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## **CARLOS KUSNIR**

**Triangle France - Friche la Belle de Mai  
Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

**One exhibition spanning two venues  
March 10 — June 3, 2018**



Openings

**Friday March 9, 18h at Frac  
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

**Saturday March 10, 18h at Friche la Belle  
de Mai**

Curated by

**Céline Kopp and Pascal Neveux**

Organized by

**Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and  
Triangle France in partnership with  
la Friche la Belle de Mai, as part of  
*MP2018 Quel Amour!***

With support from

**FNAGP - Fondation Nationale des Arts  
Graphiques et Plastiques**

In partnership with

**Galerie Eric Dupont and Galerie Bernard  
Jordan, Paris**

Image :

Carlos Kusnir, *Untitled*, 2014 © JC Lett, ADAGP, Paris,  
2018. Collection Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

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The Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Triangle France team up for the first time in order to present a major exhibition of the artist Carlos Kusnir.

Unfolding exceptionally in both spaces, this monographic exhibition gives visitors an original view over the course of over thirty years of creation. It offers a non-chronological vision of the artist's practice by linking a selection of major works with new productions. This composition was specifically conceived for the two platforms of the Frac and the Panorama of the Friche la Belle de Mai.

Born in Argentina and living and working in Marseilles and Paris, Carlos Kusnir has developed since the beginning of the 1980's a singular body of work that pushes back, not without jubilation and cheekiness, against the formal issues of painting. His work is just like his personality, finely chiseled with fancy and rigor, with awkwardness and virtuosity, with assurance and fragility. Seeming in appearance to be a kind of a makeshift assemblage, his works allow how they are made to be seen and offer their structure to visitors. They are often accompanied by sound elements. With irreverence, he tackles printing techniques and proceeds via collage and assemblage in order to bring his compositions beyond their surfaces, to a space that is three-dimensional and sonorous. This space is permeated with tenderness, humor, rigor and evocations of personal and collective memories. Stemming from daily life, they refer to grand History and minor history. He produces his paintings, where painting both works and plays to emancipate itself from everything that tries to define and frame it: its support, its forms, its materials, its representations. His artistic journey and his body of works make an impression through their great liberty and are marked by a capacity for permanent reinvention. Through this ambitious exhibition, whose title is proudly just his name, Carlos Kusnir demonstrates his capacity to question himself without ever allowing for facility or superficiality.

The works gathered in Marseilles present themselves like elements, or like characters of a universe made of superstitions, of relationships, of successive layers of color, of repetitions of gestures and motifs. The importance of print making techniques is apparent, especially lithography, even though that technique was pushed to the margins of the artist's pictorial practice for many decades. Repetition: it's that which is practiced in the gestures and patterns of the print maker, and that which is practiced by musicians. Carlos Kusnir conceives and produces paintings where labor disappears behind the freshness of incisive propositions. Things are alive and play themselves out. Sometimes they take a break, the time to drink a coffee or take a seat on a chair. And then things pick up again. As for music, it literally emanates from the artworks like an extra layer of color that accompanies the gaze. In Carlos Kusnir's work, repetition and rhythm drive figuration toward abstraction. The objects that are represented become pretexts, and circulate within an ensemble that makes the things that bind, the silences, the lucky accidents, clashes and harmonies apparent.

The works often appear in balance, as if freshly placed there. Paint, wood, objects, paper... the assemblages and points of contact are fragile and celebrate the impermanence of things. A single detail or a small object can dramatically alter the whole ensemble. The versatility of expressions and of affects that are created in the frictions and moments of grace that Carlos Kusnir offers reminds us that everything is vanity. And whatever the scale of their proportions may be, the relationship to the body that the works maintain is direct. It is like a sheet of paper that you handle and turn over to look at and put to the side when it exists the printing press. The artworks don't want to remain in place. They affirm their movement. They proclaim their presence. In this exhibition, they literally manifest their existence.

Brandished on their supports, proclaiming their right to occupy space and time. Sometimes they do this wonkily, and no matter the scale or meaning. They are here together, and ask questions, like a crowd on the march. An elegant fragility that makes a silent cacophony. Always seeking new pictorial melodies, Carlos Kusnir prefers side paths to megaphones and ceaselessly goes off-track in order to find his way, which allows us to see a body of work in perpetual motion.

Céline Kopp and Pascal Neveux, Marseille, February 2018

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## ABOUT CARLOS KUSNIR

Born in Buenos Aires (Argentina, 1947), Carlos Kusnir works and lives in Marseille and Paris. Before settling in France at the beginning of the 1980s, Carlos Kusnir studied at the Fine Arts Academy of Buenos Aires and in Bratislava where he learnt several print techniques. During the 1970s he ran a print shop for a decade in his home town, where he begun his first pictorial researches.

Carlos Kusnir's work was subject of exhibitions in numerous institutions and art centers in France, as Grand Café (Saint-Nazaire) ; Transpalette (Bourges) ; Frac PACA (Marseilles) ; FRAC Auvergne (Clermont-Ferrand) ; Musée de Sérignan ; CRAC le 19 (Montbéliard) or more recently at Galerie Eric Dupont in Paris. His works are part of several public collections as Centre national des arts plastiques (Paris), FRAC Auvergne and Frac PACA ; and of private collections as Fondation Cartier. Carlos Kusnir is represented by Galerie Bernard Jordan (Paris, Berlin, Zürich) and Galerie Eric Dupont (Paris).



**Image :**

Carlos Kusnir, *Je suis au café*, 1986. Collection Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris. Courtesy of the artist.

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## **ABOUT TRIANGLE FRANCE**

Triangle France is a twenty-two years old non-profit contemporary arts organization, based in “La Friche la Belle de Mai”, a former tobacco factory located in the city center of Marseille. Triangle France aims to promote the emerging international art scene through a challenging and experimental program of artist’s residencies, exhibitions, events, new commissions, and publications. Triangle France supports the production and presentation of new forms of artistic activity and aims to create dynamic relationships between art, artists, and audiences both locally and internationally. Since its founding in 1995, Triangle France has established itself as one of France’s most innovative organizations supporting artists at a formative point in their career. Triangle France supports emerging artists as well as artists that are underrepresented in France by collaborating with them in the development, production and presentation of important new projects that enable them to take new steps in their careers.

Triangle France is a member of Triangle Network; D.C.A. - Association française de développement des centres d’art; Arts en résidence - Réseau National and Marseille Expos. Triangle France is a founding member of the Société Coopérative d’Intérêt Collectif Friche la Belle de Mai.

Triangle France is supported by French Ministry of Culture, Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Conseil Régional Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Conseil Départemental des Bouches du Rhône and City of Marseille.

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## **ABOUT FRAC PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D’AZUR**

The Fonds régionaux d’art contemporain (Regional collections of contemporary art - Frac) are public collections of contemporary art created in 1982 as part of the policy of devolution of power set by the government via regional councils in order for art to be present in each and every one of France’s region.

Their first mission is to gather a collection, to display it for all kinds of audiences and to invent new ways to educate to contemporary creation. Today, the Fracs’ collections gather 30,000 works from 5,700 French and foreign artists. Unlike museums and centres of art, Fracs can’t be linked to a unique exhibition place. Fracs’ collections are essentially nomadic and use peculiar broadcasting and educating tools.

Since five years the Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur has been based in a building designed by Kengo Kuma at the heart of La Joliette in Marseille city centre. Its various spaces dedicated to the public accommodate a programme of national and international exhibitions, events and meetings all year round, and enable the Frac to pursue its missions of acquisition, conservation and education and of making contemporary art accessible to everyone across the region.

The Fonds régional d’art contemporain is supported by Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur and the French Ministry of Culture and communication. The Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur is a member of Platform, Association of French Regional Contemporary Art Funds and a founding member of Marseille Expos.

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## PRACTICAL INFO

### **Friche la Belle de Mai**

41 rue Jobin  
13003 Marseille

[www.lafriche.org](http://www.lafriche.org) / [www.trianglefrance.org](http://www.trianglefrance.org)

From Wednesday until Friday 14:00 - 19:00  
Saturday & Sunday 13:00 - 19:00

Full price : 5 euros  
Reduced price : 3 euros  
Ticket office : 04 95 04 95 95

### **Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

20 boulevard de Dunkerque  
13002 Marseille

[www.fracpaca.org](http://www.fracpaca.org)

From Tuesday until Saturday 12:00 - 19:00  
Sunday 14:00 - 19:00

Full price : 5 euros  
Reduced price : 2,50 euros  
Ticket office : [accueil@fracpaca.org](mailto:accueil@fracpaca.org)

### **From Frac to Friche and from Friche to Frac**

A single ticket offers a free entry to the second venue during the exhibition.

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## EVENTS

### **Saturday April 7 at 17:00**

#### **Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

Meeting with Carlos Kusnir, Frédéric Valabrègue (art critic and writer) and Pascal Jourdana. In partnership with La Marelle, writer's residency in Marseille.

### **Wednesday April 25 & May 2**

#### **Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

Children's workshop with Laurence Lagier, artist.

### **Thursday April 26 at 18:30**

#### **Friche la Belle de Mai - Salle des Machines**

Screening of *Carlos Kusnir "Je ne suis pas là, je m'enlève"*, a film by Arnaud Morin, commissioned by Documents d'artistes Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

Co-produced by Réseau Documents d'artistes, Friche la Belle de Mai, Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Galerie Eric Dupont.

**Saturday April 28 at 17:00**  
**Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**  
Visit of the exhibition with Carlos Kusnir.

**Sunday May 13 at 16:00**  
**Friche la Belle de Mai - Panorama**  
Visit with Céline Kopp, curator and Director of Triangle France.

**Saturday May 19 at 18:00**  
**Frac Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**  
Screening of *Carlos Kusnir "Je ne suis pas là, je m'enlève"*, a film by Arnaud Morin,  
commissioned by Documents d'artistes Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.  
Co-produced by Réseau Documents d'artistes, Friche la Belle de Mai, Frac Provence-Alpes-  
Côte d'Azur and Galerie Eric Dupont.

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## **PARTNERS**

### **Institutions**

Ministère de la Culture et de la communication / DRAC Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur; Conseil Régional Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur; Conseil départemental des Bouches-du-Rhône; Ville de Marseille.

### **Cultural supporters**

SCIC Friche la Belle de Mai; FNAGP - Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques.

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