

# PRESS KIT

Hand in Foot  
JocJonJosch

29.11.2013

–

16.03.2014

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Musée d'art du Valais  
1950 Sion.  
[www.museen-wallis.ch](http://www.museen-wallis.ch)



MANOR\*

**VALAIS ART MUSEUM, SION  
MANOR CULTURAL PRIZE SION 2013  
JOCJONJOSCH COLLECTIVE  
30/11/2013 – 16/03/2014**

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## The Manor Cultural Prize 2013

The Manor Cultural Prize 2013 is one of the major awards for contemporary art in Switzerland. It was created in 1982 by the Grands Magasins Manor to promote young Swiss artists who are little known by the general public. The prize is awarded every two years in each of the twelve cantons in which it was established.

The purpose of the Manor Prize is to encourage, support and publicize young artists. In addition to a 15,000 CHF cash prize, it grants a first monographic exhibition at the museum together with a catalogue. Manor also acquires a work by the winning artist or artists on this occasion. It is a unique opportunity to give the winning artist or artists a decisive boost in their creative endeavours.

After the first prizes awarded in the Valais to Martina Gmür in 2007 and Joëlle Allet in 2010, the generous partnership between the Valais Art Museum and Manor has been successfully and enthusiastically continued. In 2013, the Manor Prize was awarded to the JocJonJosch collective.

In accordance with the regulations, the director of the Art Museum submitted a list of candidates in late 2012 to a jury that comprised Maria Ceppi, artist, Julia Hountou, art historian and director of the Galerie du Crochetan in Monthey, Pierre-André Maus, curator of the prize and representative of the Grands Magasins Manor, Chantal Prod'Hom, art historian and director of the mudac (Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts) in Lausanne and advisor for the Manor Prize, and Véronique Ribordy, art historian, art critic and independent curator. The jury voted unanimously for JocJonJosch from among the five candidates in the running. The attribution of the Manor Prize to JocJonJosch underscores the mobility of contemporary artists and the relativity of ideas of national and regional affiliation.

## The winners: the artist trio JocJonJosch

Created in 2008, the JocJonJosch collective consists of the British Jocelyn Marchington (born in London in 1976), the Swiss Jonathan Brantschen (born in Fiesch in 1981) and the Swiss national of Slovakian origin Joschi Herczeg (born in Bratislava 1975). In their performances, videos and photographs, the three artists based in London and Zurich humorously explore notions of balance and failure, creating arrangements in which the body often becomes part of a collective and interactive "sculpture". Playing on optical effects and the contradictions of matter, they stress a dynamic and reflective approach to create unexpected and unsettling tensions.

>For more information on the artists (biographies, exhibitions, collections, awards, residencies): Annex 1 of this press kit and [www.jocjonjosch.com](http://www.jocjonjosch.com)

## The exhibition at the Valais Art Museum

For the exhibition *Hand in Foot*, the Valais Art Museum presents in all the rooms of the Château de la Majorie some ten large-format colour photographs and as many video installations. To cite the co-publishers of the exhibition catalogue, Jo Melvin and Rye Holmboe, these works involve the "fragility of human existence" and the "tense relationships between the individual and the group, and the way in which opposites—success and failure, profit and waste, the useful and the superfluous—tend to merge and be confused". Through images in which their bodies are combined to create comical and occasionally freakish hybrids, the artists explore the limits between the individual and the collective, between the human and the animal. They remind us that humans exist above all through their relationships with each other.

The Vidomnat building will house an installation created specifically for this exhibition: *Worstward Ho*, a round wooden vessel in which the artists vainly tried to row on the Thames in October 2013. This sculptural object, whose title comes from a prose piece by Samuel Beckett (*Worstward Ho*, 1983), is meant to stimulate thinking about the ideas of the absurd and the principle of least resistance.

## The opening and performances (from 29 November to 1<sup>st</sup> December)

On the opening day (Friday, 29 November) and the weekend (Saturday, 30 November and Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December), the artists will present two **new performances** in the Ancienne Chancellerie (Old Chancery) and Ancien Pénitencier (Old Penitentiary). These will be large-scale live works, to be executed by several dozen performers trained by JocJonJosch. These performances will be repeated on a fixed schedule.

Note: the recommended minimum age is 16.

The performances and attendant guided tours are included in the admission fee to the Art Museum.

### **Friday, 29 November 2013: opening**

20:30 – 21:00 / 21:30 – 22:00

20:30 – 22:00 (continuous)

### **Saturday, 30 November and Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013**

11:30 – 12:00 / 12:30 – 13:00

15:30 – 16:00 / 16:30 – 17:00

17:00 – 18:30 (continuous only Sat.)

Guided tours for the exhibition *Hand in Foot*:

11:00 (FR) / 14:30 (FR) / 16:00 (FR + D)

There is a limited number of places for the performances. Please register at the Art Museum reception desk (15, Place de la Majorie) or by phone +4127 606 46 90

## Cultural programme during the exhibition

### Guided tours

The regular free guided tours on the first Sunday of the month at the Art Museum will focus on the exhibition *Hand in Foot* for the duration of the exhibition:

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2103, 11:00 (FR) / 14:30 (FR) / 16:00 (FR+D)

Sunday, 5 January 2014, 16:00

Sunday, 2 February 2014, 16:00

Sunday, 2 March 2014, 16:00

Guided tours in French, English and German are available on demand.

Guided tours for high-school classes are available on demand:

<http://www.musees-valais.ch/musee-dart/services-au-public/ecoles.html>

### Encounters

Thursday, 12 December, 18:15, at the Valais Art Museum

*Viewpoint on the exhibition,*

by Karine Tissot, Director of the Centre for Contemporary Art in Yverdon.

(in French)

The complete cultural programme and events will be available shortly at

[www.musees-valais.ch](http://www.musees-valais.ch)

For information, please contact the cultural services of the Cantonal Museums:

[sc-museesmediation@admin.vs.ch](mailto:sc-museesmediation@admin.vs.ch)

### *The exhibition in brief:*

#### **"JocJonJosch: Hand in Foot"**

Exhibition of works by JocJonJosch,  
Winners of the Manor Cultural Prize Sion 2013  
30 November 2013 – 16 March 2014  
at the Valais Art Museum in Sion

**Opening and award ceremony: Friday, 29 November at 18:00**

Performances: from 29 November to 1<sup>st</sup> December (see programme)  
Recommended minimum age for the performances: 16.

Guided tours: 30 November and 1<sup>st</sup> December (see programme)

Open: Tuesday-Sunday 11:00-17:00  
Address: Place de la Majorie, Sion  
Parking: La Cible

Additional information: [www.musees-valais.ch](http://www.musees-valais.ch)

## A fully illustrated catalogue

"Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better".  
Samuel Beckett, *Worstward Ho*, 1983.

The exhibition is accompanied by a trilingual catalogue (English, French, German) published by the Art Museum and Štokovec, Space for Culture in Slovakia, the homeland of the artist Joschi Herczeg. It includes texts by authors based in England and in Switzerland: Rye Dag Holmboe is a publisher and art critic in London; Jo Melvin is an art historian and teacher at the Chelsea College of Art and Design; John James is a London-based poet; Andrei Pop is an art historian and post-doctorate student at the University of Basel; Siri Peyer is a curator based in Zurich.

The catalogue is abundantly illustrated in colour and presents a comprehensive survey of the work of the JocJonJosch trio.

### *The catalogue in brief:*

#### **"JocJonJosch: Hand in Foot"**

Texts by Rye Dag Holmboe, Siri Peyer, Jo Melvin, Andrei Pop and John James.

Preface by Pascal Ruedin and Stéphanie Lugon

151 pages in English + booklets in French and German of 24 pages each

58 colour illustrations; 17 x 23 cm, bound

Publishers: éditions Štokovec, Space for Culture (Slovakia) and Valais Art Museum, Sion

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First edition

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Points of sale: Art Museum and website of the artists: [www.jocjonjosch.com](http://www.jocjonjosch.com)

Copyright-free images for the press

>>> download from the website [www.vs.ch/culture](http://www.vs.ch/culture) > Communication et médias  
> Infos Médias



01 .JJJ Body Cabinet 2.jpg



02 .JJJ Investigation into Collaboration 2.jpg



03 .JJJ Ino Untitled.JPG



04 .JJJ Untitled.JPG



05 .JJJ In Between.jpg



06 .JJJ Finger Desk 1.jpg



07 .JJJ Worstward Hol.jpg



08 .JJJ Human Removal.jpg



09 .JJJ Hanging On.jpg



10 .JJJ Head to Head.jpg



11 .Jockkojosh Child.jpg

## **Acknowledgements**

The *JocJonJosch: Hand in Foot* exhibition by the JocJonJosch collective at the Valais Art Museum and the catalogue published on this occasion were generously funded by **Les Grands Magasins Manor SA**.



## Annex 1: artists' biographies, exhibitions, collections, awards, residencies

JocJonJosch  
*Hand in Foot*  
30/11/2013 – 16/04/2013  
Valais Art Museum

### Biographies

#### Jocelyn Marchington

b. London, England, 1976, lives in London  
2007 – 2008 Chelsea College of Art & Design, London, UK  
*Postgraduate Diploma Motion Graphics*  
2003 – 2004 London College of Communication, London, UK  
*Magazine & Publication Design*  
1995 – 1998 Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK  
*BA, Hons History of Art & Anthropology*

#### Jonathan Brantschen

b. Fiesch, Switzerland, 1981, lives in London  
2007 – 2008 Chelsea College of Art & Design, London, UK  
*Postgraduate Diploma Motion Graphics*  
2006 - 2007 Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, UK  
*Fine Art (first year)*  
2001 - 2005 Ecole professionnelle des arts contemporains, Saxon, CH  
*BA, Strip Cartoons/ Illustration*

#### Joschi Herczeg

b. Bratislava, Slovakia, 1975, lives in Zurich  
2001 – 2002 The University of New South Wales, Sydney, AUS  
*MA, Photomedia*  
1999 – 2000 Staffordshire University, Stoke on Trent, UK  
*BA, Hons Photography*  
1994 – 1996 Academy of Performing Arts, Prague, CZ  
*Graduated in partnership with Staffordshire University*

### Selected exhibitions

January 2014  
TINA.B & MUBE Museum, Sao Paulo, BR

November 2013  
Musée d'art du Valais, Sion, CH  
*Hand in Foot*, Prix Manor Sion 2013

October 2013  
'Worstward Ho!', Bosse & Baum, London, UK  
*Rowing 'Worstward Ho!'*

October 2013  
Art Licks Weekend, London, UK  
'Worstward Ho! River Lea'

July 2013

Live: Photography in Action, Les Rencontres d'Arles 2013, FR  
*White Elephant*

June 2013

Nouvelles Vagues, Paris and Palais de Tokyo, FR  
Looking for video' at Claudine Papillon Galerie

October 2012

View 2012, at the Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
*Performance & auction of Untitled #1, 2012*

May 2012

The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK  
*Born In 1985*

May 2012

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London, UK  
*Panel discussion on JocJonJosch's Existere performance*

December 2011

Peckham Hotel, London, UK  
*Performance and video event*

October 2011

TINA B. Prague Contemporary Art Festival, Prague, CZ  
*Investigation into Collaboration 2*

July 2011

Testbed1, London, UK  
*Existere*

July 2011

Son Gallery, London, UK  
*Existere at Son Gallery*

May 2011

Galerie Monika Wertheimer, Basel, CH  
*Agreements of Collaboration*

March 2011

Arte Laguna Prize, Venice, IT  
*Finalists of the International Arte Laguna Prize*

January 2011

Son Gallery, London, UK  
*Exercises in Failure*

December 2010

Situation 1, Ferme-Asile, Sion, CH  
*Une exposition collective*

October 2010

The Anna Mahler Project Space, Spoleto, IT  
*The Beasts*

August 2010  
Son Gallery, London, UK  
*The Beasts*

June 2010  
Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK  
*Summer Exhibition 2010*

May 2010  
The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London, UK  
*ICA Live Weekends*

March 2010  
CHELSEA Space, London, UK  
*5th anniversary Exhibition*

Jun 2009  
Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK  
*Summer Exhibition 2009*

November 2008  
Soga, Bratislava, Slovakia, SK *Language of Humour*

## Collections

October 2013  
Bernard Soens and Mimi Dusselier Collection, Waregem, B

August 2013  
Caldic Collection, *Museum Voorlinden*, Wassenaar, NL

September 2012  
Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK  
*Henry Moore Research Library*

June 2012  
Tate, London, UK  
*Artists' Books Collection*

June 2012  
Chelsea College of Art & Design Library, London, UK

December 2011  
Kunstsammlung der F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG, Basel, CH

December 2010  
Fonds cantonal d'art contemporain, Sion, CH

October 2010  
The Anna Mahler Foundation Collection, Spoleto, IT

February 2009  
Imamed, Radiologisches Institut, Basel, CH

## Awards and Residencies

January 2013  
Prix Manor 2013, Sion, CH

June 2013  
Swiss Cultural Fund in Britain, UK

July 2012  
Fondazione Aurelio Petroni, Naples, IT *Residency*

July 2012  
Arts Council England, UK  
*Artists' International Development Fund*

July 2011  
Bar Tur Award, London, UK  
*Shortlisted*

April 2011  
Swiss Cultural Fund in Britain, UK

March 2011  
Arte Laguna, Venice, IT  
*Special Prize "TINA B"*

December 2010  
Förderpreis des Kantons Wallis, CH  
*Fonds cantonal d'art contemporain-Collection*

October 2010  
The Anna Mahler Foundation Award, Spoleto, IT

**Additional information:** [www.jocjohnjosch.com](http://www.jocjohnjosch.com)

## Annex 2: preface to the catalogue by Pascal Ruedin and Stéphanie Lugon

JocJonJosch  
*Hand in Foot*  
Prix Manor Sion 2013  
Musée d'art du Valais  
30.11.2013 – 16.04.2013

What is striking about JocJonJosch's creative process is the role given to discussion. Jocelyn Marchington, Jonathan Brantschen and Joschi Herczeg's artistic practice thrives on exchanges and explores the very nature of exchange. The relations between the individual and the collective, strength and weakness, success and failure, are put to the test and pushed to their limits in a body of work that combines poetry, frailty and playfulness.

The collective was formed in 2008 and first expressed itself through photographs and video works that were characterised by their deadpan sense of humour, reminiscent perhaps of the Austrian artist Erwin Wurm and his *One-minute Sculptures* or Monty Python sketches. The performative aspects of JocJonJosch's work gradually came to the fore and performance soon became its chosen mode of expression. The strength of performance art lies in the transience and physicality of the medium. The audience is put in direct contact with the artists, whose very flesh is often at the heart of the creative process. The body is both a tool and the subject of the performance. Following in this tradition, the three members of JocJonJosch unveil themselves – sometimes both literally and metaphorically – and reveal our inherent vulnerability through this exposure. With reference to historical representations of the masculine body (*Laocoon*, Michelangelo, Canova, etc.), JocJonJosch's work offers a subtle exploration of the contemporary body in an age of athletic prowess, unbridled eroticism, genetic manipulation and mass-market advertising.

JocJonJosch has positioned itself brilliantly in the on-going history of performance art, a success story in which many artists have taken part – young recruits like them, as well as pioneers like Marina Abramović, whose work has welcomed visitors of the Valais Art Museum since 1990. Our museum is very proud to open its space to the collective, and to congratulate its members on winning the Manor Prize in 2013.

Following the first two prizes received by Martina Gmür in 2007 and Joëlle Allet in 2010, our generous partnership with Manor continues with enthusiasm and success. According to the rules, the undersigned has presented a selection of candidates to a jury. Its members included the artist Maria Ceppi, Julia Hountou, an art historian and the director of the gallery Crochetan in Monthey, Pierre-André Maus, the chairman of the Prize committee and the representative of the Manor store, Chantal Prod'Hom, an art historian and the director of the mudac (Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts) in Lausanne and advisor for the Manor Prize, and Véronique Ribordy, an art historian, critic and curator. The jury selected the London and Zurich based collective, which comprises a Valaisan, an Englishman and a Swiss-Slovakian. This choice puts regional identities into perspective while underlining the mobility of contemporary artists whose works now tend to take an international and intercultural dimension.

Pascal Ruedin  
Director of the Musées cantonaux du Valais  
Former Director of the Valais Art Museum

Stéphanie Lugon  
Project manager