

Marie-Lou Desmeules

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VISUAL ARTIST / CANADIAN ARTIST BASED IN VALENCIA

CURRENT ARTISTIC PROJECTS

- 2025-present** **Clara Nocturne**
Evolving fictional cultural figure and artistic world developed through Broadcasts, music, generated and performed characters, fictional testimonies performed by real people, objects, and websites.
- 2026-present** **The Beige Institute**
Real research institution born from Clara Nocturne's fictional world, developing artistic, cultural, and philosophical research, exchanges, publications, diagnostic systems, archives, and objects.
- 2006-present** **Living Sculptures**
Temporary transformations constructed directly on living models through paint, hair, clothing, objects, pose, improvisation, music, and staging. Extended through photography, film, performance, and illuminated Light Portraits.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS & PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2022** **I Am Everyone, Anyone, No One**
Commissioned exhibition created for the Spanish television series *Maricón Perdido / Queer You Are*; featured in an approximately two-minute scene with members of the cast.
TNT / HBO Max, Spain
- 2020** **Façade**
Interactive urban video installation commissioned by the City of Montréal and the Government of Québec.
Montréal, Canada

SELECTED SOLO & TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2019** **Clone Corrupt**
Two-person multimedia exhibition with Annette Isham.
Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Colorado, USA
- 2019** **Unshot Film Stills**
Donnerstag Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2017** **Ciru(g//l)ías Transepidérmicas / Living Sculptures**
Universitat de València, Valencia, Spain
- 2010** **Paint & Plastic Surgery**
Solo exhibition and live transformation performance.
Neonchocolate Gallery, Berlin, Germany

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022** **Party's Over**
Rivalry Projects, New York, USA
- 2017** **Galeria Duża Scena UAP**
Group exhibition.
Poznań, Poland
- 2014** **Who Are You?**
TRAFO Center for Contemporary Art, Szczecin, Poland
- 2014** **Sustratos**
IVAM - Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia, Spain
- 2011** **Three-Person Exhibition + Live Performance**
Studio9, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2008** **janinebeangallery**
Group exhibition.
Berlin, Germany

SELECTED FILM FESTIVALS & SCREENINGS

- 2019** **Catharsis**
 Selected screenings: Interfilm Berlin / Volksbühne; Shorty Week; Cinespejo; Caostica; BuSho; Quartmetratges; K-lidoscopi; Szczecin Film Festival.
Directed by Los Hermanos Polo; Marie-Lou Desmeules: featured artist, co-writer, art director.
- 2018** **What Happened to Britney?**
64th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Germany
- 2017** **Sex with Strangers**
Woman in Alternative Animation, New York, USA

SELECTED PERFORMANCE & LECTURE-PERFORMANCE

- 2015** **Monster Unveiled**
 Live transformation performance with music by Silent Strike.
Baraka, Bucharest, Romania
- 2011** **Lecture-Performance + Art-Philosophy Encounter**
Université Laval, Québec City, Canada

RESIDENCIES & AWARDS

- 2017** **Anderson Ranch Arts Center Artist-in-Residence Fellowship**
 Photography & New Media; three-month residency. Project: Crossmetic Surgery. Artist Talk.
Colorado, USA
- 2000** **New Media and Technology Grant**
Université Laval, Québec City, Canada

SELECTED RESEARCH & INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUES

- 2026-present** **Investigation**
 Ongoing philosophical exchange within Clara Nocturne with philosopher Marc Lamontagne. A real interlocutor questions generated characters inside the fictional world, creating a dialogue between artistic production and philosophical inquiry.
- 2017** **Public Dialogue with Jesús García Cívico**
 Dialogue between artistic practice and philosophy, presented with Ciru(g///)ías Transepidérmicas / Living Sculptures.
Universitat de València, Valencia, Spain
- 2011** **Du langage jusqu'à la chair!**
 Live Painting Surgery, lecture, and art-philosophy encounter initiated with philosopher Marc Lamontagne. The event generated a dedicated Phares dossier of eight texts by seven contributors.
Université Laval, Québec City, Canada

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL & COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY

- 2020-23** **HARI Editions / Historical Art Research Institute**
Co-founder and Director of Art and Production. Interdisciplinary research, production, and publishing platform developed through collaborations with artists, researchers, experts, and academic institutions.
- 2019-22** **Les Slacheurs**
Co-founder and artist.
Montréal, Canada
- 2014-present** **Katz & Steve**
Co-founder, artistic collective.
Berlin, Germany

SELECTED PRESS

NOWNESS / VICE - The Creators Project / Artpress / Designboom / Le Devoir / Juxtapoz / China Daily / The Telegraph / El Mundo / MAKMA / Cultura Inquieta / HuffPost

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & CRITICAL WRITING

- 2019** **Marie-Lou Desmeules: Clones corruptos y máscaras**
Critical essay by Jesús García Cívico on identity, masks, transformation, and the Living Sculptures.
El Hype
- 2016** **Canibaal. Revista de Arte, Literatura y Filosofía**
Publication of graphic work.
- 2014** **Sustratos**
IVAM exhibition catalogue.
- 2011** **Du langage jusqu'à la chair! / Phares**
Dedicated art-philosophy dossier generated by the Université Laval live performance and encounter. Eight texts by Marc Lamontagne, Marie-Andrée Ricard, Martin Boisseau, Reno Salvail, Thomas De Koninck, Maxime Vachon, and Hélène Matte. The dossier also discusses participant Thomas Lilge's written testimony on becoming a Living Sculpture.
Phares, Université Laval
- 2010** **Dynamika tożsamości**
Critical essay by Mateusz Bieczyński on photographic identity and staged portraiture, with extended analysis of Desmeules' Painting Surgeries alongside Kimiko Yoshida and Rushta Luna Pozzi Escot.
FORMAT, no. 59, pp. 88-90

EDUCATION

- 1997-2000** **Université Laval**
Baccalauréat en communication graphique.
Québec City, Canada