

AUXERRE



Centre Pompidou

THE SEA IS YOUR MIRROR

06.20 → 11.01.26

"The underwater depths were red like the colour we see now only inside our eyelids."

Italo Calvino, *t zéro* (1967)

Like the title of this exhibition, taken from the poem "Man and the Sea" by Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867), looking at the sea as a mirror is to meditate on our existence and become aware of the power of nature. Mostly from the Centre Pompidou collection, the modern and contemporary works of artists that adorn this historic site invite us to immerse ourselves in worlds that are mysterious, magical and poetic, inspired by the surface and depths of the water.

The elusive sea invites us to dream.

Calm or violent, it carries us as much as it resists or overwhelms us.

Exploring it is like travelling within ourselves.

Abbaye
Saint-
Germain



2 Peter Doig, *Canoe-island*, 2000

A mysterious character watches us from a drifting canoe. Peter Doig drew inspiration from a variety of sources – including an old master painting, a rock album cover, and personal memories – to create this work.



10 Janaina Tschäpe, *Blood, Sea*, 2004

This immersive work invites us to dive in the mesmerizing dance of a creature that is half-woman, half-mermaid, evoking Afro-Brazilian nature deities.



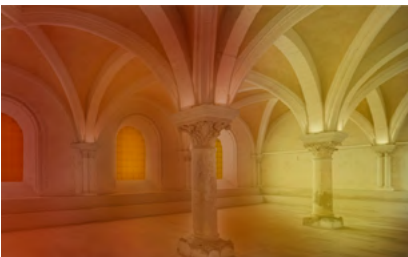
12 Jean Painlevé, *La Pieuvre* [The Octopus], 1928

An object of both fear and fascination, the octopus is the star of this groundbreaking film, that alternates between scientific documentary and surrealism.



14 Richard Stankiewicz, *Diving to the Bottom of the Ocean*, 1958

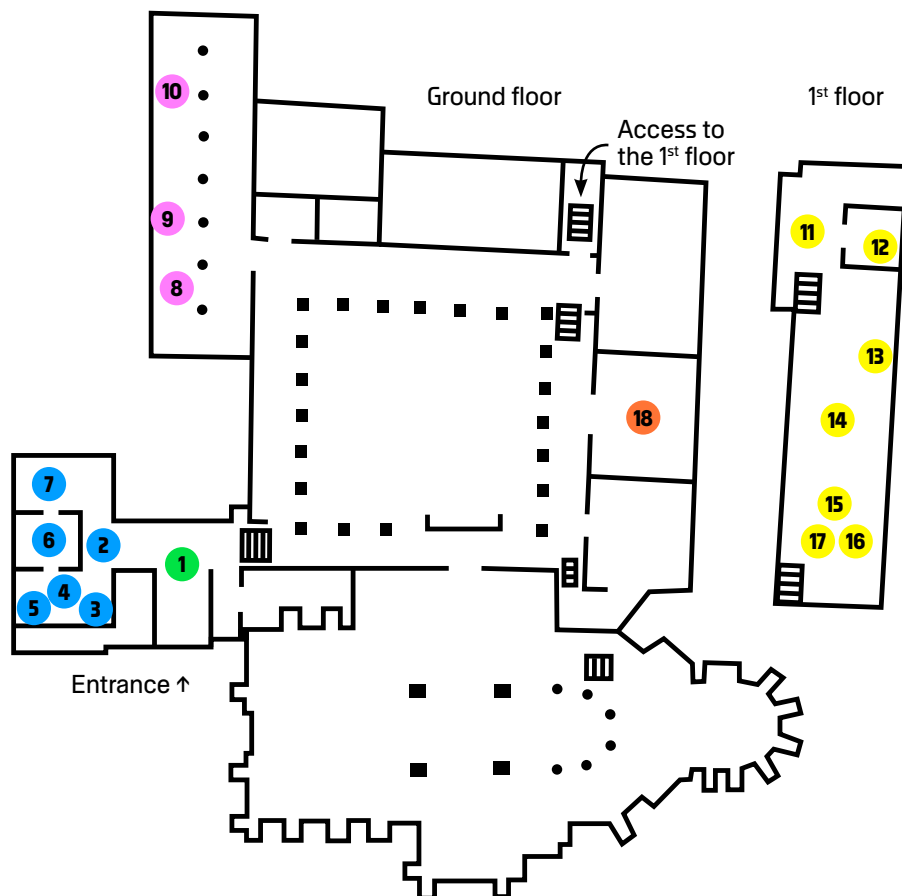
A former sailor in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Richard Stankiewicz built a submarine using scrap materials.



18 Nicolas Floc'h, *La Couleur de l'eau – Yonne-Seine* [The Colour of Water – Yonne-Seine], 2026

A photographer and diver, Nicolas Floc'h has been working on a project entitled "The Colour of Water" since 2016. For this piece, created specifically for the abbey, he has transposed onto the stained-glass window the photographs he took during diving sessions in the Yonne and the Seine.

Map and list of the artists



■ Reception

1. Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec

■ Abbot's house

2. Peter Doig
3. Genaro Strobel
4. Robert Delaunay
5. Abdel Abdessemed
6. Korakrit Arunanondchai
7. Man Ray

■ Cellar

8. Hicham Berrada
9. Neri Oxman
10. Janaina Tschäpe

■ Chapter house

18. Nicolas Floc'h

■ Gallo-roman room

- (1st floor) :
11. Dove Allouche
 12. Jean Painlevé
 13. Shimabuku
 14. Richard Stankiewicz
 15. John Gerrard
 16. Jacques Monory
 17. Gilles Aillaud

Exhibition poster



Exhibition

Curator
Pamela Sticht

Architect-scenographer
Olivier Wagnies,
Bonus Project

Information

Opening hours
From June 20th
to November 1st, 2026
Open daily
from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Free admission

**An exhibition co-organised
by the City of Auxerre
and the Centre Pompidou**

Constellation

Since its opening in 1977, Centre Pompidou has been a hub of vibrant and engaged culture – a multidisciplinary space deeply rooted in the city and open to the world. In 2025, the Centre Pompidou embarked on a major transformation that allows it to stay on the move throughout the renovation of the Beaubourg building, until its

scheduled reopening in 2030. Meanwhile, the spirit of the Centre Pompidou will resonate through numerous partner venues across France and internationally, thanks to its cultural program "Constellation". It is within this context that the exhibition "The Sea is your mirror" is being presented at the Abbey of Saint-Germain d'Auxerre.

Photos credits of the inside page (from top to bottom) :

Peter Doig, *Canoe-island*, 2000 - Centre Pompidou, Paris - Musée national d'art moderne - Centre de création industrielle - © Peter Doig. All Rights Reserved, DACS / Adagp, 2026, Paris - Photo © Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Philippe Migeat/Dist. GrandPalaisRm

Janaina Tschäpe, *Naïad 3*, 2004 © Janaina Tschäpe

Jean Painlevé, *La Pieuvre*, 1928 © Les Documents cinématographiques / Archives Jean Painlevé

Richard Stankiewicz, *Diving to the Bottom of the Ocean*, 1958 - Centre Pompidou, Paris - Musée national d'art moderne - Centre de création industrielle - © DR - Photo © Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/Audrey Laurans/Dist. GrandPalaisRm

Nicolas Floc'h, *La Couleur de l'eau - Yonne-Seine*, 2026 © Nicolas Floc'h - Simulation of the installation © Olivier Wagnies, Bonus Project