



LES
FRANCISCAINES
DEAUVILLE

PIERRE ET GILLES MONDES MARINS

EXPOSITION

24 MAI 25 › 4 JANVIER 26

lesfranciscaines.fr

Pierre et Gilles, *Philomène* (Mica Argañaz), 2021
Don de l'Association des Amis des Franciscaines. Ville de Deauville, Les Franciscaines © Pierre et Gilles



Pierre et Gilles
Ophélie 2000 (Isabelle Huppert), 2012
 Hand-painted inkjet photograph on canvas
 78 × 112 cm
 © Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON, Paris, Brussels, New York

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THE PROMISE? _____

Pierre et Gilles - Mondes Marins: a plunge into the teeming universe of a legendary duo

Gilles Blanchard, a native of Le Havre, and Pierre Commoy, a child of the Vendée: it's an understatement to say that the sea runs through their veins. It permeates their imaginations, inhabits their works and infuses their universe with a changing light, sometimes dazzling, sometimes deceptively peaceful.

Their history with Deauville is recent, but already marked by a beautiful evidence. It all began in 2022, a year after the opening of Les Franciscaines, when the Association des Amis des Franciscaines acquired *Philomène*, the jewel in their crown. This first meeting inspired a visit, and then a shared desire: to give birth to a major exhibition.

This promise has now been fulfilled by *Pierre et Gilles - Mondes Marins*, an invitation to navigate between reality and fantasy, in a world where the glitter of glitter never quite masks the melancholy of the deepest depths of reality.

In May 2025, Les Franciscaines weighs anchor and takes us on a voyage through the oceans according to Pierre et Gilles.

From their first marine self-portraits in 1977 to new works created especially for the exhibition, their art is revealed in all its evocative power: a baroque and flamboyant celebration of the figures of sailors and mermaids, but also a darker reflection on a world eaten away by pollution and lost illusions. Each image, beneath its pearly sheen, hides a story, a struggle, a duality.

If Pierre et Gilles love the sea air, they also seem to have adopted Deauville. As proof of this, no fewer than four works were created exclusively for this exhibition, sealing a now indestructible link between the artists and the town.

With *Pierre et Gilles - Mondes Marins*, Les Franciscaines celebrates two major artists of our time, whose pictorial poetry continues to captivate, question and inspire.

Philippe Augier
Mayor of Deauville
President of the Franciscaines

2 FOREWORD

Combining painting and photography in a colourful pop aesthetic, Pierre et Gilles have been playing with the codes of art history, fashion, cinema and advertising for forty years to create new contemporary icons. This exhibition highlights the maritime theme, a constant source of inspiration throughout the careers of the two artists. Seafarers, harbour scenes and underwater landscapes will take centre stage.

For the first time, iconic works from their early years will be brought together with a selection of emblematic pieces from galleries and private collections. Nearly 70 works will be on show, with four works specially created for the exhibition added to this rich presentation.

Annie Madet-Vache, art historian and director of the Musée des Franciscaines, in collaboration with Pierre et Gilles, offers an original look at the work of these artists.

3 BIOGRAPHY



Pierre was born in La Roche-Sur-Yon in 1950, **Gilles** in Le Havre in 1953.

Since 1976, they have been developing a world-renowned a four-handed collaboration between painting and photography.

Their paintings depict their loved ones, both anonymous and famous, in sophisticated, life-size sets created in their studios.

Once the photograph has been printed on canvas, the meticulous work of painting begins.

These image-makers have created a unique iconography that explores the boundary between art history and popular culture.

Pierre et Gilles

Perversion (Pierre et Gilles), 1977

Hand-painted photograph

57,5 x 50 cm

© Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON, Paris, Brussels, New York

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EXHIBITION ITINERARY

THE MARINE WORLD, A NEVER-ENDING SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

Pierre et Gilles defined the basic lines of their work very early on. Their network of influences is abundant: art history, religious iconography and, of course, the sea, which has been with them from their earliest joint works right up to the present day.

The two artists take us on a journey filled with dreams, into the imagination of an unreal, ideal world...



SAILORS, POMPOMS AND SAILORS

The works of Pierre et Gilles are dotted with sailors and berets with tassels. This angelic, eroticised iconography reveals a darker side, the sailor's military duty.

Pierre et Gilles
Le Marin (Philippe Gaillon), 1985
Hand-painted photograph
52 x 37 cm
Collection Noirmontartproduction
© Pierre et Gilles

AT THE PORT

Sailors, boats and long crossings are inextricably linked with the port, as a place of departure and arrival, but also as a nightlife of drunkenness and debauchery.

Pierre et Gilles

De l'autre côté de l'amour (Sylvie Vartan), 2008

Hand-painted inkjet photograph on canvas

177 x 145 cm

© Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON, Paris, Brussels, New York



SEASCAPES

Pierre et Gilles' seascapes shine with a special, romantic, glittering light, but this does not prevent them from evoking a more serious reality, that of climate change and marine pollution.

Pierre et Gilles

La planète rouge (Tahar Rahim), 2022

Hand-painted inkjet photograph on canvas

162 x 114 cm

© Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON, Paris, Brussels, New York

SHIPWRECK

Shipwreck is a recurring theme in the history of art, often to evoke a bleak reality with no future. *Les naufragés*, an installation presented in the mid-1980s, alludes to the AIDS epidemic.

Pierre et Gilles
Naufragé (Olivier Vedrine), 1986
64.5*79.5cm
Hand-painted photograph
MEP



DIVINITIES / MARINE MYTHOLOGY

Combining lightness with references to the history of art, these works question the representation of mythological figures to which the artists offer, despite their static posture, a psychological and sensitive depth.



Pierre et Gilles
Méduse (Zuleika Ponsen), 1990
Hand-painted photograph
146,6*126,1 cm
Collection Emmanuelle et Jérôme de Noirmont
© Pierre et Gilles



Pierre et Gilles

Etienne Daho, 1984

Epreuve chromogène peinte

61,5 x 63cm

Paris, Centre Pompidou - Musée national d'art moderne -

Centre de création industrielle. N° inv AM 2015-71

© Pierre et Gilles

© Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI, Dist. Grand Palais Rmn /
Georges Meguerditchian

ETIENNE DAHO

An iconic image, the cover of Etienne Daho's album «La Notte, la Notte» once again combines the name Pierre et Gilles with the world of music. This passion has also been a common thread running through their work, with no fewer than 110 works representing the great names of French and international song.

It was the singer's second album, and finally success, with hit singles from the mid-1980s such as *Week-end à Rome*. His career was launched, and this image is imprinted on the retina of every electropop fan.

«On the day of the session, Pierre gave me this sailor T-shirt that they asked me to keep, and then they decided to spray me with water and put their parrot Bibic on my shoulder, even though I'm scared of birds... I still remember the day I received the Ekta, the image was absolutely magical! Over and above the aesthetic aspect, Pierre et Gilles had succeeded in capturing my soul and telling the story of the record. In other words, a Breton summer of partying in Dinard, Saint-Malo and Saint-Lunaire in an atmosphere of candour and lightness. It's a cover that symbolises my beginnings and that has travelled the world thanks to Pierre et Gilles' international reputation.

Extract from *Pierre et Gilles vus par Etienne Daho*

Article by Franck Vergeade - Les Inrockuptibles published on 13 Nov 2019

Finally, the artists and the singer reunited on two other occasions, in 1995 to illustrate a mini-album produced with the English group Saint-Etienne and in 2017 for a cover of Paris-Match.

AMPHITRITE

Nina Hagen was a German singer from the new-wave punk scene of the 1970's and 1980's. Her first hit, released at the end of the 70's, made her an extravagant icon renowned for her unlikely looks and memorable vocal performances.

In Greek mythology, Amphitrite is a sea nymph, wife of Poseidon, god of the sea.

In essence, this image brings together the inspirations of Pierre et Gilles, which can be found throughout their almost 50-year career: music, the sea, but also the hijacking of the image of pop stars. It's a far cry from the singer's usual punk iconography. Here she is bathed in a pearly world, with soft, frank eyes.



Pierre et Gilles
Amphitrite (Nina Hagen), 1989
Photographie peinte à la main
94,5*74,5 cm
Collection Noirmontartproduction
© Pierre et Gilles



Pierre et Gilles

Ophélie 2000 (Isabelle Huppert), 2012

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre sur toile et peinte à la main
78 x 112 cm

© Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON, Paris, Brussels, New York

OPHÉLIE 2000

Some patterns are recurrent in the work of Pierre et Gilles. The port of Le Havre forms the backdrop for many of the images.

Isabelle Huppert's face, with her long, flowing red hair, emerges in the foreground of this port landscape, somewhat shimmering and flashing.

Just as Elizabeth Siddal was one of the favourite models of John Everett Millais, the Pre-Raphaelite painter who created the masterpiece *Ophelia* (1851-1852, in the Tate Britain in London), Isabelle Huppert is one of Pierre et Gilles' muses.

40 ANS

In 2016, Pierre et Gilles celebrated 40 years of life and work together. To mark the occasion, they pictured themselves as sailors in front of a huge birthday cake, surrounded by hearts, fluffy pink garlands, flowers and bubbles.

The story is a beautiful one: a meeting in 1976 at the opening of a Kenzo boutique, love at first sight, and the beginning of an incredible artistic collaboration.

Self-portraits are an integral part of their work. The exhibition at the Franciscaines-Deauville presents one of their first works, in 1977, right up to *Les gopniks* (Autoportrait), in 2021, a chance to see the two artists change over the years, while remaining true to their styles and inspirations.

Pierre et Gilles

40 ans (Autoportrait), 2016

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre sur toile et peinte à la main
123,5 x 102 cm

© Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON, Paris, Brussels, New York





PHILOMÈNE

An emblematic work in the Franciscaines collection, Philomena is the patron saint of boatmen. We can recognise the iconography of this Catholic martyr, victim of the emperor Diocletian to whom she refused his advances. First flogged, she was thrown into the Tiber tied to an anchor.

However, the background chosen by the artists evokes the mystery of the seabed rather than the bed of the Italian river.

This attractive, colourful depiction of the depths underlies a far less glamorous reality, that of plastic pollution and the inexorable degradation of the oceans.

Pierre et Gilles

Philomène (Mica Argañaraz), 2021

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre sur toile et peinte à la main. 147 x 106 cm

Don de l'Association des Amis des Franciscaines, Ville de Deauville,

Les Franciscaines. N° inv 2022.7.1

© Pierre et Gilles

THE BLACK DOCKER

This previously unpublished work was the artists' inspiration for the *Pierre et Gilles - Mondes marins* exhibition at Les Franciscaines-Deauville.

The work depicts the port of Le Havre, with the moonlit night mist in the background and the coffee sacks supporting a languid dockworker with a cigarette butt in the corner of his mouth.

The port is a key reference point for Pierre et Gilles, as it is where a plethora of their inspirations come together. The sailor as a militant and artistic subject of gay iconography, present notably in the work of Jean Cocteau and Jacques Demy. Nightlife, its debauchery and excesses, which leave our bodies tired and our eyes empty, like this dockworker.

Pierre et Gilles

Le dockeur noir (Steven Biaffry), 2025

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre sur toile et peinte à la main
143 x 113 cm

Collection des artistes

© Pierre et Gilles



6 VISUALS FOR THE PRESS



Pierre et Gilles

Philomène (Mica Argañaraz), 2021

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre sur toile et peinte à la main. 147 x 106 cm

Don de l'Association des Amis des Franciscaines, Ville de Deauville,

Les Franciscaines. N° inv 2022.7.1

© Pierre et Gilles



Pierre et Gilles

Ophélie 2000 (Isabelle Huppert), 2012

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre

sur toile et peinte à la main. 78 x 112 cm

© Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON,

Paris, Brussels, New York



Pierre et Gilles

Black Sebastian Symphony (Silvério Lopes), 2019

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre

sur toile et peinte à la main. 148 x 115 cm

© Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON,

Paris, Brussels, New York



Pierre et Gilles

Autoportrait 78 (Barthélémy Seng
et Florian Balicco), 2014

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre
sur toile et peinte à la main. 106,5 x 133,5 cm

© Pierre et Gilles

Courtesy TEMPLON,
Paris, Brussels, New York



Pierre et Gilles

La planète rouge (Tahar Rahim), 2022

Photographie imprimée par jet d'encre sur

toile et peinte à la main. 162 x 114 cm

© Pierre et Gilles — Courtesy TEMPLON,

Paris, Brussels, New York

Pierre et Gilles

Le Marin (Philippe Gaillon), 1985

Photographie peinte à la main.

52 x 37 cm

Collection Noirmontartproduction

© Pierre et Gilles



7 _ LIST OF LENDERS

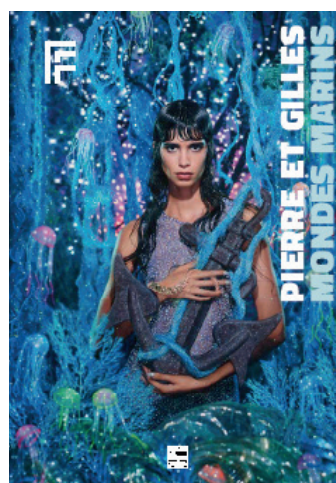
La Galerie Templon
Noirmontart Production
Le Centre Georges Pompidou
La Maison Européenne de la Photographie
Les artistes
Les Franciscaines - Deauville
Collections privées

CATALOGUE _8

Catalogue produced by Editions des Falaises
96 pages

Texts :

- Preface by the Mayor
- Section texts by **Marc Donnadieu**, researcher and teacher, art critic, independent curator, art and design consultant.
- **Sailor's clothing** - **Agnès Mirambet-Paris**, head curator of heritage, head of the Régie, restoration, preventive conservation and maintenance of collections department, scientific and collections management, Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace
- **The art of reference, a reinterpreted history of art with Pierre et Gilles and Annie Madet-Vache**, art historian, Director of the Musée Franciscaines
- Biography



Catalogue produced by
Editions des Falaises
96 pages
Selling price: 19€ (€)

9 _ LABELLING

This exhibition has been awarded the «La mer en commun» label.

The aim of this label is to encourage and recognise any initiative that contributes to the central objective of the Year of the Sea, which is to «raise awareness of the sea», i.e. to make as many people as possible aware of the importance of maritime issues, to foster a love of the marine world, and to encourage people to take action for the ocean.

For over 40 years, Pierre et Gilles have made the sea a source of inspiration and a subject for reflection. While at first glance their images suggest an idyllic and fascinating maritime world, their works denounce and alert us to plastic pollution and the inexorable disappearance of the beauty of the seabed.



AROUND THE EXHIBITION 10

SAT. MAY 24



© DR

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

Le Cloître - 11h

IN A PHOTO OF PIERRE AND GILLES

SCREENING of the documentary *Dans une photo de Pierre et Gilles*, directed by Chantal Lasbats (2019), in the presence of the artists

La Chapelle - 16h

SAT. MAY 24



© Felix Glutton

MADAME ARTHUR RETURN LES FRANCISCAINES

CABARET-SPECTACLE A legendary Pigalle cabaret, it is now an artistic reference point for young Parisians. There's no reason why Parisians should be the only ones to enjoy it!

La Chapelle - 19h30

SUN. MAY 25



© Pascal Ito

VANESSA SCHNEIDER MEET FARIDA KHELFA

MEETING Farida Khelfa is a multi-talented personality whose exceptional aura has been captured by Pierre et Gilles. Photographed by the two artists from the 1980s onwards, one of her iconic portraits features in the exhibition.

La Chapelle - 16h

SAT. AUGUST 23



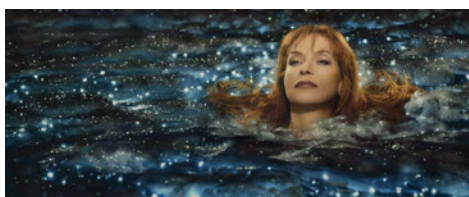
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THE NEPTUNE BALL - LA BÂRONNE DE PANAME

BIG SUMMER BALL Echoing our two summer exhibitions on the imaginary world of the sea and the many tales it tells, we're taking you on a wildly burlesque voyage with the Baroness of Paname.

La Chapelle - 19h30-midnight

SAT SEPT 13



© Pierre et Gilles (détail)

DIVING INTO THE WORLD OF CINEMA

MEETING Marc Donnadiou, exhibition curator and art critic, accompanies this plunge into Pierre et Gilles' relationship with cinema.

La Chapelle - 16h

LES FRANCISCAINES

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Opening in May 2021, *Les Franciscaines* - Deauville combines a media library, a museum, exhibition spaces and a concert hall in a single space. For the first time, from morning to night, books, museum works, meetings and conferences, as well as shows and concerts, can all be discovered and experienced on the same site.

This place of life and culture has taken shape in a remarkable nineteenth-century heritage site, the former convent of the Franciscan sisters, whose name it retains, renovated and reinvented by the architect Alain Moatti. Throughout the year, *Les Franciscaines* offers a cross-disciplinary programme of events and unique exhibitions designed to unite and decompartmentalise cultural practices by bringing generations together. It's an intergenerational space where visitors can play an active role in their own experience, where they can feel at home in a space and time that's all their own.

With this new facility, the town of Deauville has created a unique and innovative place that reflects its identity and is the operational arm of its cultural policy. In almost four years, *Les Franciscaines* has welcomed almost 800,000 visitors.



photos © François Louchet / Marc Domage

TARIFS

PASS EXPOSITIONS

Full price: €13

Friendscaines subscribers: €8

Youth and solidarity rate: €5

GUIDED TOURS

Saturday 2.30pm (excluding admission)

Full price: €5

Friendscaines subscribers: €3

Youth and solidarity rate: €2

SUBSCRIPTION FRIENDSCAINES

The Friendscaines Pass is an annual subscription to the Franciscaines. It gives you access to a wide range of cultural events under special conditions: exhibitions, shows, concerts, etc. It includes borrowing from all the media library's collections, access to digital resources, unlimited access to the André Hambourg museum, free access to the FabLab, reduced rates for temporary exhibitions and shows, etc.

FORMULAS

Individual pass : 60 € and Pass+ : 90 €

Family Pass : 100 € and Pass+ : 150 €

Pass student and community : 30 €

Company pass (10 subscriptions or more): €55 per person.

Youth pass: €12

NEW! With the PASS + you can enjoy unlimited access to temporary exhibitions!

Concessionary ticket holders: season ticket holders, groups of at least 10 people.

Youth and solidarity rate: under-18s, students*, jobseekers and those on minimum social benefits.

Free admission: ICOM* card holders, tour guides*; teachers (accompanying school visits only); press (by appointment only).

*On presentation of proof of identity *Under 26s

TIMETABLE

10h30 > 18h30

145 B Avenue de la République,

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Tuesday to Sunday

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LES FRANCISCAINES
DEAUVILLE
L'imaginaire à l'œuvre



THEY ARE WITH US AND WE THANK THEM

Institutional partners



The exhibition partners



Patron builders



Media partners



These sponsors and partners are working alongside the Franciscans to build a new vision of culture together. vision of culture. They are allocated according to their contribution and the project they have chosen to support.

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Total Foundation, the Fondation du Patrimoine has contributed €200,000 to the restoration of the Franciscan convent in Deauville.

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