

DRAWING
LAB



Centre Pompidou

Press release

PERFORMANCES DESSIN



Juliette Blightman
Christine Herzer
Jean-Christophe Norman
Diogo Pimentão
Jimmy Robert
Georgia Sagri

6 EVENTS
FROM 15TH TO 31ST JANUARY 2026

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DRAWING LAB
17, RUE DE RICHELIEU – 75001 PARIS

Programming associated with the exhibition *Drawings Without Limits:*
Masterpieces from the Centre Pompidou Collection at the Grand Palais,
from December 16, 2025 to March 15, 2026.

Free programming,
with full details available at drawinglabparis.com

Foreword

Experimenting with the limits of drawing is the very reason for being of the Drawing Lab!

We are therefore delighted to host a program of performances in partnership with the Centre Pompidou at a moment when its graphic arts cabinet collection unfolds at the heart of the Grand Palais, under the curatorship of Claudine Grammont and Anne Montfort-Tanguy, in association with Valérie Loth and Laetitia Pesenti.

While contemporary drawing is strongly represented within the Centre Pompidou's collections, with more than 35,000 works, the public rarely has the opportunity to discover this part of the holdings. This exhibition will enable a wide audience to encounter some of its treasures. Bringing a performative vision of drawing alongside this major exhibition is both a pleasure and an honor, and will demonstrate how artists take drawing beyond the sheet of paper.

This co-production, conceived with Jean-Max Colard and Alice Pialoux in service of the Centre Pompidou's discourse, will make it possible to approach the field of performance from different perspectives through the work of six artists, all diverse in their backgrounds and practices.

Christine Phal
Fonder of the Drawing Lab

Le programme

The Centre Pompidou is pleased to have devised a program of six performances in dialogue with the exhibition “Drawings Without Limits,” to be held at the Grand Palais from December 16th, 2025 to March 25th, 2026, in co-production with the Drawing Lab.

This series of six events forms a fluid, carefully coordinated trajectory in which the position of drawing is continually questioned and shifted. Opening the program, Greek artist **Georgia Sagri** explores the body’s capacity for transformation. In her work, drawing precedes performance, functioning as a space where gestures take shape and emotions are deposited.

Next come two artists for whom drawing is intimately intertwined with performance. With **Jimmy Robert**, a tension unfolds between gesture and trace, as a roll of paper serves simultaneously as constraint and surface of inscription. The final marks raise questions about what remains of the performance. The following event features British artist **Juliette Blightman**, who stages the space: suspended drawings, garment creations, a fashion show, and an original soundtrack together compose a performative space-time.

Drawing then extends into space, invading the walls with **Diogo Pimentão**, who transforms paper and graphite into sculptural structures. It also moves into the public realm with **Jean-Christophe Norman**: his performance takes the form of a walk lasting several hours through Paris, tracing a chosen route between the Centre Pompidou, the Drawing Lab, and the Grand Palais. To conclude the program, on Saturday, January 31, artist **Christine Herzer** will maintain a continuous presence at the Drawing Lab, from opening until midnight, tirelessly weaving together writing and drawing.

The program “Drawing Performances” is a co-production of the Drawing Lab and the Centre Pompidou.

Curators

Jean-Max Colard, Head of the Spoken Word Department, Culture and Creation Department, Centre Pompidou

Alice Pialoux, Programmer, Spoken Word Department, Culture and Creation Department, Centre Pompidou

Events:

Georgia Sagri

Thursday, January 15th, 7:00 pm.

Juliette Blightman

Sunday, January 25th, 5:00 pm.

Jimmy Robert

Wednesday, January 21st, 7:00 pm.

Diogo Pimentão

Wednesday, January 28th, 7:00 pm.

Jean-Christophe Norman

Saturday, January 24th, ongoing, outdoors.

Christine Herzer

Saturday, January 31st, continuously from 11:00 am to midnight.

The artists

Georgia Sagri

Thursday, January 15th, 2026, at 7pm: In **Gone Gone Beyond**, first chapter presented at the Göteborg Biennial, Sagri stages a performance with an inflatable sculpture to confront the rupture caused by grief. Breath becomes central: audible, sculptural, and affective, marking the boundary between presence and disappearance. The work builds on an encounter with poet Katerina Anghelaki-Rooke, whose final and only theatrical piece emerged from a place of deep personal loss. Through this lens, Sagri traces how sorrow destabilizes and reshapes identity. The performance sets a cycle of strain, release, containment, and adaptation into motion, between body and sculpture, visibility and invisibility, self and its becoming.



Georgia Sagri © Georgia Sagri

Works and lives in Athens, Greece.

Georgia Sagri engages performance as a critical field where the boundaries between art and life, subjectivity and politics, are continuously tested. Her work examines autonomy, invisible labor, affective endurance, and the body's capacity for transformation, and recovery. Working across performance, sculpture, video, and drawing, Sagri treats each medium as part of a continuous system of embodiment and reflection. The body in her practice is not simply expressive, but a contested site—at once vulnerable and resistant, inscribed with pressure, memory, and agency.

Drawing holds a central place in Sagri's broader practice. For her, it is both training and release, a medium where the body thinks, stores, and processes experience. Whether used to map forthcoming performances or to exhale the aftershocks of action, drawing captures the trace of thought. It reveals the care, vulnerability, and endurance the body carries. Her drawings extend the present of the performance into the now, holding the original impulse while absorbing the residue of embodiment.

Georgia Sagri's work has been presented in numerous major exhibitions — documenta 14, Manifesta 11, the 2025 Gothenburg Biennale, the Whitney Biennial, and the Istanbul and Lyon Biennales — as well as in international institutions such as MoMA, Palais de Tokyo, KW, Gropius Bau, Kunsthalle Basel, Castello di Rivoli, and SculptureCenter. An associate professor at the Athens School of Fine Arts, she is also the founder of YAH [matter] HYLE, an independent space dedicated to care practices and social empathy.

Jimmy Robert

Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, at 7pm: *Draw the Line* is a performance built around withholding, absence, and the tension between movement and its trace. For the 20-minute piece, Robert used a single roll of paper as both prop and constraint: rolled up, it guided the gestures of his choreography; unrolled and taped to the floor, it became the surface upon which he traced those movements. After the performance ended, what remained was not the mark of the artist's body but the scuffing left by visitors walking across the paper—emphasizing disappearance, delay, and the impossibility of fully capturing embodied action. The work also dialogues with Carolee Schneemann's *Up To and Including Her Limits*, transforming her score into a sculptural and conceptual material rather than reenacting it literally. Robert stages an encounter where body, language, and surface keep slipping out of view, asking what meaning remains once the performance itself is gone.

With Malick Cissé



Jimmy Robert © Roman Goebel, Zoo Artists

Lives and works between Berlin, Germany, and Paris, France.

Jimmy Robert's multidisciplinary practice — encompassing performance, photography, film, and collage — deliberately blurs the boundaries between mediums. He explores how the body and materials shape each other, linking his performative investigations to his broader body of work.

His performances, often designed for exhibition spaces or in response to existing architectures, reactivate or reinterpret gestures drawn from art history, cinema, and literature, creating dense and layered narratives.

Jimmy Robert has presented numerous solo exhibitions (Moderna Museet Malmö, Centre National de la Danse, Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Nottingham Contemporary, Jeu de Paume, etc.), and his performances have been shown in major institutions such as Tate Britain, MoMA, Migros Museum, KW, and Kunsthalle Basel. His works are included in important public collections across Europe and North America.

Jean-Christophe Norman

Saturday, January 24th, 2026, ongoing: With the performance *Trompes-la-mort*, realized between the Centre Pompidou, the Drawing Lab, and the Grand Palais, Jean-Christophe Norman scatters tales throughout this long journey. This drawing in space takes the form of a prologue where the ephemeral and the infinite intertwine.



Jean-Christophe Norman © Jean-Christophe Norman

Lives and works in Marseille, France.

In the middle of his life, Jean-Christophe Norman, a mountaineer and climber, contracted a pulmonary disease that brought him to the brink of death. Since this critical phase, he has developed an artistic practice centered on repetition, walking, and the creation of mental landscapes painted with pages from iconic literary works: James Joyce's *Ulysses*, Hans Henny Jahnn's *Le Fleuve sans rives*, and *One Thousand and One Nights*. His works endlessly push the question of the end.

Juliette Blightman

Sunday, January 25th, 2026, at 5pm: Drawing on the structure of a traditional runway show, *All of it, and the sky* is a performance that emerges from a series of drawings Juliette Blightman creates around communication towers.

Firmly rooted in the practice of drawing, characterized by its ability to convey immediacy, *All of it, and the sky* questions and expresses a somewhat isolated connection to the world.

Inviting reflection on one's own presentation and expanding conventional understandings of drawing, the performance moves between electronic messages, proximity, and physicality, continuing to employ the juxtaposition technique that Juliette Blightman develops across various media.

Large drawings occupy the space, while models wear garments designed by Juliette Blightman, and an original soundtrack commissioned from London-based composers Wayne Binitie and Art Lewy allows the performance to unfold over time.



Juliette Blightman © Juliette Blightman

Lives and works in London, England.

Juliette Blightman integrates drawing, painting, photography, performance, text, and video to explore the relationship between art and life. Her works form a portrait of contemporary communication and existence.

Her work has been shown in exhibitions at Kunsthalle and Kunstmuseum Bremerhaven (2025), Cultuurcentrum Strombeek, Grimbergen (2024), Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg (2024), Kölner Kunstverein, Cologne (2021), Vleeshal Center for Contemporary Art, Middelburg (2021), Kunsthalle Bern, Bern (2016), Kunsthaus Bregenz, Bregenz (2014), Hayward Gallery, London (2011), Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2010), and the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2008). She has also presented performances and videos at Kunsthalle and Kunstmuseum Bremerhaven (2025), Liste Art Fair, Basel (2025), Basel Social Club (2025), Lafayette Anticipations, Paris (2023), Museion Bolzano (2023), Haus am Waldsee, Berlin (2023), Fridericianum, Kassel (2020), and South London Gallery, London (2016). She is a professor of Expanded Painting at the Kunstakademie Münster.

Diogo Pimentão

Wednesday, January 28th, 2026, at 7pm: Diogo Pimentão demonstrates the expansive potential of drawing-based practices. Some of his works on paper are shaped and shaded with graphite; this mineral, applied densely, gives the surface a metallic sheen. These shimmering sheets are then folded and layered to form structures that appear to be made of welded metal rather than pencil and paper, often interacting directly with the architecture of the spaces in which they are displayed.

By altering perceptions of materiality and space, his works invite viewers to reconsider their surroundings, evolving their understanding of depth, weight, and structure through the act of looking and moving within the exhibition space.



Diogo Pimentão © Diogo Pimentão

Lives and works in London, England.

Primarily known for his experimental works on paper, Diogo Pimentão complicates the categorical boundaries of drawing. He mainly uses paper and graphite, sometimes in combination with concrete, video, and performance.

Christine Herzer

Saturday, January 31st, 2026, from 11am to 12am: Christine Herzer draws endlessly, continuously, and on multiple surfaces—sheets of paper, windows, magazines, or programs of performances she attends. In her practice, writing and drawing constantly intertwine, merge, and separate, only to come together again.

With extreme sensitivity to everything around her, to all she sees and encounters, to people as well as world events, Christine Herzer creates lists and clouds of words that flow through her. She writes and draws universes of thoughts, shocks, reactions, and inspirations. She will be present continuously at the Drawing Lab throughout Saturday, welcoming visitors with drawings, exchanging with them readings, writings, questions, intense thoughts, and postcards.



Christine Herzer © Studio Francois Rousseau

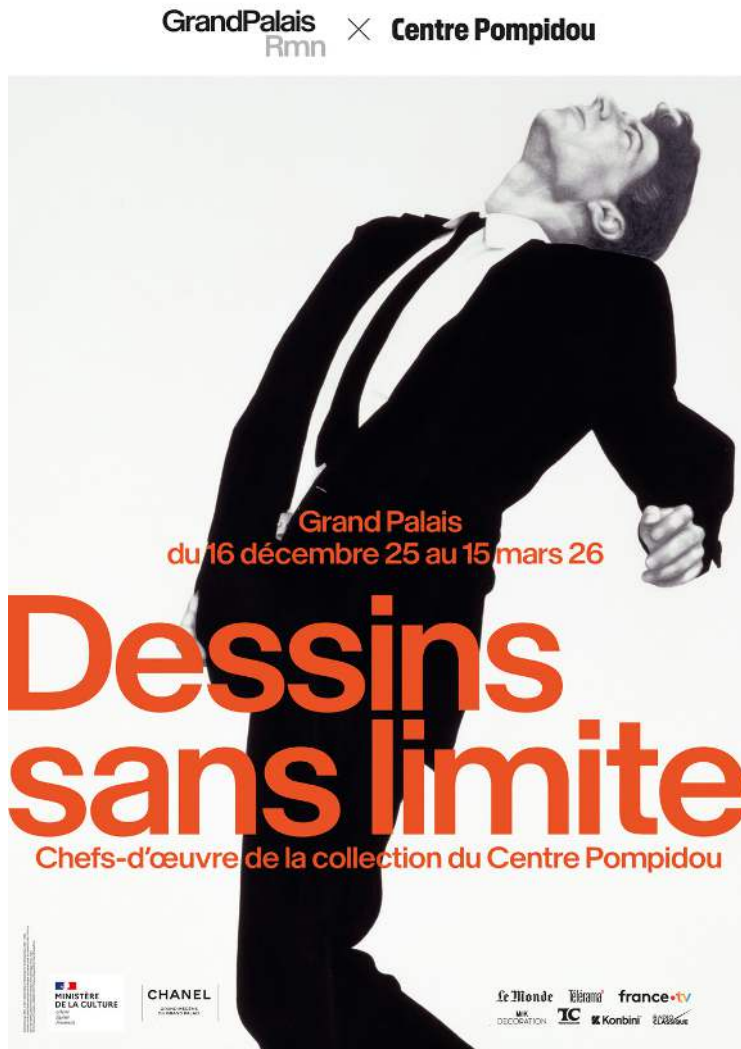
Lives and works in Paris, France.

Christine Herzer is an artist and poet. Her works (written drawings, poems, objects, performances) stage language and speech—words, voices, silences, handwritten text—and explore our capacity to see and feel them.

Graduated in literature and creative writing (M.F.A. in Poetry, Bennington College, USA / Master's in Literature and Literary Creation), she lived in India for 12 years, dividing her time between writing, meditation, and teaching. Her third poetry collection, titled ORANGE, was published by Ugly Duckling Presse (Brooklyn, USA).

Programming associated with the exhibition

Drawings Without Limits



For the first time, the Centre Pompidou is presenting at the Grand Palais over 300 works from the Graphic Arts Cabinet, one of the richest drawing collections in the world (35,000 pieces from the 20th and 21st centuries). *Drawings Without Limits* highlights how drawing, an intimate and experimental medium, continually reinvents itself.

The exhibition brings together 120 major artists, from **Dubuffet** to **Basquiat**, from **Delaunay** to **Kentridge**, and explores a form of drawing that goes beyond the sheet to occupy walls, installations, photography, cinema, and digital media.

Organized around four sequences—study, tell, trace, animate—the exhibition offers a sensitive immersion into a free, inventive, and decidedly contemporary art.

Co-production: Centre Pompidou × Grand Palais RMN

Curators: Claudine Grammont, Anne Montfort-Tanguy, with Valérie Loth and Laetitia Pesenti

Exhibition design: Pauline Phelouzat

The Drawing Lab



Exhibition's view of *Haroum*, Erika Hedayat, from October 17th, 2025, to January 4th, 2026 © Nicolas Brasseur

Founded by Christine Phal in 2017 on a philanthropic model, the Drawing Lab is a space for experimentation and private exhibitions entirely dedicated to promoting contemporary drawing.

Presenting three exhibitions per year, it is primarily intended as a platform for showcasing drawing in all its forms, giving artists the opportunity to take drawing beyond the sheet of paper and explore all its facets. In addition to producing exhibitions, the Drawing Lab handles communication, dissemination, visitor reception, cultural mediation, catalog publication, and the organization of satellite events during exhibitions.

Located on level -1 of the Drawing Hotel, the Drawing Lab is open daily and free of charge. Its mission is to promote contemporary drawing to all audiences. It operates with an annual budget of €250,000, devoted to the promotion of contemporary drawing in its most experimental dimension. This budget is provided annually by the Drawing Society.

Find the full program, workshops, and events on the website drawinglabparis.com.

The partners

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Practical informations

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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

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Opening Hours

Program available on the website
drawinglabparis.com

Entry and Visits

Performances: free admission

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The Drawing Lab, the Drawing Society's space for experimentation and contemporary drawing exhibitions, is managed by the Association Drawing Lab Projects & Friends and is a member of the Association Trampoline for the French art scene.