

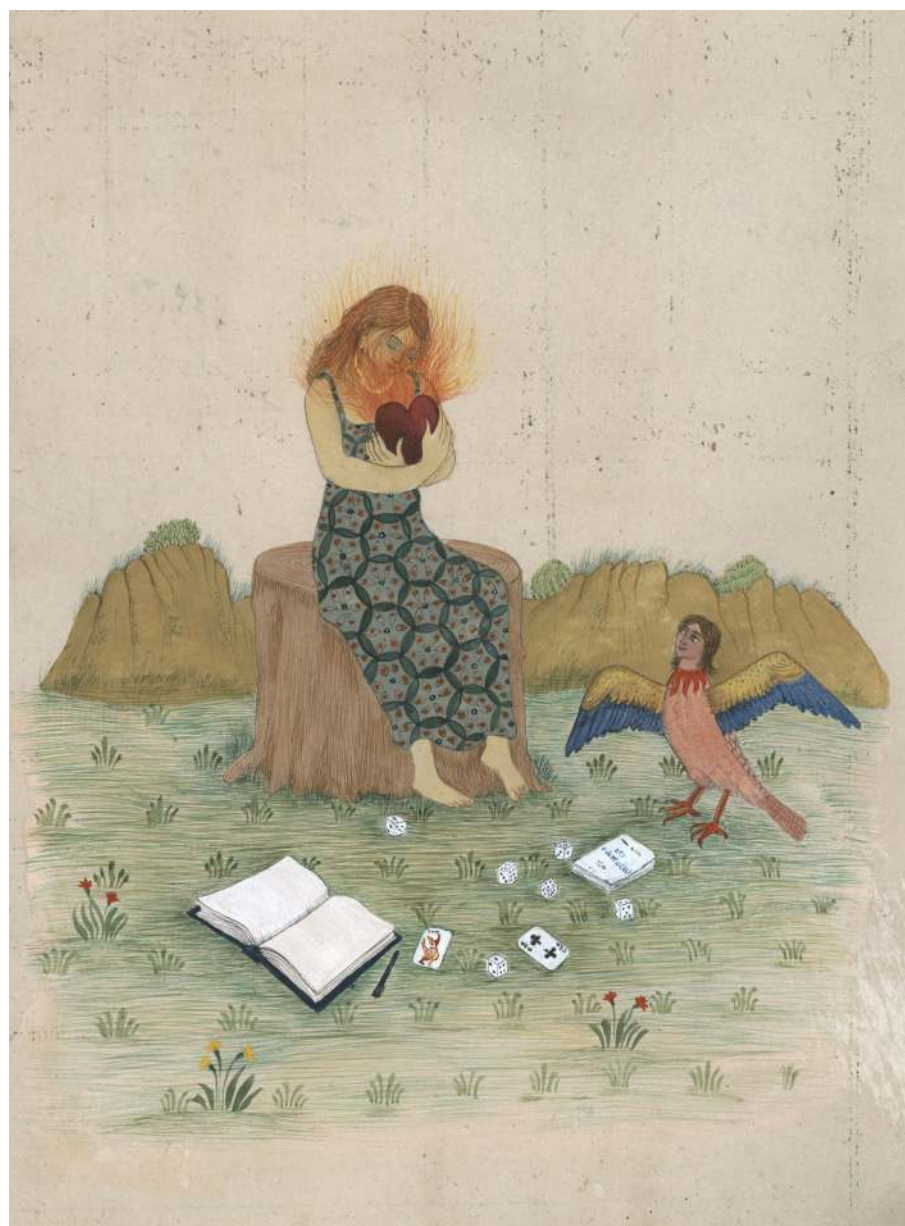
# DRAWING LAB

Karine Rougier

« *Nous qui désirons sans fin* »

Drawing Now Prize 2022

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01.20  
— 03.31.2023

Karine Rougier  
*Sans titre — Série « Maintenant, vivantes »*,  
2022. Pigments and watercolors on wasli  
paper, 35 x 21 cm © Courtesy Espace à  
vendre gallery

Drawing Lab

17, rue de Richelieu — 75001 Paris

# « *Nous qui désirons sans fin* »

Karine Rougier

Drawing Now Prize 2022

January 20<sup>th</sup> — March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

## Introduction

Christine Phal, founder of the Drawing Now Art Fair and the Drawing Lab



We are pleased to welcome Karine Rougier to the Drawing Lab. She is our 11<sup>th</sup> Drawing Now Prize winner. This annual award is always presented at the Drawing Now Art Fair in Paris, and shines a light on the unique artistic practice of a mid-career artist. It also acknowledges the work of the winner's art gallery who often started to work with the artist from her or his beginnings. This time, we offer recognition to Bertrand Baraudou's art gallery Espace à vendre, located in Nice. Espace à vendre has been representing Karine Rougier since 2005.

This year, we have increased our commitment to the Prize winner with a particularly long exhibition and double the usual production budget. This includes an exhibition catalog and many related public events. Karine Rougier's exhibition can be visited from 20 January to 31 March 2023. It will also feature in the Drawing Now Art Fair in the Carreau du Temple, from 23 to 26 March 2023. Moreover, Prize winners always get 10,000 EUR for their solo exhibitions in addition to the

5,000 EUR prize money, and their exhibition catalog is published and distributed by Le Livre d'art - La Manufacture de l'image.

Karine Rougier, *Sans titre — Série « Flux »*, 2022. Watercolor on paper, 80 x 60 cm © Courtesy Espace à vendre gallery

The Drawing Lab teams welcome exhibition visitors 7 days a week from 11am to 7pm, and offer artistic mediation Wednesdays to Saturdays. They also offer art workshops for children and guided tours for all audiences, from private individuals to schools.

I am very proud to produce Karine Rougier biggest solo exhibition in Paris: "*Nous qui désirons sans fin*". Her unique artistic universe will no doubt captivate you as much as me every time I see one of her new works of art.

Enjoy your (re)discovery!

## The Exhibition

Steven Vandeporta, director of artistic projects and Drawing Now Prize exhibition coordinator



Karine Rougier, the 2022 Drawing Now Prize winner, offers a unique group experience in her 2023 solo exhibition at the Drawing Lab: "*We Who Desire Forever*"<sup>1</sup>. From drawings realized with graphite or gouache to paintings, via watercolors, and from films to slideshows, her exhibition offers more than one story. This exhibition is a collection of stories by Karine Rougier and her special guests.

Her new drawings reimagine Nature with a combination of human and animal forms. Physical bodies and hidden powers come together in a unique and mesmerizing embrace. Filled with vibrant vital energy, Karine Rougier's compositions stem from a liberated gaze which imbues each figure with passion and power.

Karine Rougier's miniatures were originally inspired by the illuminations of *Clavis Artis* alchemical manuscript from the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. But they resonate deeply with the

urgency of today's climate challenge, by touching upon the power of nature, and the relationships

<sup>1</sup> Raoul Vaneigem's book *Nous qui désirons sans fin*, published by Gallimard, Folio Actuel n°59, March 1998, ISBN : 2070403378  
Karine Rougier, *Sans titre — Série « Réunir les âmes »*, 2022. Watercolour, gouache and collage on tinted handmade paper, 36 x 24 cm © Courtesy Espace à vendre gallery



between living creatures and the elements. *"We are the children of a devastated world, trying to be reborn in a world waiting to be created. Learning to become human is the only radical thing to do."* (Raoul Vaneigem)

At the Drawing Lab, Karine Rougier explores her artistic world in new ways. Playing with scale and techniques, she blurs the boundaries between reality and fiction. Her drawings teem with details and include icons and characteristics from civilizations around the world. These shapes are initially hinted at through graphite on paper and then brought further into reality through colorful gouache and acrylic paints. Drawing has always been a core part of her art. And its wealth of detail has viewers move closer to explore her art's many meanings.

In this free-flowing exhibition where water and body fluids create a bond, Karine Rougier revisits and revives those antique images, as if protecting herself from today's terrifying reality. She opens up our hearts to magic and tenderness, while giving a voice to imaginary monsters and other worlds. All this as she explores the universal nature of hugging, breastfeeding, and the physical intermingling of bodies as sources of love and subjective or collective energy.

Drawings rise from the paper and come to life in two short films Karine Rougier made with Valérie Pelet. Created at the Centre de Conservation et de Ressources (CCR) in the MuCEM<sup>2</sup> in Marseilles thanks to a Mécènes du Sud production grant, their short films feature both playing and divination cards. These cards span several centuries and have been carefully cataloged by and stored in Marseilles' CCR. The duo's films compare the aesthetics of the gestures involved in archiving cards versus playing cards, both vainly seeking to reduce the role of chance. Whether on land or in water, the drawings in Karine Rougier and Valérie Pelet's films play with the cards' various details, up to and including the stars and the gods.

Karine Rougier has also extended two invitations. First and foremost, Karine Rougier invited Stephen Ellcock who is a collector of images, researcher, and author, notably of books from which the artist often sourced images. Stephen Ellcock has picked images that echo Karine Rougier's work, thus inverting the regular sequence of events in her artistic process. Since they share common interests in cosmology, illuminated manuscripts, alchemy, magical texts, and all forms of esotericism



<sup>2</sup> Museum of the Civilisations of Europe and the Mediterranean (MuCEM)  
Karine Rougier, *Sans titre — Série « Réunir les âmes »*, 2022. Watercolour, gouache and collage on tinted handmade paper, 36 x 24 cm © Courtesy Espace à vendre gallery

more generally, a fruitful dialogue occurred like a "cosmic dance"<sup>3</sup>.

And since she teaches at the Beaux-Arts de Marseille art school, Karine Rougier also asked students to "narrate in miniature for" using playing cards and divinatory cards. Their artistic responses take the form of drawn and photographed slides which, in the exhibition, are shown in projected images.

*Nous qui désirons sans fin* is an expedition into the vast world of drawing. It is an invitation to pick and play a card, an invitation to behold a new world.

Karine Rougier was born in 1982 in Malta, she lives and works in Marseille.

Valérie Pelet was born in 1981 in Austria, she lives and works in Marseille.

Stephen Ellcock lives and works in London.

## Around the exhibition

— **Guided tours** on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 3:30pm ;

— **Families and School groups** by reservation only ;

— **Mediation from Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 7pm.** The mediator's mission is to explain the artists' techniques and the purpose of the exhibition and to answer any questions visitors may have;

— **"Drawing Academy" art workshops for children** (ages 6 and up) on Wednesdays, as well as on Saturdays February 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup> (winter holidays) — 3pm to 4:30pm

**Exquisite Corpse** : Karine Rougier's exhibition is directly inspired by the tarot and divinatory cards, but also by icons and attributes from all the world's civilizations. Thus, every detail of the exhibition *"Nous qui désirons sans fin"* comes from this universe so dear to the artist. Now it's your turn to create your own playing cards using the exquisite corpse technique. Get out your pencils, free your imagination and let yourself be carried away in the creation of your cards... It's up to you!

**Mysterious good point** : In schools, vouchers were often made in the form of a small coupon which pupils kept carefully. Ten vouchers could be exchanged for a picture. The Drawing Lab offers you your vouchers after your visit to Karine Rougier's exhibition and invites you to create your own image. Take your scissors, glue, coloured pencils and markers to create your own bon point.

All the guided tours and workshops are on the website [drawinglabparis.com](http://drawinglabparis.com)

— **Exhibition catalog « Nous qui désirons sans fin »**, Drawing Edition - La Manufacture de l'image.

Available at the Drawing Lab bookstore for one month after the exhibition starts.

<sup>3</sup> Stephen Ellcock, *The Cosmic Dance*, Thames & Hudson, GB, Sept. 2022, ISBN: 050025253X

## Exhibition Events

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### *Meeting with ... Karine Rougier* by Philippe Piguet February 8, 2023 — 7:30pm

“As we discover Karine Rougier’s art, our interview will first focus on what made her become an artist and what her training was. Then, we will discuss her preferred esthetic, which links drawing, painting and collage, as well as her sources of inspiration and the different techniques she uses in her art. Last but not least, we will speak about the status of artists today with an emphasis on feminist concerns.”

Philippe Piguet

*On reservation on the site [drawinglabparis.com](http://drawinglabparis.com)*

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### *“Le temps du cœur”* Multidisciplinary evening February 10, 2023, 7:30pm — 12am

Karine Rougier is inviting her students from the Beaux-Arts de Marseille art school, for a costumed and multidisciplinary evening with art performances, concerts, exhibition visits, a live DJ, and more. Please come along to experience a unique event at the Drawing Lab, where we’ll celebrate love in the utopian dreamland for the “Time of the Heart”

*Complete program to come. On reservation on the site [drawinglabparis.com](http://drawinglabparis.com)*

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### *Drawing Workshop* by Le collectif Modèle vivant•e March 16, 2023 — 7:30pm

Invited by Karine Rougier, the artist collective Modèle vivant•e lets you explore the possibilities of living creatures and their images in a workshop that blurs the boundaries of reality and utopia.

Modèle vivant•e being a transfeminist artist collective of drawing and radical representations, its workshop offers an inclusive and respectful shared experience.

By changing the typical relationships between sitters or models and those drawing, and by encouraging both observation and imagination, this workshop offers a unique opportunity for individual and collective liberation. So join us in Karine Rougier’s exhibition for an immersive workshop! The workshop will be led by the artist Hélène Fromen, co-founder of Modèle vivant•e.

*On reservation on the site [drawinglabparis.com](http://drawinglabparis.com)*

### *Drawing Now Art Fair* March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, Carreau du Temple

Visit the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Drawing Now Art Fair from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 at the Carreau du Temple (4 rue Eugène Spuller, 75003 Paris, France). With more than 70 international galleries, representing 300 drawing artists, it offers an international survey of the last 50 years of contemporary drawing.

*Complete program to come. On reservation on the site [drawingnowartfair.com](http://drawingnowartfair.com)*

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### *Collectors of images* — Talk with Stephen Ellcock At the Drawing Now Art Fair with Joana P.R. Neves and Karine Rougier

Joana P.R. Neves, the Director of Drawing Now Art Fair, and the artist Karine Rougier have invited Stephen Ellcock, a collector of images, author, and researcher, to speak with him about the role of drawing from Antiquity to present times.

*Date to be confirmed. Full schedule of talks on [drawingnowartfair.com](http://drawingnowartfair.com)*

## About the Artist

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Portrait of the artist © Magali Dougados

Born in 1982, lives and works in Marseille. Represented by Espace à vendre gallery in Nice since 2005.

Karine Rougier’s drawings reimagine nature, with both human and animal shapes mixing and merging. Bodies and invisible powers unite in a single, spellbinding embrace. Watercolor washes over these shapes on paper and, like the receding tide, leaves only some details. A handful of lines stay and catch the eye.

Replete with life, her compositions stem from a liberated gaze that induces passion and strength in the shapes. Karine Rougier began her studies at the Swiss decorative arts school Les Arts Décoratifs de Genève and continued at the French art school École supérieure d’art d’Aix-en-Provence. She has been teaching at the Beaux-Arts de Marseille art school in France since 2018. Karine Rougier represented Malta at the Venice Biennale in 2017.



# The Drawing Now Prize

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Since 2011, the Drawing Now Prize has been supporting a drawing artist and honouring the work of his/her gallery. The Drawing Now Prize is supported by the main sponsor SOFERIM. The aim is to encourage the work of a draughtsman in the middle of his or her career, which is a complex time for creation.

For this 11<sup>th</sup> Drawing Now Prize, the method is evolving in order to give greater scope and visibility to the winning artist's practice and to

establish this award as a creation grant where the Drawing sphere - in particular Drawing Now Art Fair and the Drawing Lab - joins forces to offer: €5,000 in endowment, €10,000 in production aid, a three-month exhibition at the Drawing Lab and the publication of a monograph catalogue.

The selection of the nominees and the winning artist was made by the members of the selection committee of the exhibition, composed for the 2022 edition of :

- **Joana P.R. Neves**, curator, independent author, artistic director of Drawing Now Art Fair;
- **Émilie Bouvard**, art historian and heritage curator ;
- **Anita Haldemann**, deputy director, head of the Art & Science Department at the Kunstmuseum Basel ;
- **Catherine Hellier du Verneuil**, art historian and collector;
- **Pascal Neveux**, director of the Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Picardie ;
- **Philippe Piguet**, art critic and independent curator (artistic director of Drawing Now Art Fair from 2010 to 2018) ;
- **Daniel Schildge**, collector ;
- **Annabelle Ténèze**, director - les Abattoirs, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art - Frac Occitanie Toulouse ;
- And the main sponsor of the Prize: **SOFERIM, represented by Jean Papahn**, founder and president.

Drawing Now Prize winners since its creation in 2011 :

**Catherine Melin (2011), Clément Bagot (2012), Didier Rittener (2013), Cathryn Boch (2014), Abdelkader Benchamma (2015), Jochen Gerner (2016), Lionel Sabatté (2017), Michail Michailov (2018), Lucie Picandet (2019), Nicolas Daubanes (2021) and Karine Rougier (2022).**

# Drawing Now Art Fair

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The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Drawing Now Art Fair, the first contemporary art fair dedicated to drawing in Europe, will take place from 23 to 26 March 2022 at the Carreau du Temple in Paris. During 4 days, on the two levels of the Carreau du Temple (4, rue Eugène Spuller - 75003 Paris), more than 70 international galleries will show you the diversity of contemporary drawing of today and the last 50 years.

In order to deepen the discovery of contemporary drawing, Drawing Now Art Fair

is multiplying its events and proposing an associated programme around an exhibition in partnership with the Frac Picardie - Hauts de France and talks.

*All the programme and tickets on the [drawingnowartfair.com](https://drawingnowartfair.com) website*

# The Drawing Lab

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Founded by Christine Phal in 2017 on a philanthropic model, the Drawing Lab is a private exhibition and experimental space entirely dedicated to the promotion of contemporary drawing. By presenting 3 exhibitions per year, it aims above all to be a place for the dissemination of drawing in all its forms, giving artists the opportunity to take drawing off the page and explore all its facets. In addition to producing exhibitions, the Drawing Lab is responsible for communication,

dissemination, welcoming the public, cultural mediation, publishing a catalogue and organising satellite events during the exhibition.

Located on level -1 of the Drawing Hotel, the Drawing Lab is open every day for free. The purpose of the space is to ensure the dissemination of contemporary drawing to all audiences

*All the programming and events on the [drawinglabparis.com](https://drawinglabparis.com) website*

# The exhibition partners



Since 30 years, the property developer SOFERIM has been including art in its real estate operations. By choosing to be involved with the Drawing Society and the Drawing Now Art Fair since its very first edition, Soferim has affirmed its desire to promote access to contemporary art through drawing and to bring art to the city.

## DRAWING SOCIETY

The Drawing Society is the ecosystem founded by Christine Phal and Carine Tissot, which is made up of two parts: the hotel part with the Drawing Hotels Collection (Drawing Hotel and Drawing House) and the artistic part with the contemporary drawing fair Drawing Now Art Fair, the Drawing Lab, a space for drawing experiments and exhibitions, and the cultural engineering company Drawing on Demand.

## DRAWING HOTEL

The Drawing Hotel is the Drawing Society's four-star boutique hotel located at 17 rue de Richelieu (Paris 1er). Carine Tissot, in collaboration with the architectural firm Nido, invited the artists Lek & Sowat, Abdelkader Benchamma, Clément Bagot, Françoise Pétrovitch, Thomas Broomé and Stéfane Perraud to occupy the rooms, corridors and common areas. Its rooftop, patio and exhibitions make it an artistic destination just a stone's throw from the Louvre.

## espace à vendre

Determined to pursue its vocation of supporting the local, national and international emerging art scene, Espace à vendre, founded and directed by Bertrand Baraudou, continues to mix the work of artists supported since 2004 with that of guest artists. Today, the gallery on rue Assalit has a unique location with 4 spaces: an exhibition room with a street frontage, a showroom, an adjoining courtyard creating a link with a new space of 130m<sup>2</sup> for a total surface area of 250 m<sup>2</sup>.



The Mécènes du Sud network was created in 2003 to stimulate contemporary artistic creation. Every year, it co-produces works, projects and events in the Aix-Marseille and Montpellier-Sète-Béziers regions. The network accompanies the artists and helps them financially. The video at the CCR du Mucem by Karine Rougier and Valérie Pelet was produced thanks to its support.

DRAWING NOW ART FAIR  
DRAWING HOTEL

DRAWING EDITION  
DRAWING ON DEMAND

DRAWING LAB  
DRAWING HOUSE

# Practical information

## Drawing Lab

17, rue de Richelieu — 75001 Paris

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info@drawinglabparis.com  
+33 (0)1 73 62 11 17  
@drawinglabparis

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

## The team

Christine Phal, founder  
christine.phal@drawingsociety.org

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

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

Agathe Fournier, communication officer  
agathe.fournier@drawingsociety.com

## 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

Exhibition : free entrance  
Programming of events, guided tours and workshops: prices and booking on the website drawinglabparis.com

## Press contact

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DRAWING SOCIETY



The Drawing Lab, the Drawing Society's space for experimentation and exhibition of contemporary drawing, is run by the Drawing Lab Projects & Friends Association (59, rue Pernety - 75014 Paris) and is a member of the Trampoline Association for the French art scene.