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Westall, Mark. "Château La Coste presents the first solo exhibitions in France by British artists Mary McCartney, Idris Khan and Annie Morris." *FAD Magazine*. June 21, 2022.



This Summer Château La Coste will be exhibiting the first solo exhibitions in France by British artists Mary McCartney, Idris Khan and Annie Morris all opening in June.

Situated in one of the oldest winemaking regions of France, between the historic city of Aix-En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture co-exist in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, Château La Coste invites visitors to discover over forty major works of contemporary art installed in the open air and five gallery spaces dotted across the 500-acre site.

Titled "Moment of Affection", this show by Mary McCartney traces 30 years of the British photographer's career, from her debut through to the present day, and showcases over 20 works from her personal archives, with most of them never exhibited in public before.



Mary McCartney Family Circle Sussex, 1999 © Mary McCartney Courtesy of Château La Coste

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“I have taken my time, looking through every contact sheet and photograph in my archive to discover Moment of Affection. I found simple moments, yet incredibly rich in feelings. And here they are.” –Mary McCartney

The exhibition reveals an underlying thread in McCartney’s work: capturing rare moments of unguarded intimacy and connection. From tender portraits of her family to emotionally charged pictures as well as poignant images of nature, her photographs draw on fundamental themes such as love, desire and grief, McCartney invites the viewer to reflect on an emotion, a memory, while also leaving space for interpretation.

“I’m delighted to co-curate Moment of Affection at Château La Coste with Mary who I have had the pleasure to know as a friend and collaborate with over the past few years. I think this moving and beautiful show reflects universal emotions and will resonate widely with audiences, especially during such unsettling times. It will be uplifting for the soul”
–Georgina Cohen, co-curator of the exhibition



Mary McCartney Frisky Sussex, 2016 © Mary McCartney Courtesy of Château La Coste

Unveiled in the Richard Rogers Drawing Gallery, this exhibition by Idris Khan brings together 24 new watercolours and three large paintings.

“I’ve long admired the vision of Château La Coste and its fusion between art and architecture. Over the past 10 years, I have created works to do with time, loss and memory. Showing my work in the late Richard Roger’s last completed building is a moving experience for me, and I am really looking forward to June and exhibiting my paintings for the first time in France.” –Idris Khan

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Idris in Studio Portrait 2021 Photo Credit: Maryam Eisler Courtesy of Château La Coste

Drawing on a wide range of cultural sources including literature, philosophical texts, minimalist art, musical scores and religion, and bringing together ideas about time, memory and spirituality, Khan has developed a unique narrative involving densely layered imagery that sits between abstraction and figuration. Inspired by the minimal architecture of Rogers' pavilion and its poignancy being one of the last projects the architect-designed, Khan's latest exhibition explores life's journey and the passage of time.

"I'm delighted to collaborate with Idris on his first exhibition in France and look forward to seeing his works transform the Richard Rogers Drawing Gallery. I've had the pleasure to know Idris for some time and have seen how his practice has evolved into the internationally recognised artist he is today. I am proud and excited to be part of this exhibition with Château La Coste." –Georgina Cohen, co-curator of the exhibition



*Idris in Studio Portrait 2021 Photo Credit: Maryam Eisler
Courtesy of Château La Coste*

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The inaugural show in France by British artist Annie Morris will take place in the newly completed Oscar Niemeyer pavilion. The exhibition features new sculptures, tapestries and paintings, as well as a 6-metre tall bronze sculpture, her largest work to date, specially conceived for the grounds of Château La Coste.

“My sculptures are about holding onto something that’s fallen, and to express the hope and defiance of life. The vibrant pigment on the surface is a way of trying to freeze the moment when paint hasn’t yet dried, and is caught in its most raw form. They assemble to create abstract paintings that escalate upwards and express the fragility we all feel in our lives. There is not a day that goes by that I don’t draw something, and this is the beginning of all my work. France is integral to me, having studied at the Beaux-Arts in Paris. Château La Coste is an inspiration and I am delighted that my first show in France will be in the Oscar Niemeyer Pavilion.” –Annie Morris



Portrait Annie Morris, 2021, Idris Khan

Taking centre stage in the exhibition is a group of Stacks – Morris’ iconic towers of vivid coloured spheres. Following the tragic stillbirth of her first child in 2014, these sculptures were inspired by the artist’s grief but have since become a “joyous obsession” for the artist. Carved by hand from pigmented plaster and sand, the works on view in Niemeyer’s vast concrete space contrast with the taller towers of Morris’ past Stack series.

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“I’m thrilled to collaborate on the inaugural show at the Niemeyer pavilion with my dear friend Annie Morris. To see her works bring joy and colour to Château La Coste is such an exciting moment. Annie’s work has the ability to evoke hope and energy to heal, to inspire, and uplift the soul, it’s been a wonderful journey to get to this point and I’m excited to share this exhibition with the visitors.” –Georgina Cohen, co-curator of the exhibition



Annie Morris Studio, Stephen White & Co, 2017