

ARS IN CAMPANIA

24.10.26 TO 28.02.27

LE CELLIER, REIMS

Reims.fr
L'effervescence culturelle

PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 2026

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

LE CELLIER

4 bis rue de Mars, 51100 Reims

Press preview: 23 October at 11:30 a.m.

Opening reception: 23 October at 6:30 p.m.

Access: tram T1/T2 · Langlet stop

Citybus · Forum stop

www.reims.fr

[Press area](#)

Free admission

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday–Sunday: 2–6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 2–6 p.m.

Closed on public holidays and from 21 December to 4 January

Artists

Julian Charrière, Marcus Coates, Lélia Demoisy, Côme Di Meglio, Matthieu Gafsou, Jeppe Hein, Eva Jospin, Tadashi Kawamata, Marine Lanier, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Mouawad Laurier, Simon Lehner, Elsa Leydier, Vik Muniz, NILS-UDO, Constance Nouvel, Erwin Olaf, Henrique Oliveira, Tomás Saraceno, David Shrigley, Édouard Taufenbach & Bastien Pourtout

Curated by Alice Audouin, assisted by Oscar Bardet

Exhibition design: PRODART, Cyril Menossi and Pierre Cibois

Produced by the City of Reims

Image: Earth by David Shrigley © ADAGP Paris

EXHIBITION

ARS IN CAMPANIA

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS' PERSPECTIVES ON NATURE IN CHAMPAGNE



From 24 October 2026 to 28 February 2027, the City of Reims presents **Ars in Campania** at Le Cellier, offering a fresh perspective on Champagne through contemporary art, the environment and the region. Champagne emerges as a living body, a vertical landscape extending from its ancient chalk subsoil to its climate futures.

The exhibition brings together works by 22 artists from the Maison Ruinart Collection, including Eva Jospin, Julian Charrière and Pascale Marthine Tayou. Never before has such a broad and varied group of works from the collection been brought together beyond Maison Ruinart's premises.

Ars in Campania is curated by Alice Audouin, a pioneer in bringing contemporary art and environmental issues together and founding president of Art of Change 21.

The City of Reims is proud to host and produce this exhibition.

"Champagne is the cornerstone of our culture and our shared heritage. It is an enduring reference point for our identity and history, and also a compass for the collective paths that our region, unique in the world, will chart tomorrow.

With Ars in Campania, Reims welcomes the creative vision of 22 renowned artists to Le Cellier. They approach Champagne in the light of the issues of our time and the challenges ahead. This exceptional exhibition, supported by the emblematic Maison Ruinart, invites visitors to discover the richness of Champagne's natural world through contemporary art." **Arnaud Robinet, Mayor of Reims**

A vertical landscape

Ars in Campania, or art in the Champagne region. *Campania*, an early Latin term attested in the fifth century, describes Champagne as open country, exposed land, as opposed to woodland or forest. Yet Champagne is a region that must be understood in depth, through its many layers. Beneath the geometry of its hillsides lies a vanished sea, transformed into chalk, from which the landscape was born. Today, the chalk's millennia-long presence meets an accelerating rhythm of seasons and changes that can now be felt and seen within a single generation.

Artists bring their creativity to this precious region at a time when environmental issues are writing a new chapter in its history.

The exhibition travels through this living body from the ground up, from past to future, in three chapters that follow its depth: the subsoil and its ancient history, the cultivated surface and its living world, and the futures already emerging in the heat. These chapters are interdependent rather than separate layers: the sea still shapes the vines, while climate change alters a landscape in constant adaptation.

The exhibition takes the form of a cross-section, a core sample of the artists' perspectives on this vertical region. The artists probe the soil, care for living things, descend into the depths of the earth, bring geological memory to life, and anticipate and warn of climatic changes. They offer a perspective on the region that is at once sensitive, forward-looking and rooted in memory.

The exhibition features rooms devoted to individual artists alongside dialogues between major works.

All 22 artists appear at Le Cellier and at two sites in Reims's historic centre: a monumental work by Henrique Oliveira at the Jean Falala media library and Marcus Coates's Nature Calendar flag outside City Hall. More works can be seen at 4 RUE DES CRAYÈRES.

An exhibition in three chapters

Chapter 1 – Geological time

The first chapter descends into the chalk cellars, geology and deep time, towards the region's underground heritage and walls carved by human hands. Julian Charrière unfolds deep time, bringing matter and geological duration into view. The walls photographed by Erwin Olaf bear the marks of hands on stone. Marine Lanier and Simon Lehner bring a mineral light to the surface, a radiance from the depths of time. The region first appears from below, experienced rather than contemplated.

Chapter 2 – Vegetal variations

Then we ascend. The density of Eva Jospin's forests forms a final undergrowth before the cultivated surface. It opens up the dreamlike space offered by the landscape. Marcus Coates and Constance Nouvel reveal the richness of hidden, invisible life; Lélia Demoisy, Henrique Oliveira, Vik Muniz and Pascale Marthine Tayou work with the substance of the soil and its transformations. Creating performative art in the heart of the vineyard, NILS-UDO seeks to help nature adapt and biodiversity endure.

The Nature Calendar by Marcus Coates informs the people of Reims about developments in Champagne's biodiversity at the entrance to the exhibition and on the square outside City Hall. Meanwhile, Henrique Oliveira brings nature into the heart of the Jean Falala media library, opposite the cathedral.

Chapter 3 – Climate futures

The final movement brings us into a time of acceleration and towards the future. A long-established geological inheritance is unsettled by rapid shifts in temperature. Édouard Taufenbach & Bastien Pourtout, Elsa Leydier and Matthieu Gafsou give heat its colours and overexposure. Mouawad Laurier's generative work gives these transformations a sensory form, turning data into sound and light. Côme Di Meglio and Tomás Saraceno open up cosmic scales and a new era. Jeppe Hein and David Shrigley address visitors of all ages and future generations with humour and warmth, inviting gentleness and curiosity towards other beings, human and non-human alike, down to a simple earthworm that becomes a mascot.

The artists

Julian Charrière · Marcus Coates · Lélia Demoisy · Côme Di Meglio ·
Matthieu Gafsou · Jeppe Hein · Eva Jospin · Tadashi Kawamata ·
Marine Lanier · Pascale Marthine Tayou · Mouawad Laurier · Simon
Lehner · Elsa Leydier · Vik Muniz · NILS-UDO · Constance Nouvel ·
Erwin Olaf · Henrique Oliveira · Tomás Saraceno · David Shrigley ·
Édouard Taufenbach & Bastien Pourtout

Reducing the exhibition's environmental impact

From transport to exhibition design, measures are being taken to reduce the exhibition's environmental impact: no air travel, modularity and reuse of exhibition furniture, 100% LED lighting in the galleries and restrained digital use in the installations, among others. A Carbon Assessment will also be carried out.

The venue: Le Cellier

The exhibition takes place at Le Cellier in Reims, a short distance from City Hall in the heart of the historic centre. Built in 1898 by Reims architect Ernest Kalas as a champagne dispatch cellar for Jules Mumm, it was once a place from which champagne departed for destinations around the world. Its circular doorway echoes the shape of large wine casks, while five mosaic scenes on its façade depict the stages of champagne making. The façade was listed as a historic monument in 1997. Acquired by the City of Reims in 2010, the building became a municipal cultural centre in 2015.

The Maison Ruinart Collection

With an artistic legacy dating back to its first collaboration with Alphonse Mucha in 1896, Ruinart has made its relationship with nature and the environment the guiding thread of its collection. Since 2018, this connection has been renewed through a series of artist residencies: contemporary artists immerse themselves in Champagne to create works shaped by their vision and experience of the region, exploring the links between art, climate and biodiversity. At 4 RUE DES CRAYÈRES, Maison Ruinart displays many works from its collection in the chalk cellars, the courtyard, the garden and the historic salons.

Twenty-two of these artists are brought together here. The works born of this dialogue form the foundation of the exhibition, presented beyond the estate for the first time and complemented by loans and new productions conceived especially for Le Cellier.

The curator: Alice Audouin

Alice Audouin has been a leading figure in sustainable development since 2001 and a pioneer in connecting contemporary art with environmental issues since 2004, when she organised the first international symposium on the subject at UNESCO, The Artist as Stakeholder.

Working in France and internationally, Alice Audouin is an exhibition curator, consultant and carbon specialist for the cultural sector. She is also the founding president of Art of Change 21, an international non for profit organisation under the patronage of Olafur Eliasson. Her exhibitions include Surface de Réparation (Pantin, 2025), Crude Gratitude (New York, 2024), Melting Point (Dubai, 2023), Novacène (lille3000, Lille, 2022, co-curated with Jean-Max Colard), Biocenosis (Marseille, 2021) and Post Carbone (Paris, 2015).

She was also guest curator of Art Paris 2022 for its "Art and Environment" theme.

Alice Audouin is assisted by Oscar Bardet.