

TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

young public

travelling exhibition

DIVERSION OF OBJECTS

 Centre
Pompidou

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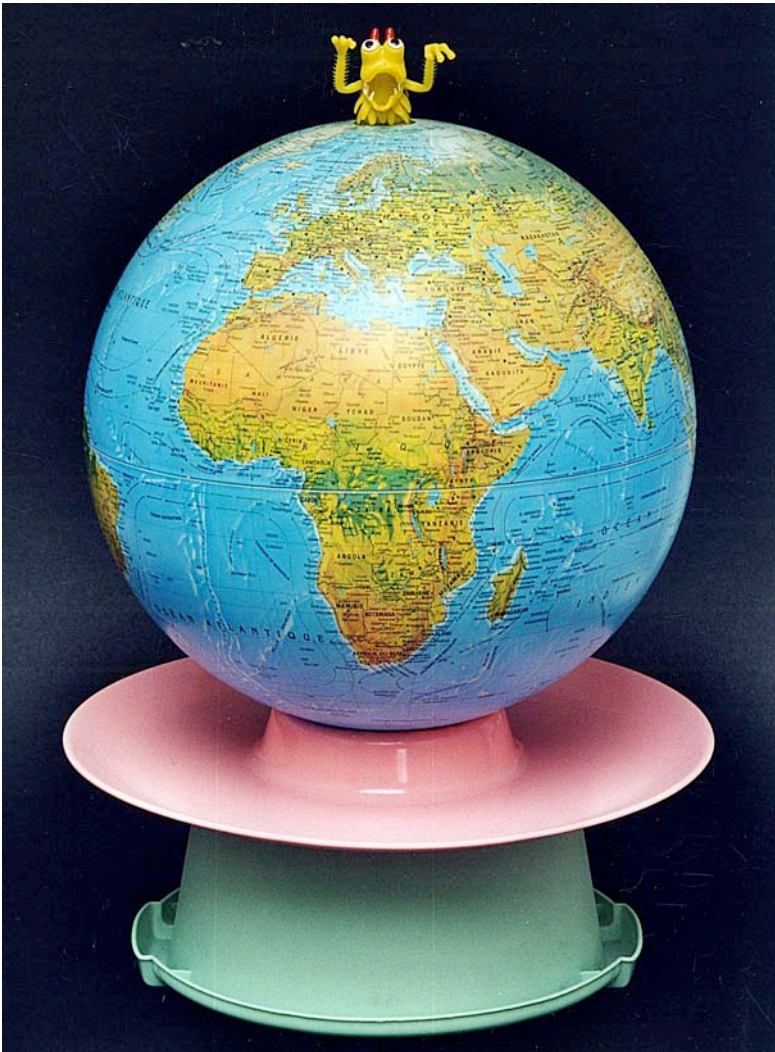
A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION FOR
CHILDREN BETWEEN 5 AND 12 YEARS
CENTRED ON WORKS
BY CLAUDE COURTECUISSE

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1 - PRESENTATION

"Our immediate environment, composed of daily objects, looks like an urban area on the scale of a hand, in which one can make all kinds of diversions..."

Claude Courtecuise

As part of his mission to raise the awareness of children with regard to contemporary creation, as expressed by the visual arts, the Service of Programmes for Young People at the Pompidou Centre presents *Diversion of Objects*, an exhibition centred on works by the French artist, Claude Courtecuise. Intended for a wide public, starting from the age of five, the exhibition can be visited by children, either accompanied by their family or within the framework of a school project.

The exhibition is organised according three different areas, and the layout can be adapted to suit each partner institution hosting the travelling exhibition.

The theme of the object is approached in turn through drawings, sculptures and photographs, against a setting that can be changed. The educational nature of this exhibition, which is designed to accompany young visitors on their tour and more generally their approach to contemporary creation, is based on an interactive multimedia system. To facilitate mediation activities, the movable material, consisting of a collection of objects, will make it possible to experiment in situ with the issues that are of concern to the artist.



2 - THE ARTIST

Claude Courtecuisse, an everyday art

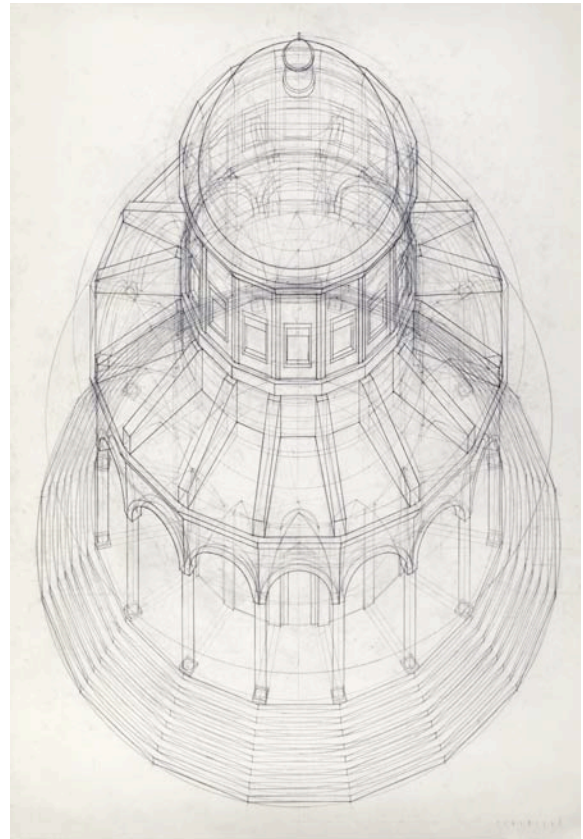
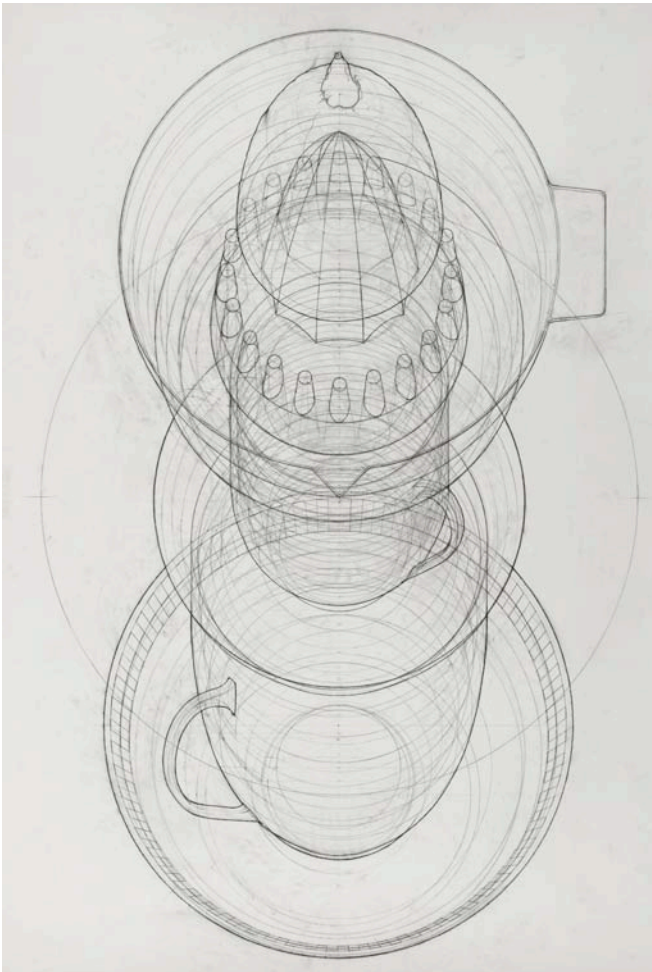
A designer by training, a photographer and a sculptor, Claude Courtecuisse is also a poet... of everyday life.

The exhibition *Diversion of Objects* displays installations, piles of all kinds, invariably tinged with humour. The artist constructs them by systematically diverting ordinary objects (corks, pens, etc) from their initial functions. As in *Alice in Wonderland*, they are subjected to astonishing changes of scale: glasses, cups or lemon-squeezers take on extraordinary proportions. Adopting a process of repetition and arrangements in series, Claude Courtecuisse interprets these diversions of objects through several media: sculpture, drawing and photography. Removed abruptly from their triviality, the objects suddenly attract our attention.

Claude Courtecuisse lives and works in Lille and Paris.

In France, his works (installations, design) are part of the collections of the National Museum of Modern Art at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in Villeneuve d'Ascq, the Museum of Decorative in Paris, the Frac Nord-Pas-de-Calais and La Piscine, and the Museum of Art and Industry in Roubaix. In addition, he has executed numerous public commissions for the Ministry of Culture.





3 – EIGHT DRAWINGS ON PLEXIGLAS REPRODUCED ON A LARGE SCALE

Claude Courtecuisse has made numerous axonometric (a method of graphic representation giving an illusion of volume) drawings of classical architecture, based on details from "classical paintings", such as domes, pillars, vaults and porticoes.

Using the same principle, he has also produced drawings composed of banal objects, including plates, bowls and small dishes, instead of elements of classical architecture.

The artist appropriates these objects, taken from paintings by Caravaggio and Rubens, and manipulates them by enlarging or re-arranging them.

Thanks to these large, adjustable panels, exhibition areas can be organised to fit into the premises made available by partner institutions. The public is invited to discover these mock architectural drawings, and to appreciate these unusual constructions of objects, marked by a tremendous precision of lines and a dual movement that is both frontal and plunging, internal and external, high and low, flat and three-dimensional, circular and spiral.



4 - PHOTOGRAPHIC SÉRIES

Photography is a means of multiplying combinations of objects through the way they are framed and also through changes in scale. The artist sets formal and chromatic rhythms by incorporating a rigorous composition on each plate.

Each of the 20 frames on display is composed of 35 photos.



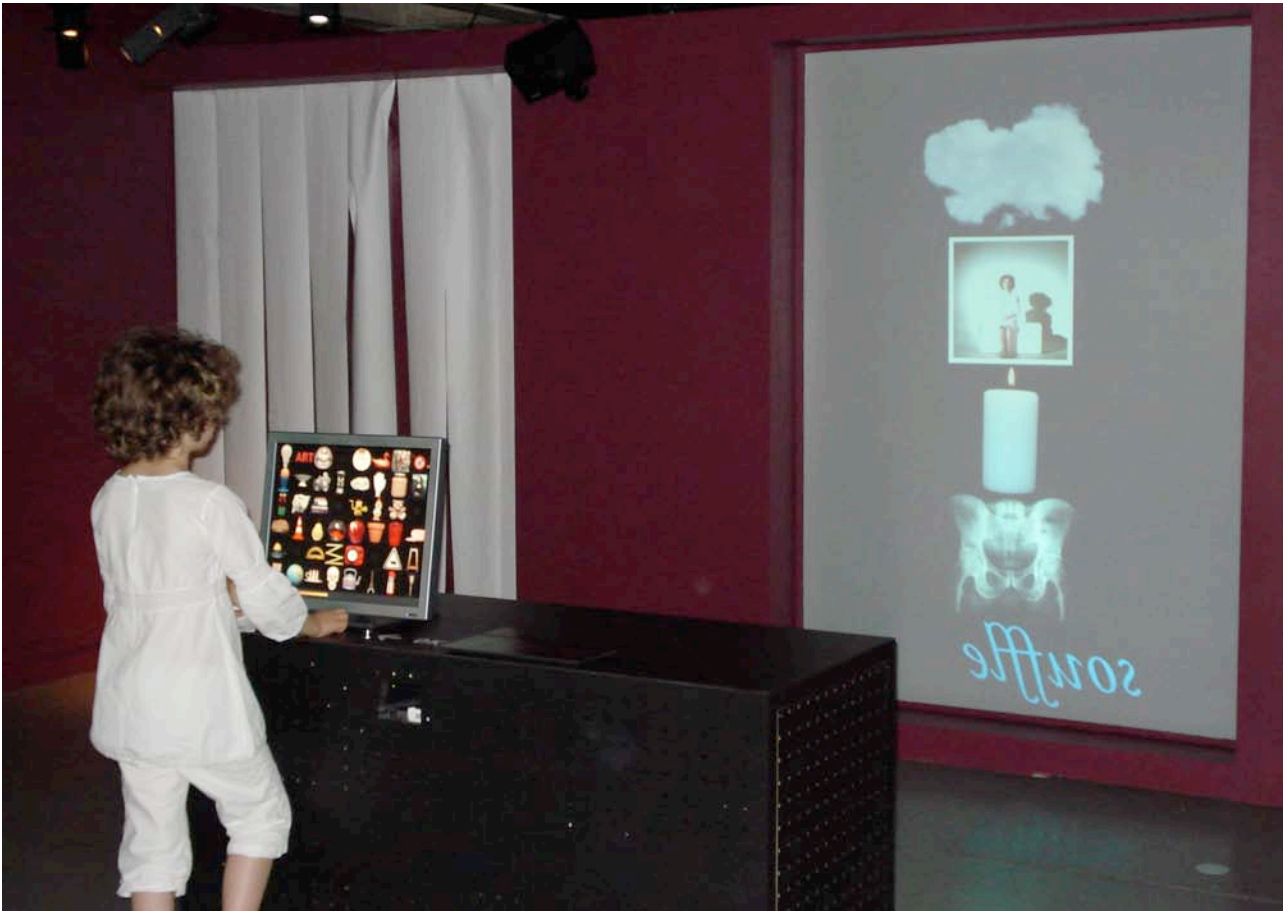
5 - FIVE TOWERS IN PLEXIGLAS

Parallel to the large-scale architectural drawings, an exercise in studying volumes is proposed through the presentation of Plexiglas towers. The shadow cast by the tower transforms a subject into three dimensions, highlighting the immaterial nature of emptiness and the transparency of simple but hollow volumes.



6 - FOUR SHOWCASES OF SMALL FLEXIBLE SCULPTURES

Flexible stems in different sizes, ornamented with objects at their tips, emerge from stands in painted wood. The profusion of small objects draws the attention of children, encouraging them to explore the spaces created through these changes in scale.



7 - AN INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM

A digital installation enables children to replicate the approach of the artist in a simple and intuitive manner.

Visitors have at their disposal a repertory consisting of about fifty images of objects and words. They are invited to choose five of them to construct a tower in a virtual manner. The tower is projected simultaneously on a large-scale on a screen. The other visitors at the exhibition are thus able to watch the tower being created in real time. The illustrators can then stage themselves and be photographed in order to include their portraits in the elements proposed.

Visitors can also choose words from among the different languages proposed, and these will be added to the collection of objects.



8 – ACTIVITIES

The exhibited works are expressed through different multidisciplinary fields, such as photography, sculpture, drawing and the multimedia. Despite their diversity, they all belong to the same theme: the tower or the pile.

Everyday objects are the usual working tools of this artist. They form our everyday environment and conditioning through their constant use and our routine behaviour. Having become ordinary through repeated use, the pleasure of their presence is revealed to us by elaborate compositions of towers.

The basis of the material:

Series of ordinary objects that are not fragile, in several examples and in different sizes, shapes, materials and colours (glasses, boxes, plastic or cardboard bowls, wastepaper baskets, etc), which can be piled one on top of the other, will be provided at the exhibition.

Each exhibition site is invited to enrich the basic components and build up its own collection of objects.

Material for organising activities should be supplied by the host institution on its premises, including paper, chalk, tracing paper, coloured Scotch tape, felt pens, scissors, lighting for shadow shows, cameras, etc.

Subjects for exploration:

The following themes can be explored separately or jointly: colour, transparency, the scale of objects, changes in context, series, writing, combinations with similar objects, etc.

Although constructing towers is the basic principle behind the proposed activities, this is not sufficient and should be accompanied by plastic, and even photographic, exercises so that the approach adopted by the artist can be re-appropriated through experimentation and manipulation.



9 – TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL DETAILS

Surface area required for the presentation: 200 m²

Volume of the truck: 40 m³

COMPOSITION OF THE EXHIBITION

14 crates

1 pallet containing furniture

RENTAL PRICE

On demand

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES TO BE PAID BY THE PARTNER INSTITUTION

- Two-way transport
- Provision of a video projector

- Provision of specific lighting equipment
- Provision of a lighting technician
- Provision of teaching material
- Provision of personnel (for assembling and dismantling the exhibition)

Missions :

- 1 mission, with all expenses paid, for the Exhibition Curator or an Educational Adviser from the Pompidou Centre, to supervise the assembly of the exhibition, ensure training for the activity leaders, and attend the opening of the exhibition.
- 1 mission, with all expenses paid, for the Chief of the Travelling Exhibition Unit, to draw up a report and supervise the dismantling of the exhibition.
- 1 mission, with all expenses paid, for the Administrator of the Pompidou Centre, to supervise the dismantling of the exhibition.