

# VIVRE

**Jun 28 — Oct 12, 2025 | MEMENTO - Espace départemental d'Art Contemporain, Auch, France**

Here, art is not suspended in silence: it pulsates under the skin, it vibrates in the air. It still breathes, despite a world that would like to reduce it to a mere glimmer, a faded breath on the edge of tumult.

In a world fractured by political tensions, economic inequalities and contempt for life, the 2025 edition invites us to take a step back. In a collective gesture, it highlights the richness of our humanities. It's a shared breath of fresh air that revitalises our capacity to marvel, something that artists know how to reveal gently and powerfully when words are no longer enough.

There are places where you can learn to feel differently. Places where every exhibition, every concert, every encounter leaves a soft, luminous imprint. MEMENTO has forged its DNA on this emotional story of creation, communion and open-mindedness. In this former Carmelite convent, memories are deposited. They seep into the walls, nourishing the shared stories. Art weaves a discreet but tenacious resistance.

The 'VIVRE' exhibition celebrates these raw feelings, happy memories and shared wounds. It's an invitation to honour that which persists in all of us: love, loss, dazzling joy, close ties and solidarity.

Designed as an immersive, evolving space, it awakens our relationship with living things. We enter into a physical relationship with the site, anchored in its architecture and history, while at the same time resonating with the issues of our time. By combining painting, sculpture, installation and video, the exhibition opens up a sensitive dialogue between forms and ideas, where art becomes a revelation of our human condition.

Starting in the chapel, Sebastian Kite offers a sensory and meditative experience. The architecture transforms under our feet, projecting us into an in-between space, between intimate perception and shared space. This immersion shakes up our reference points, the better to invite an encounter: with ourselves, with others.

This inner exploration gives rise to the invisible, vibrant link painted by Cedrix Crespel. Through a correspondence between figuration and abstraction, the artist brings out love as a vital force, one that unites, transcends and shapes.

But what happens to the living when it's encased in glass? Ali Cherri, in his work that is both political and poetic, asks this troubling question. To preserve is sometimes to enclose.

This ambivalence of the world - between control and chaos - is intensified with DEMOCRACIA. Their video performance hijacks social codes, revealing patterns of domination and the trivialisation of social violence.

Breaking free of all tension, Jérôme Souillot chooses to listen, to the inhabited silence of MEMENTO. He traces the subtle contours of the ghosts of the site, the presences of past works, these emotional resonances hovering in the exhibition spaces. His works are like discreet whispers, a living imprint that circulates between the artist and the public.

The focus on transformation continues with Michel Blazy's organic work. Constantly evolving, it reveals the fragile beauty of living things, reminding us that 'VIVRE' also means accepting impermanence.

And when everything capsizes, there's still dance. For Carlos Aires, dance becomes an act of resistance. By hijacking the figures of authority in a striking choreography, the artist reveals the absurd and lays bare the hidden tensions.

As the final pulse of the exhibition, her work questions our perceptions and beliefs, and calls into question the mechanisms of power revealed and displaced by the artistic gesture.

Beneath the surface of the world, art continues to beat. It carries our intimate fractures, our luminous complicities. The exhibition 'VIVRE' is an impalpable refuge: a song of emotion, an ode to vitality in an uncertain world. MEMENTO becomes a territory of sensitive resistance, a sanctuary for happy memories and thrilling commitments.

'VIVRE' means believing that in the hollow of every crack, in every beat, a more delicate world remains possible. It means turning emotion into a political act, and art into a force against oblivion.

This 2025 edition is inhabited by the memory of William Gourdin, exhibition curator whose keen intelligence and mischief fervently illuminated our human and artistic values.