

PRESS RELEASE

# Raoul UBAC

1910-1985  
Retrospective

*Monotypie 1968*

*R. Ubac*

Liege, Grand Curtius

15.10.10 >> 16.01.11

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

RETROSPECTIVE RAOUL UBAC	pages 3-6
Introduction	page 3
Biography	page 4
The Exhibition	page 5
The Exhibition Ubac in Malmedy	page 6
USEFUL INFORMATION	page 8



*Tohu Va Bohu*. Huile et résine, 1955  
Collection Maeght, Paris

# RETROSPECTIVE RAOUL UBAC 1910 - 1985

Centenary of the artist's birth

From 15th October 2010 to 16th January 2011 at the Grand Curtius

With more than 120 works, from private and public collections, from both Belgium and further afield in Europe, this Retrospective Exhibition brings together the different aspects of Raoul Ubac's talent, from his first photographs inspired by surrealism to his last piece of carved stone, which remained unfinished on his death in 1985.

Photographs, drawings, oil paintings, gouache paintings, and, of course, many pieces of carved slate, all help us retrace the steps that made up Ubac's complex and luminous journey. Born in Cologne, he grew up in Malmédy, and was first given recognition in Paris, Ubac felt a profound connection to Belgium, which lasted for his entire lifetime. The exhibition, which covers 900 m<sup>2</sup>, is your opportunity to follow the evolution of the artist, to discover his perfect coherence throughout his career, which spanned more than fifty years. It also underlines the importance of the friendships which punctuated his life: Camille Bryen, André Breton, René Magritte, Paul Eluard, André Frénaud...

This retrospective exhibition makes the most of the one-off, considerable 'Trutat Gift' to the City of Liège. Jacqueline Truat, and her late husband Alain Trutat, who were close friends of the artist, are donating 45 examples of his work to Liège, so that the City can ensure the promotion and circulation of Raoul Ubac's work.



*Portrait of Raoul Ubac, in his workshop in Paris, Archives Delfieu*

## Biography

1910

Born in Cologne. His father was Rudolf Ubach, a name which was later Gallicised into Raoul Ubac.

1920 - 1927

Athénée (Grammar School) at Malmédy. He grew up in the setting of the Hautes Fagnes.

1928 - 1930

First visit to Paris. In Malmédy, he read the first Surrealist Manifesto.

1930 - 1934

He became involved with the surrealists in Paris. In Cologne, he met the "Group of Progressive Artists".

In Cologne, he went to the School for Applied Arts, and met Agui, who would later become his wife.

He set out on long hikes across Europe. On Hvar Island, in Dalmatia (Croatia), he began to collect stones which he then drew, painted and photographed.

1934 - 1935

Back in Paris, he published a collection of poetry and photographs jointly with Camille Bryen.

1936 - 1939

He took part in the activities of the surrealists. His photographs were published in the *Minotaure*.

At the same time, he also began to learn engraving. With Agui, he ran a bookshop in Paris, called "Nuit et Jour" (Night and Day).

1939 – 1945

Members of the surrealist group were scattered by the war.

In Brussels, Ubac directed the magazine *L'invention collective* alongside Magritte. In 1941 he exhibited his photography at the Dietrich Gallery, but the exhibition was later closed by the occupying forces. He became friends with André Frénaud.

Ubac then distanced himself from surrealism and gave up photography in 1945.

1946

While staying in the Savoie region, he picked up a piece of slate and engraved a picture on it with an old nail. He became friends with Alain et Jacqueline Trutat, his then-neighbours in Paris.

1947

Ubac started painting again. He associated with artists in the circle of the Denise René gallery. His daughter Anne was born.

1950 - 1951

He exhibited his work at the Maeght Gallery after signing an exclusivity contract with Aimé Maeght.

He took part in the second COBRA exhibition in Liège.

1954 – 1956

Among other things, he took part in the Younger European painters exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

He gained the 4th prize at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh.

1957

He bought a house in Dieudonné, in the French region of Oise. He lived there after having had two workshops built there – one for painting, the other for slate work.

1958 – 1959

He travelled to the United States and took part in the Second Documenta of Kassel.

1960 – 1961

Fabienne Tzanek made the film *Ubac 1958 – 1960*.

He did his first pieces of three-dimensional art and made stained glass windows for the Church in Varengueville.

1962 – 1964

He sculpted Stations of the Cross for the Chapel of the Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul-de-Vence.

Jean Antoine, of the Belgian TV channel RTBF, made the film called *Métamorphoses* about

Ubac's work.

1965 – 1966

Ubac took part in the retrospective exhibition Cobra 1948 - 1951 in Rotterdam.

1967 – 1968

Ubac illustrated André Frénaud's work, entitled *Vieux pays d'André Frénaud*.

He was more and more in demand, with the number of public orders increasing.

Retrospective Ubac exhibition in Charleroi, Brussels and in Paris.

1969 – 1971

Important Ubac monograph at Éditions Maeght.

1972 - 1975

Numerous exhibitions

Grand Prix des Arts (top prize) in Paris.

Several films were directed and produced about Ubac.

1976 – 1977

He concentrated on monument work.

1978 – 1979

Retrospective exhibition at the Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul-de-Vence.

1980 - 1981

Exhibition in Liège.

1982 – 1983

Exhibition at the Maeght gallery in Paris of his latest slate work and drawings. The book *Raoul Ubac – Photographies des années trente* is published (« Raoul Ubac – Photographs of the Thirties»), with text by Pierre Alechinsky and Christian Dotremont.

1985

Raoul Ubac died on 22nd March..



*Tête dressée*, 1976-78. Ardoise taillée double face  
Collection Hôtel Bedford, Paris

## The exhibition

The Conservation expert, Françoise Dumont, has overseen commissioning for this exhibition, which marks the 100th anniversary of Raoul Ubac's birth. It is a retrospective exhibition of his work, from the photography of his first surrealist years to the painting on covered panels of amalgamated resins and three-dimensional slate work.

This exhibition is taking place almost thirty years after the last one, organised in Liège in 1981, while the artist was alive. But this time, all the forms of his expressive language will be present: paintings, photography, gouaches, engravings, illustrated books, engraved or carved slate, slate imprints, steles...

The bringing together of this work has been made possible by Mrs Anne Delfieu, with the cooperation of the Maeght collection and the generosity of various people who have lent works from both public and private collections, such as the Jacqueline and Alain Trutat Collection, the Hotel Bedford Collection in Paris, the Rolin d'Autun Museum, the Museum of Fine Art in Nantes, the collection belonging to the Francophone Community in Belgium, the Royal Museums of Fine Art in Belgium the Museum of Fine Art in Verviers, the Centre for engraving and printed image in La Louvière, as well as various Parisian galleries, Bernard Bouche, Arlette Gimaray, Thessa Hérold, Antoine Laurentin, and last but not least Micky and Pierre Alechinsky, as well as those who prefer to remain anonymous.

A sizeable catalogue is available alongside this exhibition. It was published by Arts & Editions Antonio Nardone, and written by Pierre Alechinsky, Alain Delaunois and Françoise Dumont.

The exhibition is organised jointly by the City of Liège and the Not-for-Profit organisation 'the Museums of Liège', and has been made possible by the support of various institutions and sponsors.

La Loterie Nationale

Dexia

Léon Eeckman assurances

For transporting the art, the Collection Service in the Direction of Fine Art and Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of the Francophone Community.



CULTURE  
ARTS PLASTIQUES



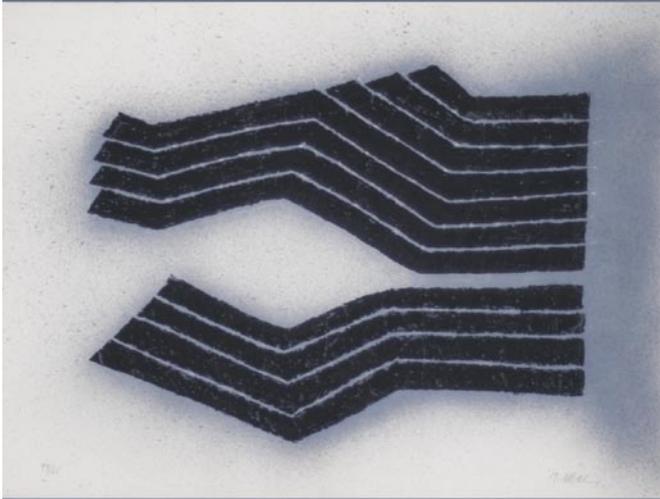
EXHIBITION  
DANS LES SILLONS DE RAOUL UBAC

27/11/2010 > 13/02/2011 - Malmedy

The exhibition, resented in the old monastery of Malmedy, retraces this career through a series of lithographs, slate prints, slates, illustrated books, watercolours, the creative world of this major twentieth century artist.

Place du Châtelet, 10 - 4960 Malmedy  
Thur > Sun : 14:00 > 17:00  
[www.malmedy.be](http://www.malmedy.be) - 080 68 55 36 - [i.heuschen@skynet.be](mailto:i.heuschen@skynet.be)

Malmedy  
Dans les sillons de  
**Raoul UBAC**  
Exposition



Deux labours, 1979  
Empreinte d'ardoise rehaussée à la gouache

©Raoul Ubac

**27.11.2010 > 13.02.2011**  
Malmundarium (ancien Monastère)

# USEFUL INFORMATION

LOCATION	Grand Curtius Féronstrée 136 - 4000 Liège
DATE	15.10.10 > 16.11.2011
OPENING HOURS	from Monday to Sunday: 10 am > 18 pm. Closed on Tuesdays and on 1, 2, 11/11, 25/12 & 1/1. Ticket office closing time: 5 pm
ADMISSION FEE	8 € : adult 6 € : adult and senior groups 4 € : school and student groups (12>18 years), unemployed persons 1,25 € : article 27 20 € : Family ticket (2 adults + children)  Combined ticket Grand Curtius + Ubac 12 € : adult 10 € : adult and senior groups 6 € : school and student groups (12>18 years), unemployed persons 25 € : Family ticket (2 adults + children)
GUIDED TOUR	Extra fee (duration 1h15') School groups: 60 €, adult groups: 65 €
BOOKING	must be made in advance for group visits

## INFORMATION

Les Musées de Liège asbl  
Tél : +32(0)4 221 93 25 - Fax : +32 (0)4 221 26 16  
[info@lesmuseesdeliege.be](mailto:info@lesmuseesdeliege.be)  
[www.lesmuseesdeliege.be](http://www.lesmuseesdeliege.be)  
[www.grandcurtiusliege.be](http://www.grandcurtiusliege.be)

## PHOTOGRAPHS

High-resolution photographs may be downloaded from the exhibition site:  
[www.lesmuseesdeliege.be](http://www.lesmuseesdeliege.be) in the section "press".