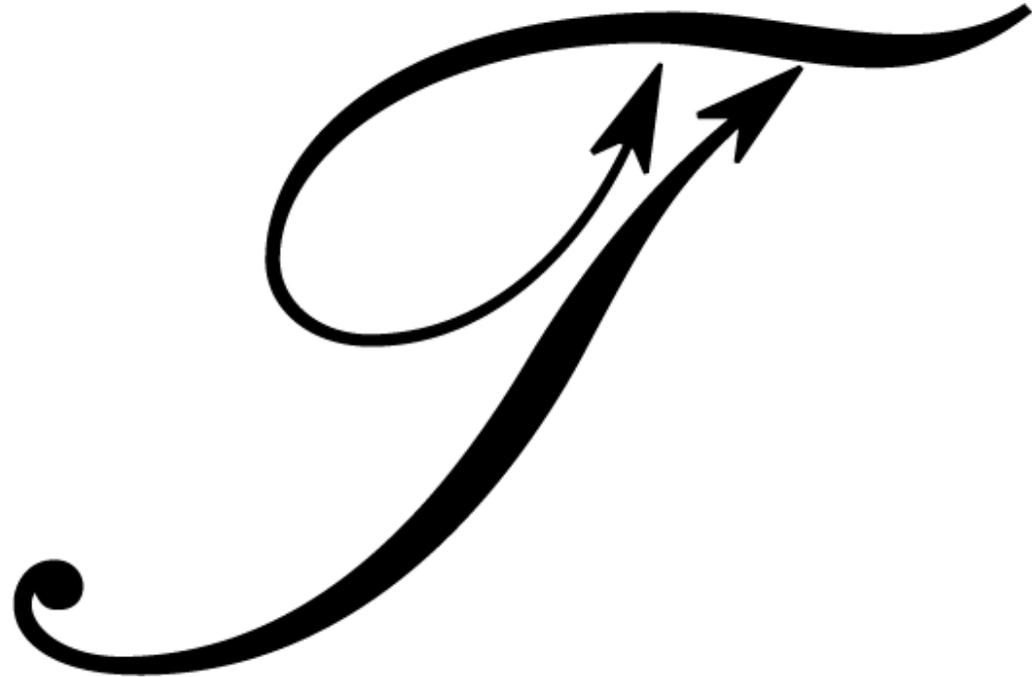


PASSAGES CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN 9 RUE JEANNE D'ARC - TROYES

TIME AFTER TIME
VANESSA BROWN
MAY 17 - AUGUST 9, 2025
OPENING RECEPTION: MAY 16, 2025, FROM 6:00 P.M.

PRESS RELEASE

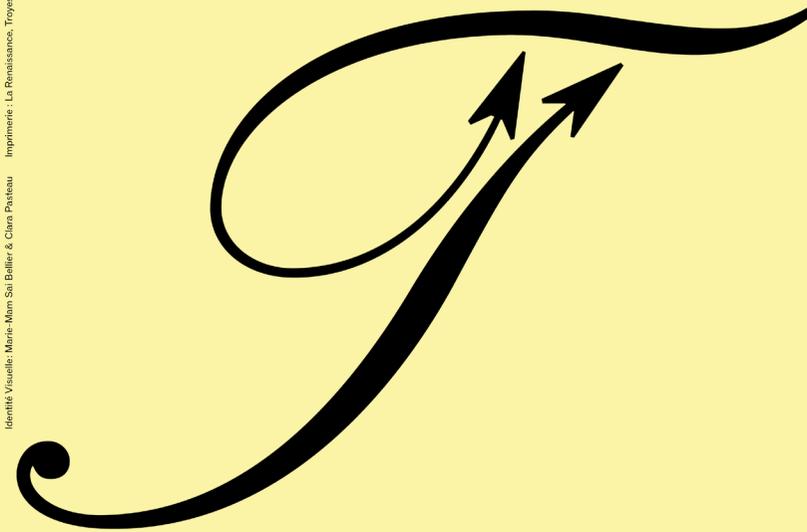




PASSAGES
CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN
9 RUE JEANNE D'ARC – TROYES

**VANESSA
BROWN**

Identité Visuelle: Marie-Nom, Sté Bellier & Clara Pasteau Imprimerie: La Renaissance, Troyes



17-05-25

09-08-25

TIME AFTER TIME

ENTRÉE LIBRE DU MERCREDI AU DIMANCHE DE 12H00 À 18H00
VERNISSAGE PUBLIC LE 16-05-25 À PARTIR DE 18H00
RETROUVEZ VAPEURS, UNE INSTALLATION DE L'ARTISTE À L'APOTHECAIRERIE DE TROYES.



Nous remercions le Conseil des Arts du Canada, le Ministère de la Culture du Luxembourg, et Kultur | lx - Arts Council Luxembourg pour leur soutien.

PRESS RELEASE

Time After Time is Canadian artist Vanessa Brown's first solo exhibition in France. Based in Luxembourg, Brown explores in this project both the persistence of gestures and recurring motifs over time, as well as what might lie "after time" — in a more metaphysical sense.

The exhibition's title, borrowed from Cyndi Lauper's 1983 melancholic pop ballad, evokes philosophical reflections on the nature of time: not only as linear succession or becoming, but also as simultaneity, evanescence, and transition. Themes of care, protection, and sorority run through the song's lyrics — themes that resonate deeply within Brown's artistic practice.

Her work blends craft-based techniques into installations that are at once dreamlike and physically grounded, balancing fragility and presence.

Brown's practice navigates a tension between temporalities: between the urgencies of the present and a poetic attention to the traces of gestures and stories that came before us. Recurring symbols often appear in her work — a hand, a moth, a key, stitched knots, armored dresses... — suspended somewhere between dream and reality. Many of the forms featured in the exhibition draw direct inspiration from the local context of Troyes, with its deep ties to hosiery, care, and the ongoing preservation of this material heritage still visible in the public space today.

Time After Time was conceived entirely for the art centre and unfolds across all five of its exhibition rooms. The project extends into the city with *Vapeurs*, a site-specific installation created for the Apothicary de Troyes — a partner in the project and a rich source of inspiration for the artist.

Maëla Bescond

We acknowledge and thank the Canada Council for the Arts, the Luxembourg Ministry of Culture, and Kultur LX-Arts Council for their support.

- Exhibition open May 17–August 9, 2025, Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00–18:00
- Opening reception with the artist: Friday, May 16, from 18:00
- Press preview: Friday, May 16, at 17:00

BIOGRAPHY

Vanessa Brown works across sculpture, video, and installation. Her practice explores a range of themes including craft, the social constructions of gender and labor, ideas of escape, gestures of comfort, and liminal spaces such as holes and dreams.

She has exhibited solo and duo projects in Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, Denmark, the United States, and Mexico, notably at *gr_und* (Berlin, Germany), the National Audiovisual Centre (Dudelange, Luxembourg), The Esker Foundation (Calgary), the Richmond Art Gallery (Richmond), Patel Brown (Toronto), Pangée Gallery (Montreal), Western Front (Vancouver), and The Armory Show (New York).

She has also participated in group exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery (Vancouver), the Luxembourg Institute for Artistic Research (New York), and at Artpace (San Antonio).

Her work has been featured in *Elle Magazine*, *Monopol*, *RTL Artbox*, *Berlin Art Link*, *Border Crossings*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *Der Tagesspiegel*, *Canadian Art*, and *Wall Street International*.

She has completed three public art projects in Canada on the unceded territories of the *x mə k əy əm*, *səlilwəta*, *S wx wú7mesh*, and *k ik ə əm* peoples, known today as the cities of Vancouver and Burnaby.

Artist website: <https://www.vanessa-brown.com>



Portrait of the artist in her studio – photo by : Vanessa Brown

EXHIBITION PATHWAY

Time After Time is a solo exhibition by Vanessa Brown, presented at CAC Passages in Troyes, France. The exhibition runs for three months, from May 17 to August 9.

Drawing from the history and architecture of the house, Vanessa Brown structures her project into five distinct spaces. Like a dream, the audience is invited to experience a series of sensations, emotions, and impressions. To achieve this, the artist has created a new *in situ* production combining metal, glass, and textiles.

The exhibition takes into account the history of the building—formerly a hosiery and dyeing workshop—as well as its connection to the city's historic apothecary. Building on these legacies, Vanessa Brown weaves into her work themes of healing, clothing, protection, and craftsmanship.

EXHIBITION PATHWAY

Entrance: The Chatelaine

Popular in France during the 19th century and worn by female heads of households, a chatelaine is a decorative belt hook worn at the waist, from which several chains were suspended, holding domestic tools such as keys, scissors, small watches, smelling salts, and household seals. To welcome visitors, Vanessa Brown has imagined a giant chatelaine – a contemporary interpretation of this now-vanished accessory. Beyond traditional tools referencing women's domestic labor, it features a scented address book adorned with patchouli – a substance traditionally used to protect garments during transport. Here, it symbolizes protection and pays tribute to the hosiery industry of Troyes. Paradoxically, a moth (*mite* or *papillon de nuit* in French) appears on one of the chatelaine's elements. While French distinguishes between the insect and the butterfly, in English, moth refers to both the fabric-eating pest and a creature that, in certain cultures, can travel between the world of the living and the dead.

The Great Hall: *Ex-Votos* and Armor Dresses

In the large hall – once a storage space – visitors encounter a series of “armor dresses,” made from mesh and textiles, displayed on the walls. These are conceived as apotropaic female statues with a spiritual dimension. The garments are staged in their protective function, and the scenography heightens their solemn presence. In resonance, Vanessa Brown installs aluminum reliefs representing body fragments (ribs, a hand, footprints), evoking both *ex-votos* – offerings linked to vows, healing, or protection – and armor. This immersive installation plays with light and transparency, extending the artist's exploration of healing, protection, and mourning.

Third Room: Wallpaper and Stained Glass – A Local Inspiration

In the third room, the artist presents a large stained-glass garment, placed in one of the open windows. A custom wallpaper inspired by looped mesh structures envelops the walls. Here, Vanessa Brown pays tribute to Troyes' local heritage, highlighting both its stained-glass tradition and its industrial textile past. She weaves traditional craft with contemporary design: the repetitive loops of the wallpaper pattern suggest continuity, resilience, and the cycle of time. The artist reasserts her desire to return to handmade processes, to the slowness of craft, questioning overconsumption and stylistic uniformity.

The Salon and Winter Garden: Celebrating Care and the Troyes Apothecary

Captivated by her discovery of the Hôtel-Dieu-le-Comte Apothecary, Vanessa Brown dedicates her final spaces to care and healing. A large mobile, inspired by both the building's architectural vocabulary and the flora of the surrounding park, is suspended in the former salon of the Maison Marot. The floor of the winter garden, a mosaic bearing the word SALVE, echoes the LABORATORY inscription on the Apothecary's floor. The glass windows feature transparent collages incorporating decorative elements from historical apothecary boxes, blending interior and exterior worlds. At the center, a hand-shaped sculpture releases scents, engaging visitors' senses and reinforcing themes of healing and protection. Vanessa Brown collaborated with the Hôtel-Dieu collection to select and scan images for vinyl applications and worked alongside Apothecary researchers to develop a contemporary, safe formula for a diffused healing essence.

BEYOND THE WALLS: THE APOTHECARY EXTENSION

Hôtel-Dieu-Le-Comte was founded in the mid-12th century by the 9th Count of Champagne, Henry I, known as “the Liberal.”

By the end of the 17th century, the original wooden structure had become too narrow and dilapidated, and it was replaced by the current stone building. Around 1725, the apothecary of the new building was installed, consisting of the current large room and a dispensary. Sisters and apothecaries would enter to retrieve the drugs or ingredients needed to prepare remedies for the hospital's patients in the adjoining laboratory.

Preserved in its 18th-century state, the apothecary showcases a unique collection of faience jars and painted wooden pharmaceutical boxes from the 18th and 19th centuries. It stands today as one of the rare remaining testaments to the art of pharmacy from days past.

Next to this first room is the laboratory, where none of the original furnishings remain. Remedies were still being prepared there until 1961. The cupboards and shelves that lined the walls once held copper containers, a small alembic, scales, large mortars, pewter syringes, and clyster pots. Today, the space has been redesigned to house the Apothecary's collections, with modular display cases that allow for rotating exhibitions of objects for the public

Inspired by this setting, artist Vanessa Brown created a site-specific installation for the apothecary's laboratory, displayed in one of its showcases for the duration of the exhibition. Her work enters into dialogue with the museum's historical collections, exploring the connection between contemporary wellness practices and the cultural legacy of the Apothecary's remedies.



Vapeurs, Vanessa Brown and Tom Richardson For digital condensation, ADAGP 2025

Practical Information

Apothecary of the Hôtel-Dieu-Le-Comte
Located within the Cité du Vitrail
31 Quai des Comtes de Champagne
10000 Troyes, France

Phone: +33 (0)3 25 42 52 87
Email: musart@ville-troyes.fr

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday,
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Admission:
Individual: €7
Group (12+ people): €4

LIST OF WORKS

1. *Chatelaine*, 2025
Steel, chain

2-9. *Preservatives I-VIII*, 2023/2025
Inkjet print on archival paper, mesh, cord,
aluminum, beads, shells, tracing paper, soldered
mirror floor vinyl

10-13. *Half-life*, 2025
Mirror floor vinyl

14. *Rose Absolute*, 2025
Stained glass, solder, aluminum

15. *Time After Time*, 2025
Wallpaper

16. *Spin Cycle*, 2025
Rotating Motor, textiles, steel, glass chain,
paper, aluminum

17. *May you be welcomed by good spirits*, 2025
Window vinyl

18. *Salve*, 2025
In progress

VISUELS



Preservatives (I-III), 2023. Vanessa Brown, ADAGP 2025.

PROGRAMMATION

Opening week-end

Opening reception: Friday, May 16, from 6 p.m.
European Night of Museums: Saturday, May 17, 3-7:30 p.m.

Pour célébrer les inspirations médiévales de Vanessa Brown, venez participer en famille à une après-midi de jeux médiévaux dans le jardin, avant de conclure avec notre nouveau format : les visites contées.

Games from 3 to 6:30 p.m. ; free entrance
Tales telling at 6:30 p.m., 6€ by adult and 4€ by children & member

Time After Time

Open from May 17 to August 9 2025
Guided tour every Saturday at 2 p.m.
free entrance from Wednesday to Sunday from 12p.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit + yoga with Saskia

with Saskia Yoga
Fridays May 23 and June 20 at 6 p.m.
12€ full price, 6€ member price

Infra night: readings in the exhibition

Sunday, June 15 at 6 p.m.
free entrance

Infra saturday : let's talk !

Saturday May 31 at 2 p.m.
free entrance

Special screening at Utopia cinema: *Jeannette, l'enfance de Jeanne d'Arc* Bruno Dumont (2017, 1h45).

Sunday, June 22 at 10 a.m.
7€ by ticket at the cinema

Rendez-vous aux jardins

Guided tour of the Marot house and its garden

June 6, 7 and 8 at 5 p.m.
free entrance

Infra night: massage avec des balles relax

avec Marie-Laure Desnoës, sophrologue
vendredi 4 juillet à 18h00
15€ tarif plein - 10€ tarif adhérent.e

Hammering workshop – botanical print on textile:

June 7 and 8 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
6€ full price, 4€ child & member price

Infra Wednesday: initiation to tabletop roleplay

Wednesday, July 9 at 2 p.m.
Free by registration

French Sign Language guided tour

with Des Yeux, Des Mains
Saturday, June 7 at 2 p.m.
Free, registration required

Passeports Loisirs : visual arts workshops

July 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 and August 2, 6, 8
Registration on the City of Troyes website

Tales telling tour

with conteurs des Villes et des Champs
Sundays, June 15 and July 20 at 4:30 p.m.
6€ full price, 4€ child & member price

Workshop with the artist (in english)

Saturday August 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
20€ full price, 15€ member price
- very few spots

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Centre d'art contemporain / Passages
9 rue Jeanne d'Arc
10 000 Troyes

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Open to public from Wednesday to Sunday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Administrative opening hours from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Phone number 03 25 73 28 27

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email address accueil@cac-passages.com

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