

|ROSEMARIE | IRMA||| |CASTORO||| | BLANK

MARTIN ARNULF BARRÉI RAINERI

Opening October 8, 2019 (6 pm)

October 9, 2019-February 2, 2020





# PRESS RELEASE

What is an image? And what do the images that engulf us daily want? These questions, posed over the past twenty years in the field of "visual studies," invite us to consider images not only in terms of their existence as objects, and their meaning, but also in terms of their relationship to the society in which they are produced. We have long characterized the work of a particular artist by her/his technique, but must now accept that the medium is more than a work's materials or its message: it is the ensemble of practices that have brought the work into existence, i.e. not only the canvas, stretcher and paint, but also the studio, gallery, and/ or museum, the art market, and the critics.

From challenges to conventional "fine art" categorizations, to ontological shifts in the realm of the "visual," exhibitions at MAMCO in 2019 explore this evolving concept of the image.

This fall, the museum constructs a typology of pictorial gestures and signs through four experimental practices. Thus MAMCO traces a unique path through the history of post-war painting, with retrospectives of the work of Martin Barré and Rosemarie Castoro, a major exhibition of work by Irma Blank and an ensemble of pieces by Arnulf Rainer (the Foëx donation). The replacement of brushwork by the use of spray, the extension of painting to the body and the space, the liberation of language from meaning, or the covering-over of preexisting images are just some of the tropes on show—"gestures" that remind us that artists think above all in forms, that cannot be properly looked at and apprehended until they are understood as such.

# Mirabaud's gift: in 2019, MAMCO is free for all

Admission to the museum will be free of charge throughout 2019, thanks to a generous gift from Mirabaud, in celebration of the company's 200th anniversary.

The gift furthers Mirabaud's commitment to MAMCO as part of the company's growing involvement in contemporary art. As a partner company to MAMCO since 2017, Mirabaud supports the museum's development activities, in particular the project 'In Course of Acquisition'. Free admission to MAMCO in 2019 reflects the museum's determination to make contemporary art accessible to the widest possible public. We thank Mirabaud for their support in implementing this policy of outreach and sharing.

# GUY DE COINTET

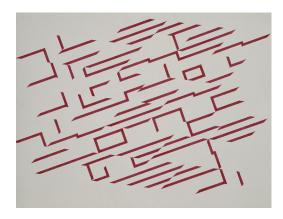
French-born artist Guy de Cointet (1934–1983) emigrated to the USA in 1965, where he worked as an assistant to Larry Bell in New York. He eventually followed him to Los Angeles, where he lived for the rest of his life.

His work weaves together strands from Conceptual art, visual poetry, and various narrative forms. For de Cointet, code, hieroglyphics, and typography were tools for transforming words into images, and giving form to color. He employed these to create large drawings composed of encrypted writings and his books of "typoetry."

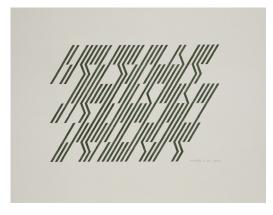
Like Warhol, he drew inspiration from the everyday world, from advertising and soap operas, processing his finds using the "cut-up" techniques of Burroughs and Gysin. Toward the end of his life, de Cointet became increasingly interested in the crossovers between theater, cinema, and dance. His scenery items for his production of *ETHIOPIA*, (part of the MAMCO collection) function by turns as props, scenery, and actual characters.

This room contains works on paper and "post-Pop" paintings, acquired by MAMCO on occasion of the first de Cointet retrospective the museum organized in 2004.

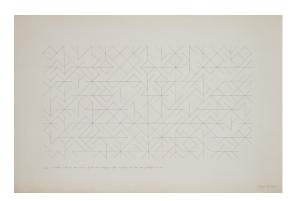
# GUY DE COINTET



Guy de Cointet, *Sans titre*, ca 1980 watercolor on paper 58 x 79.4 cm coll. MAMCO, gift Succession Guy de Cointet



Guy de Cointet, *Nevertheless I did Venture* 1978 ink on paper 65.2 x 101.7 cm coll. MAMCO



Guy de Cointet And no wonder...What he saw was one of the most amazing sights..., 1978 ink on paper 65 x 102 cm coll. MAMCO



Guy de Cointet, *Sans titr*e, ca. 1965 collage, painting on isorel plate 107 x 79 cm coll. MAMCO, gift Succession Guy de Cointet



MAMCO is overseen by FONDAMCO, which is made up of FONDATION MAMCO, the Canton, and City of Geneva.

MAMCO would like to thank all its partners, both public and private, and in particular: JTI and Fondation de Famille Sandoz, Fondation de bienfaisance du Groupe Pictet, as well as Fondation Coromandel, Fondation Lombard Odier, Fondation Valeria Rossi di Montelera, Mirabaud & Cie SA, Fondation Leenaards, Richemont, Sotheby's.

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Monday: closed Tuesday–Friday: 12-6pm Saturday–Sunday: 11-6pm

Free entry in 2019