



FONDATION OPALE

PRESS RELEASE: EXHIBITION

ROOTS

COLLECTION GARANCE PRIMAT

21.12.25 – 12.04.26



Left: **Sheila Hicks** (born 1934), *TBT*, 2021, 19 Batons, variable dimensions, each element between 150 and 190 cm (59–74 ¾ in.), © Sheila Hicks. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Frank Elbaz, Paris. Photo: Arthur Péquin. Right: **Fabienne Verdier** (born 1962), *Sun Man*, 2022, acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 183 × 135 cm, © Fabienne Verdier. Photo: Arthur Péquin. Collection Garance Primat

From 21 December 2025 to 12 April 2026, Fondation Opale presents ROOTS, an exhibition that brings together around sixty works from the Collection Garance Primat. Curated by Samuel Gross, the exhibition coincides with the publication of the book of the same name, which reflects the collector's philosophical exploration of a central idea: 'Créer le Un sur Terre qui est la Nature de

l'Homme et notre Matrice Originelle' (To Create the One on Earth that is the Nature of Man and our Original Matrix).

Structured around seven themes — *Create, One, Earth, Nature, Man, Matrix, and Origin* — ROOTS unfolds as a poetic journey through works that question the origins of creation and our connection to the world. The exhibition brings together artists whose practices engage with matter, form and perception in distinct yet resonant ways, including **Sheila Hicks, Ólafur Eliasson, Louise Bourgeois, Niki de Saint Phalle, Fabienne Verdier, Giuseppe Penone, Sol LeWitt, and Vija Celmins**, among others. Works by Aboriginal artists such as **Emily Kam Kngwarray, Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, and Keith Stevens** extend this dialogue across cultures.



Louise Bourgeois (1911–2010), *Lullaby*, 2006, Drypoint on cloth, series of 25 screenprints, Photo: Arthur Péquin
© 2025, Pro Litteris, Zurich. Collection Garance Primat

“ROOTS is a reflection on the creative impulse that connects us all — across cultures, eras, and traditions. Through these works, we sense how art can become a language of unity and remembrance.” — Bérengère Primat, Founder of Fondation Opale

“Each work in ROOTS contributes to a larger meditation on origin and being. The exhibition is conceived as a living organism, an evolving constellation of forms that question our place within nature.” — Samuel Gross, Curator

More than a collection display, ROOTS invites visitors to experience art as an echo of shared humanity. By tracing a path through creation, the exhibition suggests that artistic practice can offer a bridge between the material and the spiritual, the individual and the collective.



Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri (1932–2002), *Warlugulong / Dream Fire / Fire Dreaming*, 1996, Acrylic on canvas, 100 × 157 cm, Photo: Arthur Péquin © 2025, ProLitteris, Zurich. Collection Garance Primat



Sheila Hicks 1934, *VARMAYANA (The Place of Shining Light)*, 2018, 31 Balls: linen, cotton, wool, nylon, acrylic, sisal and various discoveries. Variable dimensions, Photo: Arthur Péquin. Final image: Vincent Leroux © Sheila Hicks. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Frank Elbaz, Paris. Collection Garance Primat

Visitor Information

Fondation Opale is in Lens/Crans-Montana and is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 10:00 to 18:00. The on-site restaurant L'Opale is open Tuesday and Sunday from 09:30 to 18:00, and Wednesday to Saturday from 09:30 to 21:00.

Fondation Opale | Route de Crans 1 | CH-1978 Lens/Crans-Montana |
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Editor's Notes

About Fondation Opale

Established in 2018, Fondation Opale is in the Swiss Alps in Lens/Crans-Montana and is Europe's only contemporary art Centre dedicated exclusively to Aboriginal Australian art. Through exhibitions, commissions and cultural dialogue, it fosters greater understanding of Indigenous perspectives and nurtures exchanges between Aboriginal artists and the wider global art world. Its work is rooted in the Bérengère Primat Collection—one of the largest private collections of Aboriginal art worldwide.

About Garance Primat

Garance Primat is a French patron, collector, and entrepreneur who has developed a contemporary vision of art in resonance with the living world. At Domaine des Étangs in the Charente Limousine, she brings together art, science, and nature across nearly 1,000 hectares of preserved landscape. Guided by the symbol of the dragonfly, her collection features over a thousand works by major twentieth-century and contemporary artists, including Pablo Picasso, Yves Klein, Louise Bourgeois, Niki de Saint Phalle, Lee Ufan, Kiki Smith, Tomás Saraceno, Alicja Kwade, Olafur Eliasson, Anselm Kiefer, David Nash, Fabienne Verdier and Richard Long.

About Samuel Gross (b. 1976) is a curator Fondation Opale and was previously Head of Exhibitions at the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire in Geneva. He has held curatorial roles at MAMCO, the Istituto Svizzero in Rome, and Galerie Evergreene, with a curatorial

practice that explores cross-cultural and transhistorical frameworks. He holds an MA in Art History from the University of Geneva.