

CITÉ DE LA MUSIQUE
PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS



BARBARA

From 13 October 2017 to 28 January 2018 in Paris

Available from March 2018

© Just Jaeckin

THE EXHIBITION

The Philharmonie de Paris is organising the first exhibition ever dedicated to the iconic French singer Barbara. Looking back over the life of one of the first successful female songwriters to sing about the feelings of women, who also invented the concert-show, this project portrays a vibrant, brilliant figure who became a symbol of freedom.



LINKED TO THE EXHIBITION

- Concerts in the exhibition area every week, reminding visitors of Barbara's unique ability to be close to her fans.
- An exhibition catalogue.
- Many film screenings, concerts and educational activities related to the exhibition programme.
- More generally, Barbara is a key figure in the cultural news of 2017. Gérard Depardieu and Barbara's musicians have worked together to record an album based on the artist's great classics. Then, to coincide with the opening of the exhibition, Mathieu Amalric has scheduled the release of his new movie looking back over Barbara's life and work.

EXHIBITION DESIGN

Two great names in the world of production design were asked to stage Barbara's poetic world:

Antoine Fontaine: well-known for his opera and film scenery: *La Reine Margot* directed by Patrice Chéreau; *Marie-Antoinette* directed by Sofia Coppola,

Christian Marti: famous production designer for films by Claude Berri, Daniel Auteuil, Joann Sfar, or Manoel de Oliveira, and successful shows such as Barbara's *Lily-Passion*.

Christian Marti and Antoine Fontaine also designed the *Brassens or freedom* exhibition, presented at the Cité de la musique in 2011.



Barbara at *l'Écluse* © Atelier Robert Doisneau

INTENTIONS

- Visually, an extremely rich exhibition with more than 200 photographs on display, providing new views of a very famous artist.
- An audacious layout design structured around the show : velvet curtains frame the itinerary, while successive scenes totally immerse visitors in the world of Barbara.
- Brand-new content : together with drawings and costumes, extracts from songs, personal correspondence, recordings of concerts and messages left on answering machines all form a meticulous selection of works and original documents, some of them never displayed before, revealing Barbara's personal, emotional story.
- A sound itinerary of alternating live and intimate audio provides a unique, optimised experience for visitors, while an extensive video itinerary presents widescreen displays of exceptional archives, such as the artist's 1981 concert in Pantin.
- A focus on the singer's unpublicised personal commitment to help marginalised populations.

PARTNERSHIPS

The exhibition was designed in partnership with the Association Barbara, Bernard Serf (Barbara's right holder) and the Institut National de l'Audio-visuel, Paris.

THE EXHIBITION CURATOR

Clémentine Deroudille is a journalist, director and art historian. She was previously the curator of one of the Philharmonie de Paris's greatest successes: the *Brassens or freedom exhibition* (130,000 visitors) in 2011 and is now working on a new *Doisneau Music* exhibition. She worked with those who knew Barbara to present many unpublished archive documents in a layout design comparable with the greatest of film sets.



Barbara in her garden at à Précy-sur-Marne. © Marcel Imsand, Association Barbara Perlimpinpin



Exhibition View

KEY EXHIBITION FIGURES

- 750 m² / 8000 sq ft of modular space.
- Around 400 artworks showcased in the exhibition :
 - 175 original artworks, such as paintings, drawings, instruments, music scores, handwritten documents and letters, as well as 5 costumes worn by the artist;
 - 219 reproductions such as photographs, documents, concert programmes...
 - concert and interviews videos, audio and video clips, including many unpublished archives.

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