



# TAPISSERIES NOMADES

FONDATION TOMS PAULI — COLLECTION XX<sup>e</sup> SIECLE

MUSEE CANTONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS DE LAUSANNE

25.03 — 29.05 — 2016

**mcb-a**  
MUSEE CANTONAL  
DES BEAUX-ARTS LAUSANNE

FONDATION  
TOMS PAULI  
DES BEAUX-ARTS ET DE LA SCULPTURE



You are cordially invited  
**on Thursday 24 March 2016 at 11 am**  
to the press conference for the exhibition

**NOMADIC TAPESTRIES**  
**Fondation Toms Pauli**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Century Collection**  
**25.3 – 29.5.2016**

**Opening reception**

Thursday 24 March 2016 at 6.30 pm

**Curators**

Fondation Toms Pauli:  
Giselle Eberhard Cotton, director  
Magali Junet, deputy curator

**Media contact**

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[www.mcba.ch](http://www.mcba.ch)

**Free**

**Opening hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 11 am – 6 pm  
Thursday: 11 am – 8 pm  
Saturday, Sunday: 11 am – 5 pm  
Closed Monday

Easter Friday, Easter Monday, Ascension Day,  
Pentecost Monday: 11 am – 5 pm

**Public transport**

Métro M2: station Riponne – Maurice Béjart  
Bus 1, 2: arrêt Rue Neuve  
Bus 7, 8: arrêt Riponne – Maurice Béjart

# NOMADIC TAPESTRIES

## Fondation Toms Pauli

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century Collection

#### 25.3 – 29.5.2016

*Bernard Fibicher, Director, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne*

This invitation to the Fondation Toms Pauli to exhibit here in the museum brings with it the pleasure of seeing works belonging to the Canton of Vaud but rarely shown in our region. It is also the mark of a long-standing empathy.

The foundation and the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts have already crossed paths more than once: from 1962 to 1992 the museum was the venue for the International Tapestry Biennials, landmark events to which the foundation is the spiritual heir. In 2004 works from the Toms collection made up the exhibition *Flemish Tapestries of the 16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> Centuries* at the Palais de Rumine. This year the foundation's contemporary collection is the focus of a new joint venture, and further evidence of that ongoing mutual understanding.

The new Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, scheduled to open in 2019 in the city's culture and museum hub, will also be home to the Fondation Toms Pauli; this will bring their respective teams closer, facilitating research synergies and at last providing the foundation's key works with the public outlet they deserve.

## THE EXHIBITION

Curated by the Fondation Toms Pauli for the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, *Nomadic Tapestries* retraces the medium's evolution from the 1960s to the 2000s: from classical wall tapestry to textile sculpture and from decoration to installation. The exhibition is made up exclusively of works from the foundation's 20<sup>th</sup> century collection.

On display are thirty works, some very large and many recently acquired, representing an all but unknown facet of the foundation's collection. They illustrate the innovations of such pioneers of the tapestry revival as Jean Lurçat, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Jagoda Buić, Olga de Amaral, Elsi Giauque and Machiko Agano.

From many different countries and backgrounds, these artists have explored fresh creative pathways in formal, technical and material terms. Transforming the traditional wall mural into a spatial, environmental art, they have all made their contributions to redefining the medium as a major art form.

*«The destiny of our present-day tapestry is clear: it is becoming the mural of our times. We are nomads, inhabiting rented houses equipped with communal services; we change our apartments in keeping with the growth of our families . . . We cannot have a mural painted on the walls of our apartment. But a woollen wall of tapestry can be taken down, rolled up, tucked under your arm and taken to be hung somewhere else. That's why I have called my tapestries 'mural nomads'.»*  
Le Corbusier « Tapisseries muralnomad » in Zodiac, 7, Milan, 1960

The exhibition title *Nomadic Tapestries* reminds us of what Le Corbusier had to say in 1960 about the role of the visual arts and tapestry as an intellectual driving force for his urban and architectural projects. There is a reference, too, to the explorations of earlier innovators in Switzerland, Europe, the United States and Japan, who would abandon the wall and create new types of tapestry hanging freely in space.

## THE ARTISTS PRESENTED IN THE EXHIBITION

The artists included in *Nomadic Tapestries* were all participants in the International Tapestry Biennials in Lausanne, in some cases with the work on show here.

Magdalena Abakanowicz (1930), Poland	Helen Frances Gregor (1921-1989), Canada	Switzerland
Machiko Agano (1953), Japan	Françoise Grossen (1943), Switzerland/United States	Aurèlia Muñoz (1926-2011), Spain
Olga de Amaral (1932), Colombia	Sheila Hicks (1934), United States	Jolanta Owidzka (1927), Poland
Jagoda Buić (1930), Croatia	Jan Hladik (1927), Czech Republic	Mariette Rousseau-Vermette (1926-2006), Canada
Marguerite Carau-Ischi, (1928 †), Switzerland	Ritzi (1941) et Peter (1935) Jacobi, Romania/Germany	Wojciech Sadley (1932), Poland
Lia Cook (1942), United States	Susan Marie Johnson (1948), United States	Moik Schiele (1938-1993), Switzerland
Pierre Daquin (1936), France	Naomi Kobayashi (1945), Japan	Carol Shaw-Sutton (1948), United States
Sonia Delaunay (1885-1979), Ukraine/France	Maria Łaskiewicz (1892-1981), Poland	Beatrix Sitter-Liver (1938), Switzerland
Lissy Funk (1909-2005), Switzerland	Jean Lurçat (1892-1966), France	Sherri Smith (1943), United States
Elsi Giauque (1900-1989), Switzerland	Anne-Marie Matter (1936-2007), Switzerland	Hideho Tanaka (1942), Japan
Josep Grau-Garriga (1929-2011), Spain		Mariyo Yagi (1948), Japan

## THE EXHIBITION ITINERARY

### The tapestry revival

The exhibition begins with works mainly from the 1960s. Mostly in wool and woven in several copies on a loom, these works (**Lurçat, Delaunay, Grau-Garriga** – testify to the rebirth of the mural tapestry in the major workshops, at the instigation of Jean Lurçat. At the same period a younger generation of artists from Eastern Europe was beginning to emerge; sometimes referred to as «the new barbarians», they had a different, independent conception of the medium, sketching and then weaving single works from such novel materials as sisal, linen, hemp and horsehair (**Abakanowicz, Łaskiewicz, Sadley**).

### The conquest of space

In the late 1960s – and notably thanks to the that great breeding ground, the International Tapestry Biennial in Lausanne – the idea of classical, mural weavings began to lose ground to spatial creations freed from the constraints of the wall. Form, volume and relief were addressed without inhibition. Artists drew on and reinterpreted age-old national traditions (**de Amaral**) or carried out highly personal projects which the public found it hard to identify with as «tapestries». Others abandoned the usual full weave in favour of including see-through and empty sections (**Buić, Carau, Daquin**). The 1970s were also a period of ever-increasing technical complexity (**Cook, Matter**) and injections of the frankly poetic and symbolic (**Hicks, Giauque, Abakanowicz**).

## Fibre Art

In the mid-1970s the arrival on the international scene of North American and Asian (especially Japanese) artists brought a new aesthetic to tapestry. All sorts of fibres – animal, vegetal, synthetic – began to be used in highly inventive ways, with silk organza, paper and metal now among the core components (**Shaw-Sutton, Agano, Tanaka, Sitter-Liver**). Textile art evolved into what Americans called Fibre Art and spread worldwide.



Founded in Lausanne in 2000, the Fondation Toms Pauli is active in Switzerland and internationally, and exists to study, preserve and highlight textile artworks both old and new. Its collection, the property of the Canton of Vaud, comprises the splendid ensemble of 16th–19th century tapestries and embroidery pieces bequeathed by Mary Toms in 1993, together with the contemporary textile works donated by the Pierre Pauli Association in 2000.

Through its research and its lending policy the foundation regularly contributes to major international tapestry exhibitions. It also inherited the artists' files and specialist library of the International Centre of Ancient and Modern Tapestry (CITAM), organiser of the International Tapestry Biennials from 1962 to 1995. In 2012 the foundation put online a database of the 911 works shown at the Lausanne biennials, and next year will be publishing *De la tapisserie à la sculpture textile (From Tapestry to Textile Sculpture)*, devoted to the biennials in our city.

## THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TEXTILE COLLECTION

Over recent years the growing reputation of the Fondation Toms Pauli has enabled the addition of many significant works to the contemporary collection. These acquisitions reflect the generosity not only of collectors like Alice Pauli, but also of artists and patrons. Originally consisting of 46 items, the collection now comprises over 200 works representative of the New Tapestry movement.

Murals, reliefs, installations, soft sculptures: the items making up the Fondation Toms Pauli contemporary collection date from the second half of the 20th and were created by such internationally famed artists as Magdalena Abakanowicz, Olga de Amaral, Jagoda Buić, Ritzi and Peter Jacobi, Mariette Rousseau-Vermette, Elsi Giauque and Naomi Kobayashi.

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## AGENDA

### Guided tours

Guided tour for the Friends of the Museum  
Thursday 31 March 12:30 pm

Guided tours for all  
Sunday 3 April at 3 pm  
Thursday 14 April at 6:30 pm  
Thursday 28 April at 12:30 pm  
Thursday 19 May at 6:30 pm  
Thursday 26 May at 12:30 pm

### Talks (in French)

Lausanne: The Tapestry Biennials  
— Les nouveaux barbares: Europe Est / Ouest  
(The New Barbarians: Eastern/Western Europe)  
Thursday 21 April at 6:30 pm

— L'odyssée de l'espace: Etats-Unis / Asie  
(Space Odyssey: United States/Asia)  
Thursday 12 May at 6:30 pm

By Giselle Eberhard Cotton and Magali Junet of the Fondation Toms Pauli

### For young people

#### A drawing tour for parents and children

An opportunity for kids and grown-ups to swap points of view through drawings  
Followed by a snack  
Age 6 and up  
Wednesday 4 May, 2 – 4:30 pm  
Advance booking required

### Threads and Flying Carpets

Pakômuzé Workshop  
Find out about weaving technique and understand the works on show better, then make your own artwork by having fun with threads, fibres, fabrics and paper.  
With Danièle Mussard, artist and weaver. Bring your own picnic!  
Ages 9 – 15  
Price: CHF 10.- Advance booking required  
Thursday 7 and Friday 8 April, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

### Discovery booklet

Exhibition activities for the 6+ age bracket.  
Free

# PRESS IMAGES

[www.mcba.ch](http://www.mcba.ch), press relations:

User name: mcba-presse

Password: gpresse

Exhibition views downloadable from [www.mcba.ch/presse](http://www.mcba.ch/presse) starting 24 March 2016.



◀  
Sonia Delaunay, *Grey Curve*,  
1970–1972, wool, 183 x 135 cm  
Fondation Toms Pauli.  
© Pracusa 2015097.  
Photo AN, A. Conne, Lausanne



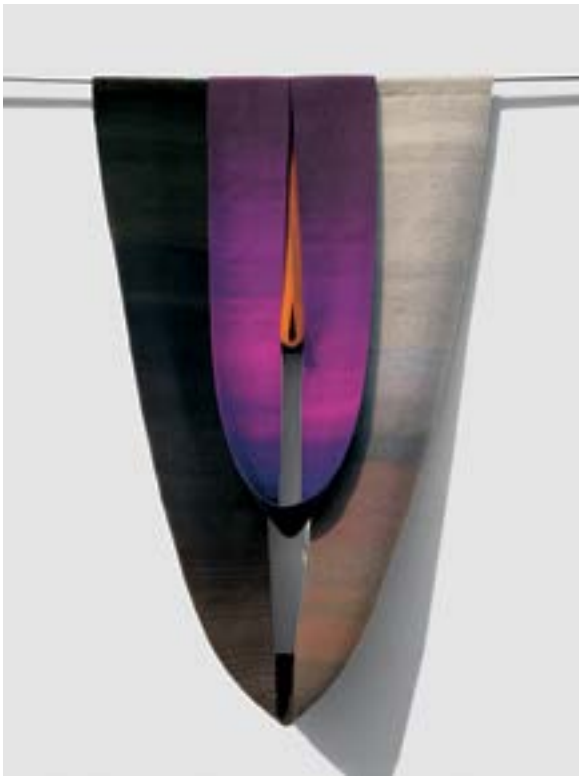
▶  
Magdalena Abakanowicz, *Red  
Abakan III*, 1970–1971, sisal,  
300 x 300 x 45 cm  
Fondation Toms Pauli.  
Photo A. Conne, Lausanne



▲  
Lissy Funk, *Lebensbaum*, 1964, linen, cotton, 204.5 x 141 cm.  
Fondation Toms Pauli. Photo A. Conne, Lausanne

▶  
Ritzi and Peter Jacobi, *White Textile Relief*, 1969, wool, sisal,  
259 x 160 cm. Fondation Toms Pauli.  
Photo A. Conne, Lausanne

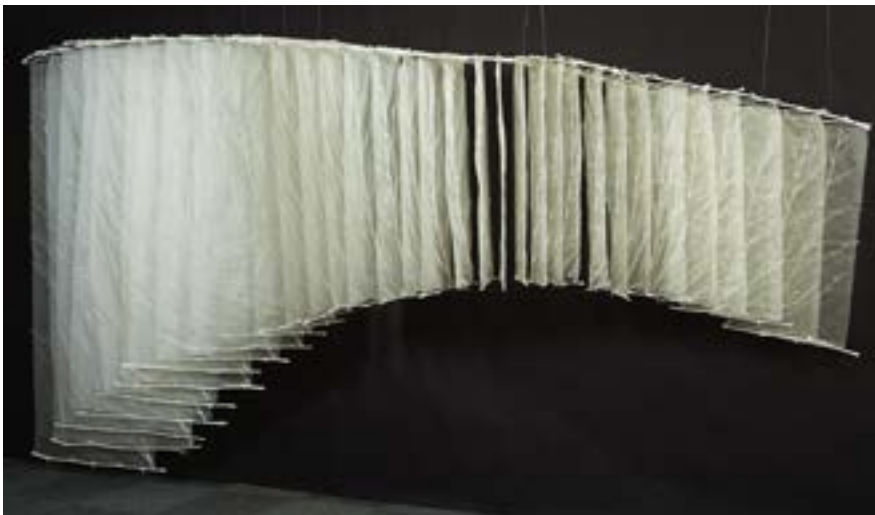
▶▶  
Jagoda Buić, *Flexion 2*, 1971, sisal, wool, gold metal thread,  
265 x Ø 64 cm. Fondation Toms Pauli.  
Photo AN, A. Conne, Lausanne



◀  
Helen Frances Gregor, *Totem no. 5*, 1976, wool, 250 x 180 x 25 cm.  
Fondation Toms Pauli.  
Photo: Fibbi-Aeppli, Grandson



▶  
Elsi Giauque, *Homage to Meret Oppenheim*, 1985 (detail). Wool, linen, raffia, cotton, metal, mirror, 220 x 100 x 100 cm.  
Fondation Toms Pauli. Photo Patrick Weyeneth, Ligerz



◀  
Machiko Agano, *untitled*, 1986, silk organza, bamboo, 225 x 490 x 80 cm. Fondation Toms Pauli.  
Photo A. Chudeau, Angers



▲  
Pierre Daquin, *Becoming*, 1968, wool gold thread, 120 x 195 cm.  
Fondation Toms Pauli. Photo A. Conne, Lausanne



▲  
Jean Lurçat, *Mexico City*, 1954, wool, 151 x 231 cm.  
Fondation Toms Pauli.  
Photo AN, K. Seisededos, Lausanne