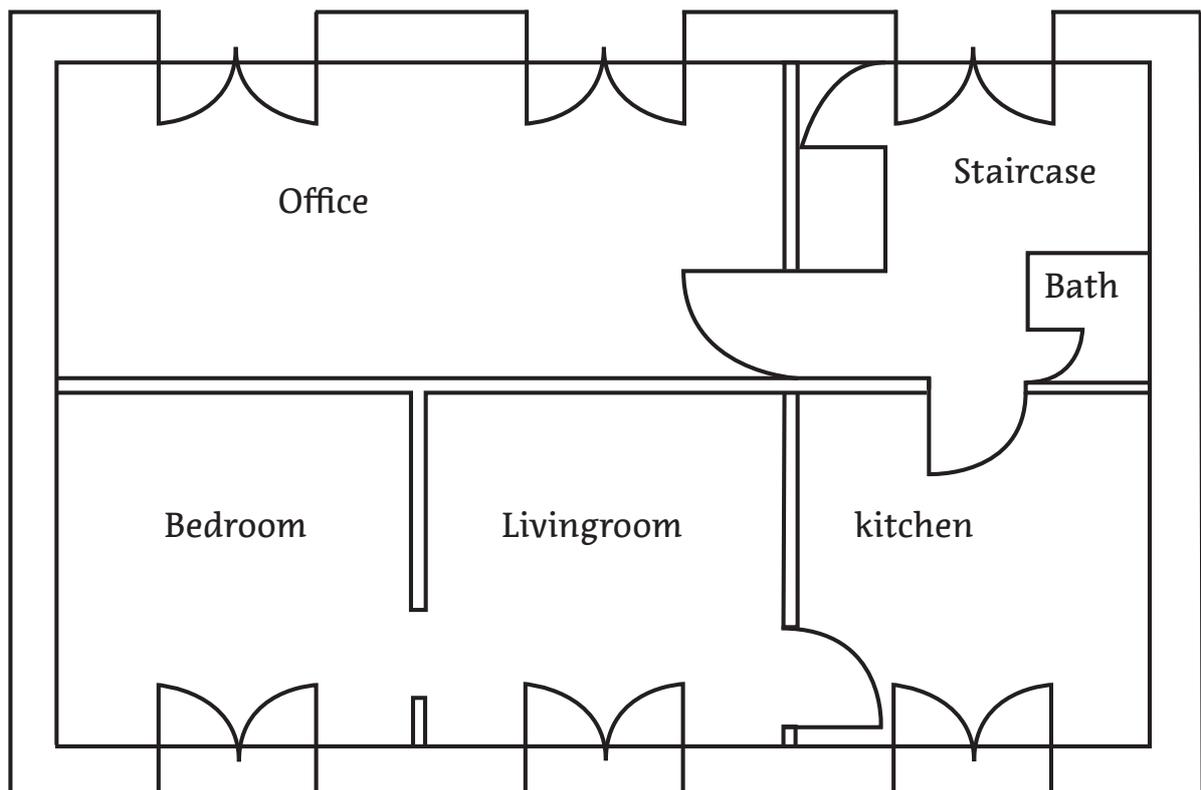


## About the residency accomodation

The working studio is on the ground floor and located in the former train station ticket hall. It still retains some of the original features: ticket counter, fireplace...

The apartment is situated upstairs, on the same floor as the organisation office.

It consists of a bedroom, study-living room, bathroom and kitchen. The kitchen is a shared space and meals are always an oportunity to interact with the team.



## Recent exhibitions



**2025** *Cours vite, mords fort (Run Fast, Bite Hard)*, by Lucie Drazek // Group exhibition *Commissaires en herbe (young curators)*, with various works from FRAC, Regional Public Art Collection in Burgundy // *Sentir la gravité des souffles (To Feel the Gravity of Breathing)*, by Julie C. Fortier.

**2024** *Sub Sculptura*, by Vincent Ganivet & Julian Lemousy // *It was not that bad*, by Eléa Fouchard // Claude Viallat monographic exhibition // *Relevé de desserte (Train Station Service Statement)*, by art collective: Ross Louis, Manuel Zenner & Muriel Issard // *Marché(g)art*, group exhibition // *Vestiges de l'être aimé (Remains of the lover)*, by Alice Charton.

**2023** *Poïétique de l'erreur (Process of Error)*, by art collective Æther Laser // *Voyage, Voyage (Travel, travel)*, by Benjamin Grivot // *Pôle Position #2*, with Julie Annezo, Elodie Armata, Joris Creuze, Léa Dhordain, Thomas Moesl, Wong Hau Daai Dou Dong // *L'Art à 20 Balles (20 Quid Art)*, group exhibition.

**2022** *Extrapolation for Space Agriculture* (Valère Costes) // *Pôle Position #1*, group exhibition with Claire Arquevaux, Robin Davourie, Maëva Ferreira Da Costa, Elliott Lambert, Eva Pelze // *Pièces jouées (Funny Pieces)*, by Pierre Ginet.

**2021** *Asleep on the Raft*, by Guillaume Constantin & Roxane Jean // *Point de côté (Stitch)*, by Céline Cléron // *Loo*, by Edouard Prulhière.

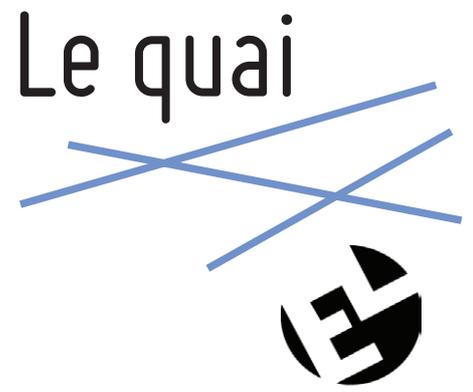
**2020** *Impromptu* by Anita Molinero // *YAW*, with Tuğba Yüksel, Olivier Toulemonde & Pierre-Yves Freund // *L'albatros (The albatross)*, by Jacqueline Gueux // *Entre-temps (Meantime)*, by David Falco & Lucie Taïeb.

## Contact Us

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Treasurer: Véronique Sidoit

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Opening hours for the public, Le Quai (294<sup>M9</sup>):  
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm to 7pm  
Tuesdays to Thursdays by appointment.  
Opening hours, Esox lucius office:  
Tuesday to Friday, 11 am to 6pm.



Direction des services départementaux  
de l'éducation nationale  
de Saône-et-Loire

