

PRESS Realese

Par le corps

An exhibition by Elise Guillaume

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**From the 20th March to the 22nd September
2025**

On Saturday 22nd March 2025,
In the presence of Elise Guillaume :

- Opening from 11.30am followed by a shared meal
- Talk & Projection at 3pm at Cinéma Le Kiosque

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**La Chapelle
Jeanne d'Arc**
Centre d'Art
Contemporain
d'Intérêt National
> Thouars

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Opening Hours :
March 20 – September 22 Wednesday to
Sunday, 2 :30 PM – 6 :30 PM
Free Entry

Appointments available at au + 33 (0)5 49 66 66 52





Par le corps (Through the body)

An exhibition by Elise Guillaume

Through the Body delves into the relationship between our bodies and more-than-human worlds — a recurring concern in Elise Guillaume's work. Her films, soundscapes and installations are charged with a particular emotion as she addresses intimacy as ecological forms.

In her film *Eventual Horizon* (2023), the surface of human skin is juxtaposed with the melting ice cap, underscoring the fragility of both. The central question—"How can I rest while everything evaporates?"—expresses the urgent reality we face today. Yet, the response is disarmingly simple: we must regain the awareness that we are part of nature. To do so, we need to listen, observe, and feel. This is precisely what Elise Guillaume's work invites us to do—a call to awaken our senses and deepen our awareness of the world around us.

Through the body encourages us to be deeply attentive, especially as the Art Center hosting the exhibition is a chapel. Within this former sacred space, our perception is guided by an installation imagined in situ, composed largely of seaweed foraged from the North Sea. Fragmented and ever-changing, it appears as a collection of pieces that ingeniously shift in form—becoming matter, becoming landscape, becoming skin.

Elise Guillaume's approach is both poetic and scientific. In collaboration with psychologist Dr. Marine Severin and acoustic ecologist Dr. Clea Parcerisas, she conducts research on the psychological impacts of marine sounds. As part of

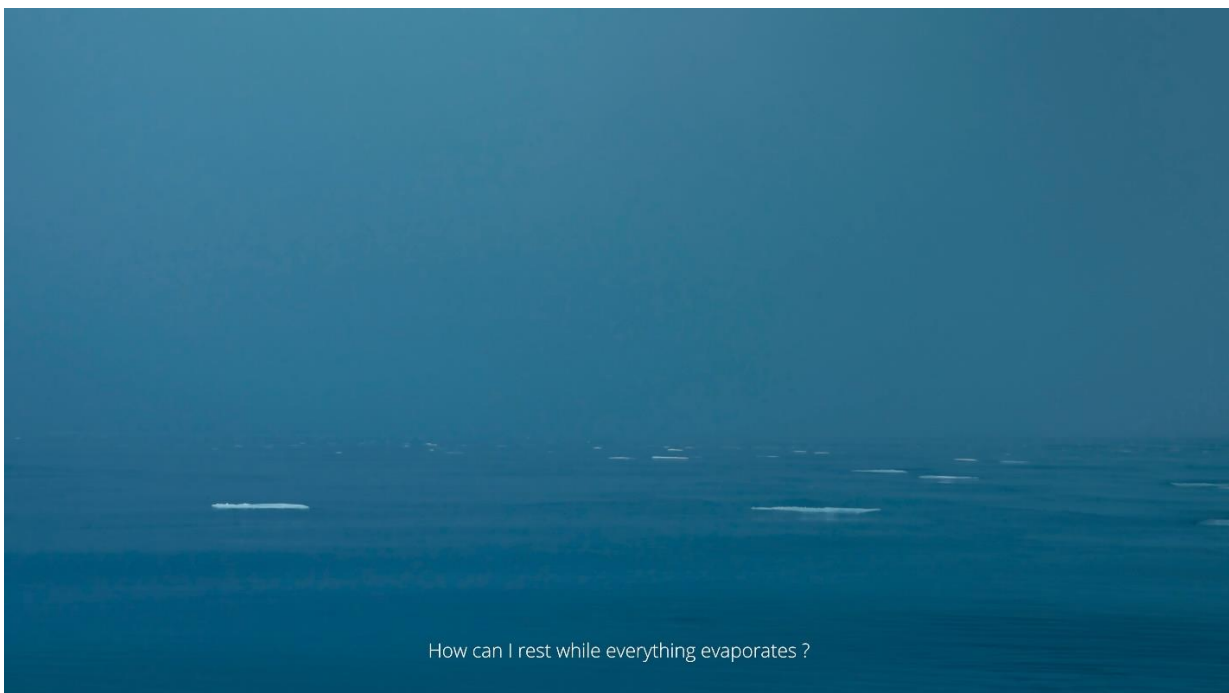
this research, the exhibition presents an iteration of *Waves of Resonance* in the crypt : —an immersive sound installation that transports us into underwater worlds. The composition weaves together sounds of waves, whale songs, jackhammer fish, crustaceans, dolphin whistles, the release of air bubbles from melting glaciers and anthropogenic noises— boats, metallic impacts, and the hammering of underwater structures in the North Sea.

Waves of Resonance was created during the *EMBracing the Ocean* residency program, organised by the European Marine Board. Alongside researchers, Elise Guillaume also took part in *Arctic Circle*, a residency in the Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic.

Blending poetic sensitivity and scientific insights, Elise Guillaume's works serve as reassuring signs of a profound desire to transform our relationship with the natural world—one to which she contributes in a deeply meaningful way.



Image still of the *Eventual Horizon*, 2023 © Elise Guillaume



How can I rest while everything evaporates ?

Image still of the *Eventual Horizon*, 2023 © Elise Guillaume

Event related to the exhibition

Talk and screening

Saturday 22nd of March at 3pm

At cinéma Le Kiosque - Thouars

A discussion with Elise Guillaume and Martial Déflacieux, moderated by Pauline Lisowski, followed by a screening of a selection of the artist's films.

Pauline Lisowski is an art critic and exhibition curator, focusing on works that create connections between landscape and architecture.

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Workshop

Listening to the Ocean

Tuesday 17th June at 6:30pm

Duration : 1h30

Listening to the Ocean : Engage in an arts & science research project

A 1h30 workshop listening to marine sound of the North Sea and the Arctic, led by Elise Guillaume and researcher Marine Severin. Participants will be invited to engage in listening exercises, answer research questionnaires, and take part in discussions. Elise and Marine will also show the process of recording ocean sounds.

To ensure the research remains unbiased, the full project details will be shared at the end of the workshop by Marine and Elise.

Free entry.



Elise Guillaume

Elise Guillaume (1996) is a Belgian artist and filmmaker based in Brussels.

In 2024, she was selected for the EMBracing the Ocean grant and residency program, organized by the European Marine Board, to develop *Waves of Resonance*, a sound project based on research into the emotional impact of marine sounds, carried out in collaboration with scientists. She is also a recipient of the Science New Wave Film Fund 2024 and was selected for the Sound Image Culture program to develop her next film on grief and hope.

In 2023, Elise Guillaume was selected for *The Arctic Circle* residency and held a solo exhibition at Espace Croisé, Centre d'Art Contemporain. In 2022, she graduated from the Royal College of Art (MA Contemporary Art Practice) and received a research and development grant from Arts Council England.

Her works have been presented on numerous occasions, including at La Centrale Centre d'Art

Contemporain (2024, BE), Argos Centre for Audiovisual Arts (2024, BE), LMNO Gallery (2023, BE), Gasworks (2023,GB), KIKK Festival (2021, KR), Imagine Science Film Festival (2022/2024, USA), VIDEOFORMES (2022), Alchemy Film and Arts (2021) parmi d'autres.

She was a finalist for the Aesthetica Art Prize (2022) and the *Talents Contemporains 13* award by the François Schneider Foundation (2024) and was a winner of the Art Nova Prize at the Artelaguna Art Prize (2022). She has given lectures and workshops in academic settings, including at the Royal College of Art, The Sustainable Darkroom, ESA Dunkerque - Tourcoing, and the Zurich University of the Arts.

Her work has been featured in publications such as *Revue Facettes*, *Art Impact News*, *The Art Gorgeous*, *Aesthetica Magazine*, and *Moving Image Artists Journal*.

More information :
www.eliseguillaumeart.com/



Elise Guillaume records the sounds of glacier ice melting in the Arctic using a hydrophone, Svalbard, 2023 © Tamara Suša.

La Chapelle Jeanne d'Arc, National Contemporary Art Center

Invited artists at the art center take ownership of the space by creating an original work specifically designed for the site, a neo-Gothic chapel. Developing an ambitious cultural project, the center considers both its geographical location and architectural setting, striving to create encounters that are constantly renewed and enriched.

To make art accessible to as many people as possible across the region, a mobile exhibition system has been created. Designed by Marie-Ange Guillemot in 2014, these stackable octagonal box columns can transform into display cases arranged in lines, circles, or various geometric shapes, opening up art to the public in innovative ways.

Educational workshops are conducted throughout the year in partnership with schools, high schools, psychiatric hospitals, retirement homes, and community associations as part of artistic and cultural education initiatives. The center also offers cultural outings, discussions, and conferences with contemporary art professionals, open to all. Partnerships are established with higher education institutions in the arts. Approaching art as both a form of life and a form of expression, meetings are organized to engage with local communities, creating a space for debate and reflection on art, architecture, and heritage in public spaces.

Since January 2018, an educational program has been implemented at the center to develop outreach, information, and awareness for school audiences. Initiated by the Academic Delegation for Cultural Action (DAAC) of the Poitiers rectorate, the program aims to educate students and teachers on all forms of heritage, art, and culture, including scientific and technical culture as well as digital arts.

La Chapelle Jeanne d'Arc – National Contemporary Art Center (CACIN) is supported by the Ministry of Culture - DRAC Nouvelle-Aquitaine, the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region, the Deux-Sèvres Department, the Community of Communes of Thouars, and the Academic Delegation for Cultural Action of the Poitiers rectorate.

The center is a member of DCA (French Association for the Development of Contemporary Art Centers), the Astre network (Plastic and Visual Arts Network of Nouvelle-Aquitaine), and BLA!, the national association of contemporary art mediators

