ALMINE RECH

Sea, Pop & Sun

Apr 25 — Nov 1, 2026 | Villa Carmignac, Île de Porquerolles, Hyères, France

The Fondation Carmignac presents 'Sea, Pop & Sun', a dazzling ode to the freedom and vitality of the 1960s and 1970s that summons the Pop spirit. The exhibition at the Villa Carmignac, nestling between pine trees and the sea, reveals sun-drenched, sensual, soaring works of Pop Art, which continues to radiate its electric energy today.

The exhibition reflects on a historical moment in which new social movements, changing moral frameworks, and the rise of the leisure society reshaped everyday life and visual culture.

With its name inspired by the title of Serge Gainsbourg's provocative hit, the exhibition invites us into the dreamworld of a seaside escape, and a time when the sexual revolution was overturning conventions, morals were shifting, and everything seemed possible. The South of France and its beaches were more than mere holiday postcards; they were gateways to new horizons of freedom and transgression.

Here, far from the cities and bathed in the light, colors and scents of the Mediterranean, Pop Art reveals unexpected facets. No longer drawing on everyday objects or urban advertising, it turns instead to new motifs: the sky, the sea, the sun and the spirit of summer. While acknowledging its roots in the consumer society, Pop Art here acquires a renewed sensuality and intensity, at times verging on the cosmic, from these shores and summer scenes.

Yet behind the exaltation expressed by the pioneers of Pop Art—and by those who draw upon it today—lies an awareness of a paradise lost, with all its artifices and disillusions. These holiday landscapes were quickly saturated and diminished by overconsumption. Unbridled hedonism, now faced with its own consequences, no longer tastes the same. What inspiration, what impulse can the Pop spirit still offer?

Bringing together more than 80 works of art, including 15 from the Carmignac Collection, and curated by Dr. Dieter Buchhart and Dr. Anna Karina Hofbauer, *Sea, Pop & Sun* places icons of Pop Art such as Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, Marjorie Strider, Evelyne Axell, and Martial Raysse in dialogue with contemporary artists who extend or interrogate the movement, including Théo Mercier, Derrick Adams, Cosima von Bonin, and Judy Chicago.

Through a selection of paintings, sculptures, photographs, and videos, the exhibition rekindles a state of mind: that of a world oriented toward a radiant *joie de vivre*, conscious of its contradictions yet still driven by the same desire for freedom.