

*Fundação Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva*

**Temporary Exhibition**

**JEAN DUBUFFET**

**(67 works on paper from the Collection at the Jeanne Bucher Gallery)**

**Period:** 16 November - 14 January 01

Fundação Arpad Szenes- Vieira da Silva  
Praça das Amoreiras, 56/58 1250-020 Lisbon-Portugal  
Tel. (351 21)388 00 44/53 Fax. (351 21)388 00 39  
E. Mail: [fasvs@fasvs.pt](mailto:fasvs@fasvs.pt)  
Web: [www.fasvt.pt](http://www.fasvt.pt)

**Opening hours:** Monday to Saturday: 12 a.m to 8.00p.m

Sundays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closes on Tuesdays and Holidays

In addition to the "Jean Dubuffet" exhibition to be held at Culturgest, the Arpad Szenes/Vieira da Silva Foundation is exhibiting 67 small works on paper from the Jeanne Bucher Gallery, Paris. The selection of the works and the assembly of the exhibition are of the responsibility of Jean-François Jaeger, Director of the Jeanne Bucher Gallery, Paris

«Dubuffet's work is a struggle against the intricate gaze which, essentially, translates efficiency, i.e., the universe of the artist's hand. In order to grasp the lyrical richness of the universe, the artist preserves the purely muscular freedom of the eye without the intervention of consciousness. Dubuffet, however, is wary of consciousness. He believes that it alters everything it touches and that, above all, discourages the understanding of things instead of encouraging it. The artist persists in finding ways of limiting the impact of consciousness. In his works, the gaze recaptures its innocence and fascination and these, in turn, extract from the universe of things the unexpected and the unique. This denial of traditional ways of seeing restores to his vision a healthy and savage fierceness.

Thanks to Dubuffet, art abandons its social function of reproduction in order to become a quintessential instrument of psychological confession. Utilitarian reality is rejected and poetic reality takes its place, and this is the image of memory and dreams.

The hierarchy that efficiency attributes to the universe is also abandoned, the artist favouring the scales of madness and imagination, which reveal its true dimensions. By disarranging the links, transforming the "Corps de Dames" into gloomy continents and the "Terres Radieuses" into untouchable ectoplasms, Dubuffet establishes a new system of relationships with the world, one which is more sensitive and honest. In order to observe each object, Dubuffet produces an extra eye : that of the eagle which flies over the metaphysical spaces of the "Terres Radieuses", that of the ant which wanders through the labyrinths of "Texturologies", the magic eye of the apparatus which in "Messages" transforms images into ideas.

All his work is a fabulous network which breaks up the worlds of oppression in order to produce a world of freedom.»

Daniel Cordier

(Les Dessins de Jean Dubuffet, Editions Ditis, Paris 1960)

# Fundação Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva

To approach Dubuffet's work in the light of this text by Daniel Cordier, even though written in 1960 before Hourloupe's first works which open this exhibition, helps us to adequately site the revolutionary spirit of the man and his works, this spirit remaining alive up to the last drawing "Conjectures" from 1985.

A libertarian spirit prevails over his ideas. He has the rare capacity to invent the material which best suits the projection of the movements of the ideas which assail him and which transport him towards the ideal means, with an exceptional notion of displacement in space. Therefore, the works instinctively produced, be they representational or purely abstract, acquire total strength and resonance, regardless of the simplicity of the means chosen resulting from Jean Dubuffet's clear-sighted vision.

Jean-François Jaeger  
Jeanne Bucher Gallery