

DRAWING NOW ART FAIR  
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DRAWING LAB  
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François Réau  
*Du Temps sois la mesure*  
Curator: Léo Marin

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10.14.2022 — 01.05.2023



Drawing Lab  
17, rue de Richelieu — 75001 Paris

# *Du Temps sois la mesure*

François Réau

Curator: Léo Marin

14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 — 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

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Irrespective of their subject matter, all drawings start with a dot, then a line to another, and so on. A bit like mapping a path from point A to point B. Which is also how humans connected the stars in the night sky. It's how constellations were created, and the way they are still represented today.

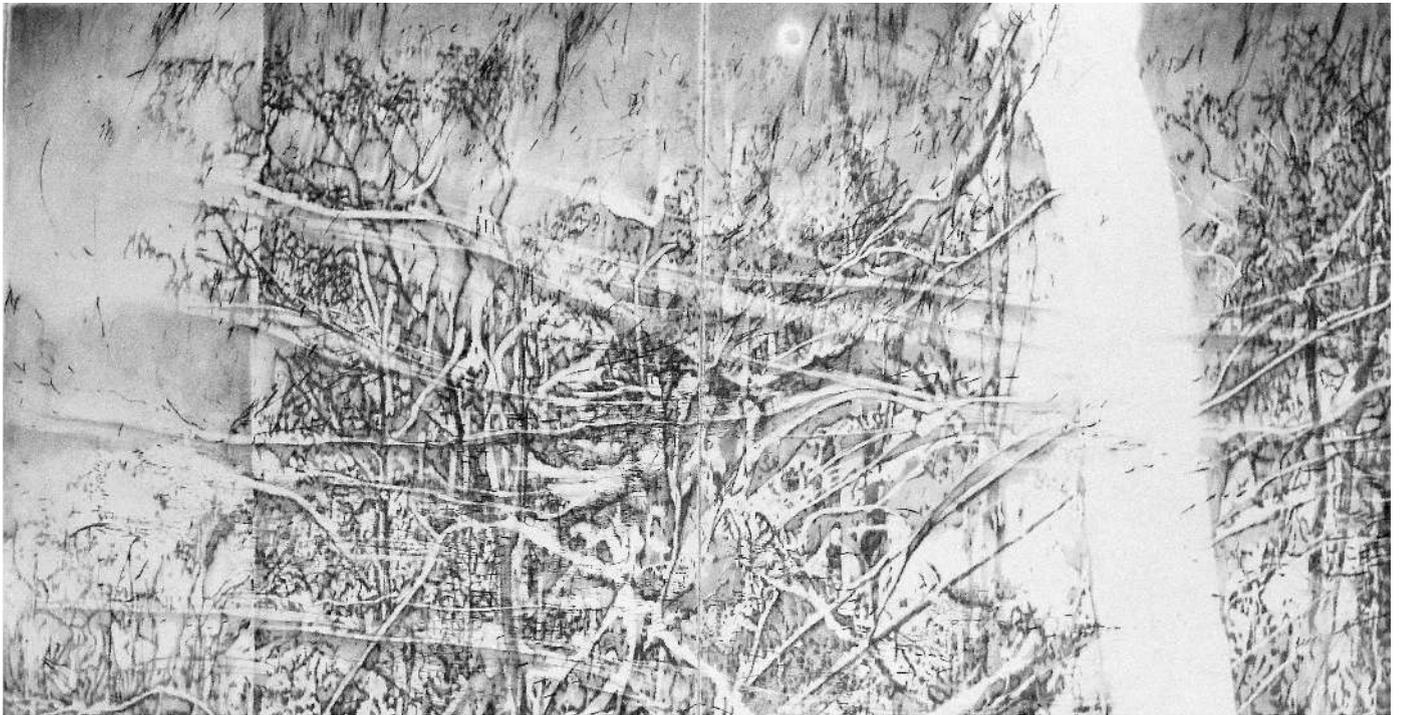
Might star constellations not have been the first *de facto* abstract drawings? Yet, still today, these celestial drawings situate our very bodies and individual identities. Between two fictitious points. Between two planes: the earth and the sky.

Series of points like these which are connected by lines, let us project ourselves into the future and imagine more intricate drawings or paths to follow.



François Réau, *To what extent X*, 2021. Lead pencil and graphite on paper mounted on canvas, 240 x 375 cm, private collection. *Buddleia de David* (arbre aux papillons). "*Buddleja davidii* (butterfly tree)". Roses and burlap bags. Site-specific creation, variable dimensions. Exhibition view: *Sous l'orage des roses* (*Under the Storm of Roses*), Clavé Fine Art, Paris, France, 2022 © Studio Vanssay © Adagp, Paris, 2022.

Cover image: François Réau, *Mesurer le temps* (détail) (*Measuring Time*, detail), 2022. Lead pencil and graphite on paper mounted on canvas, 240 x 375 cm. © François Réau.



François Réau, *On ne possède éternellement que ce qu'on a perdu* (You can only forever keep what has been lost), 2020. Lead pencil and graphite on paper mounted on canvas, 162 x 228 cm. © François Réau

That is the starting point of *Du Temps sois la mesure*. A handful of strokes and dots whose intention extends beyond what we can see: a more extensive pictorial projection, a measure of space and time.

This thought led to my project with François Réau for the Drawing Lab.

An exhibition which owes its name to a verse in Antoine Léonard Thomas' great *Ode on Time*, first published in 1762.

***Urania's compass measured space***

***O Time, unknow Being which only the soul can embrace*<sup>1</sup>**

It begins with a muse measuring the celestial vault with her favorite tool. Her famous compass measures the space and time between two stars before including them in a larger drawing: a constellation.

That is how François Réau works here too. He unfurls the vast array of his drawing techniques in this exhibition, continuously extending this artistic medium's boundaries, both in its process and its substrates. From pencil strokes to rays of light, and on to three-dimensional drawing installations.

Visitors get to appreciate the multiform aspects of a drawing that moves away from classic surfaces and instead fills the exhibition space. Here, visitors are invited to engage in a space of time. Their experience feeds into a visual thought process that combines history and poetry.

**Léo Marin**  
**Curator of the exhibition**

<sup>1</sup>Antoine-Léonard THOMAS, *Ode on Time*, 1762.

# François Réau

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Born in 1978, François Réau lives and works in Paris. He attended the Regional School of Fine Arts in Poitiers, then the School of Applied Arts (EAA Poitiers).

A multidisciplinary artist, Réau's work examines the notions of shapes' and patterns' manifestation and disappearance, at the very heart of the materials he uses.

His work brings together drawing and installation art, subjective and physical landscapes, as well as things that are infinitely large or inexpressible, in visual devices that explore the relationship between man and nature. The themes of temporality and human fragility are also present.

His art moves the boundaries of drawing away from the limits of two-dimensional substrates and into three-dimensional space, thus making it a time and place of visual thought and experimentation. Many of his works establish links between dreams and reality. With nature, landscapes can become poetic metaphors or havens for visual sensations that offer viewers an opportunity for re-enchantment.

François Réau has had numerous personal and group exhibitions in France and internationally. His work was notably exhibited at Lille3000, for the Mons 2015 European Capital of Culture, at the Guoyi Art Museum in Beijing, at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, at the Musée de l'Hospice Saint-Roch in Issoudun. As well as at the Alliance Française in Melbourne, Australia, at the Kunsthall Charlottenborg in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud, at the Musée Jenisch in Vevey, Switzerland, and at the Domaine de Chaumont sur Loire and the Domaine de Kerguéhennec in France.

# Léo Marin

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Léo Marin is an independent curator or - as he likes to say - one that is always "on the run". Since 2014, he also runs the contemporary art section of the Éric Mouchet Gallery in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paris. Responsible for the emerging artists exhibition program, he brings together diverse French and international artists.

His favorite areas of focus are mapmaking and topography in contemporary artistic practices and artists' relationships towards insularity. Léo holds a MA in Art History, Contemporary Art, and Sociology, he is an active member of the French Association of Exhibition Curators (C-E-A) and, since 2018, a member of the International Association of Art Critics (A.I.C.A. France). He is committed to non-elitist art criticism that is accessible to everyone.

A publisher and art critic, an AICA France Art Critic Award nominee in 2021, he co-founded Born And Die publishing with Aurélie Faure and Ivan Dapic in 2012. He launched the «Mapping At Last» exhibition project in 2017, with a second part titled «The Possible Island» in 2019.

Thanks to this Léo Marin has worked with many galleries, public partners, and art institutions. Which is how the "The Possible Island" residency on Vulcano, in Sicily's Eolian archipelago, came to be established.



Portrait of François Réau © Anthony Lycett



Portrait of Léo Marin © Sophie Montjaret



François Réau, *Mesurer le temps (Measuring Time)*, 2017. Lead pencil and graphite on paper mounted on canvas, 238 x 332 cm. Collection: FRAC Alsace, France © François Réau.

# Exhibition events:

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- **Guided tours** on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 3:30pm .
- **Families and School groups** by reservation only.
- **Art Mediators** are present from 11am to 7pm on Tuesdays to Saturdays. They can explain the artist's techniques, the exhibition's theme, and answer visitors' questions.
- **"Drawing Academy" art workshops for children** (ages 6 and up) on Wednesdays from 3pm to 4:30pm, as well as on Saturdays October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> (during the school break). All guided tours and workshops are on the website [drawinglabparis.com](http://drawinglabparis.com)
- **Exhibition catalog:** *Du Temps sois la mesure*, Drawing Edition - La Manufacture de l'Image publishing. Available at the Drawing Lab bookstore for one month after the exhibition starts.

## *Star Lab Party*

10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 7:30pm—  
11pm

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Join our multidisciplinary costume party (with a performance, the exhibition, and a DJ set) to conquer space and travel through the stars with François Réau's spatial drawings.

By reservation on [drawinglabparis.com](http://drawinglabparis.com)

Venue: Drawing Lab

Complete program to be announced.

## *A conversation with...*

François Réau & Léo Marin

by Christine Phal

17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 — 7:30pm

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Christine Phal, founder of the Drawing Lab, is thrilled to interview the exhibition's artist François Réau and curator Léo Marin during their exhibition *Du Temps sois la mesure*. In a three-way conversation, they will discuss drawing and its role in the exhibition.

At the Drawing Lab, by reservation on [drawinglabparis.com](http://drawinglabparis.com)

# *Drawing's Eternal Nature*

## A dialogue between Laurence Schmidlin and François Réau

### 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 — 7:30pm

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Laurence Schmidlin, director of the Musée d'art du Valais (Switzerland), who was invited to write the catalogue for the exhibition, has provided an insight into the work of François Réau. During this meeting, they will deepen together the reflections on drawing initiated by the author in her text.

At the Drawing Lab, by reservation on [drawinglabparis.com](http://drawinglabparis.com)

## *Drawing Academy*

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Every Wednesday as well as on Saturdays October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Drawing Lab offers children (ages 6 and up) a guided tour of the exhibition with an art mediator, and then a creative workshop using a technique seen in the exhibition.

Reserve a workshop by email at [info@drawinglabparis.com](mailto:info@drawinglabparis.com) among these options:

### — **Head in the stars** — Sky Mapping workshop

François Réau's exhibition is directly inspired by the sky and outer space. Stars are joined together in drawings called constellations. Young astronomers, come discover the stars and the many shapes they form above your heads at night. But what do they do by day? Create your own daytime sky map with neon tubes and paint - while the stars are asleep!

### — **All Stars** — Drawing in Space Workshop

Stars are luminous celestial bodies in outer space, but the word is also used for the principal dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet (danseur étoile for men and danseuse étoile for women). Let your children travel into space at the Drawing Lab by combining dance, drawing, and light! The exhibition's artist, François Réau, uses neon light to link stars and draws with light. Here, young astronauts will use photography and flashlights to connect stars in the exhibition. You will create spatial drawings with traces of weightless dance movements. What can you draw with your bodies? What constellations will you create as stars dancing in the sky?

# 2017 — 2022

## The Drawing Lab is 5 years old!

When I envisioned the Drawing Lab in 2013, I wanted a place dedicated to contemporary drawing, a venue where artists could freely experiment and critically engage with drawing's boundaries. In February 2017, the Drawing Lab started to welcome visitors as a private art center on level -1 of the Drawing Hotel.

In February 2022, we celebrated the Drawing Lab's 5th anniversary! Over the last 5 years, it has organized **12 monographic exhibitions** of artist/curator duos selected from international calls for proposals. It has also hosted **2 In Between** exhibitions, curated **3 group exhibitions**, and hosted **4 solo shows** of the last 3 years' Drawing Now Prize winners. In total, **21 exhibitions** have featured works by **73 artists** and opened new paths for drawing. We have also published **12 exhibition** catalogs since 2020, available in bookstores across France.

In 2021, the Drawing Lab, in collaboration with the National Center for the Visual Arts, organized and accompanied **33 young drawing artists** for a unique six-month residency (in a former Parisian hotel) called the Drawing Factory.



View of the exhibition *I See a Bird / Je vois un oiseau*, Chourourk Hriech, curated by Jérôme Sans, 18<sup>th</sup> March - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Production Drawing Lab © Nicolas Brasseur



View of the exhibition *RESOUNDING SONGS*, Vanessa Enriquez, curated by Frida Robles, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021 - 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, Production Drawing Lab © Gilberto Güiza -Dust Studio



View of the exhibition *Tierradentro*, Daniel Otero Torres, curated by Anaïs Lepage, 13<sup>th</sup> March - 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Production Drawing Lab © Olivier Lechat

Since its establishment, the Drawing Lab's activities have attracted more than **24,000 visitors**. Art mediation and children's workshops for the general public facilitate sharing and disseminating work by the artists we support.

Each exhibition's public cultural program, which includes meetings, children's workshops, and guided tours, offer maximum visibility and promote the artist's work.

The last 5 years let us assess my and Carine Tissot's support of drawing artists. I take pride in being able to run an organization dedicated to drawing on a daily basis. Moreover, I am sure the Drawing Lab will continue to be a key venue for drawing for the next five years, especially through our outreach to schools.

The Drawing Lab art center, on level -1 of the Drawing Hotel (17 rue de Richelieu — 75001 Paris), is free of charge and open every day from 11<sup>am</sup> to 7<sup>pm</sup>.

**Christine Phal**  
**Founder of the Drawing Lab**

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### Drawing Lab

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Métro Palais Royal – Musée du Louvre (Lignes 1 et 7)  
Métro Pyramides (Lignes 14)  
Bus Palais Royal – Comédie Française  
(Lignes 20, 21, 32, 39, 68 et 72)

### The team

Christine Phal, founder  
christine.phal@drawingsociety.org

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Steven Vandeporta, artistic projects director  
steven.vandeporta@drawingsociety.org

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Marie-Inès Tirard, production and mediation assistant  
marie-ines.tirard@drawinglabparis.com

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Marine Bernier, head of communication and partnerships  
marine.bernier@drawingsociety.org

The Drawing Lab, the Drawing Society's production and exhibition space, is run by the Drawing Lab Projects & Friends Association (59, rue Pernety — 75014 Paris).

### Opening hours

Every day from 11am to 7pm  
Presence of a mediator from Tuesday to  
Saturday from 11am to 7pm (excluding public  
holidays)  
Mornings reserved for groups and schools

### Admission and visits

Free  
Guided tours and workshops: prices and  
booking on drawinglabparis.com

### Press contact

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