

Exhibition Title: Parodie

Artist: Julie Béna

Curator: Céline Kopp

Assisted by: Alexia Pierre

Venue: Magasin CNAC, Centre national d'art contemporain, Grenoble

Duration: 04 Oct 2025 - 05 Apr 2026

Photo: Tomáš Souček

Tags: @juliebena @celine_kopp @cnacmagasin @alexia_pierre

Photo: Tomas Souček, courtesy of the artist and Magasin CNAC, Grenoble

Parodie

A cabaret with a nocturnal electricity, a carnival abounding with popular joy, a talk show with extremes that are as funny as they are caustic, a falsely candid fable, and a nightmarish spin on the fairy tale: these are some of the aesthetic universes that the Magasin CNAC will be conjuring up for its next exhibition devoted to Julie Béna, which has its vernissage on October 3, 2025.

PARODIE is the first major exhibition of Julie Béna's art in France. Bringing together a significant body of work created between 2015 and the present day, the exhibition at the Magasin CNAC will showcase a decade of extraordinary creativity while tracing the evolution of the French artist's career.

A vast selection of works will transform the Magasin CNAC into a space inhabited by characters, sometimes imaginary creations and sometimes embodied by Julie Béna herself. They seem to have emerged from evanescent, transient realms. There is the world of the carnival with its burlesque overtones and popular appeal, or the nocturnal world where the unconscious, fantasies, and dreams—often joyfully emancipatory, occasionally verging on the nightmarish—intermingle. The PARODIE exhibition is a mischievous exploration of the uncertain contours of truths that both it disrupts and reinvents. The exhibition exists at the crossroads of the personal and the political as it comes to life around us and within us. The identities and imagined characters that hide behind the masks suggest a form of introspection that the artist embraces with humour, derision, and exaggeration. Cabaret and fairy tales, which are regular inspirations for her imagery, use allegory and hyperbole to express opinions about social or political conditions. In a similar manner, the real and fantastical merge in Julie Béna's world.

The project will unfold in the art centre's historic building, its galleries, and its iconic space known as the "Rue" or "Street". For this project, Julie Béna is responding to the

identity and architecture of the building, notably the Rue, the vast interior hall under the glass roof that is highly symbolic of the street as a public space. This becomes all the more relevant in the context of the artist's work, which has been nourished by her experiences performing for the travelling theatre during her childhood and her profound relationship with performance art. Her creations reveal an intimate side while reflecting on inner personalities and cellular family dynamics. These works also provoke a collision with universal figures that are emblematic of the public sphere and the media universe, such as Shirley Temple.

While the exhibition takes a retrospective look at the artist's career as it considers almost ten years of Julie Béna's creative practice, it is also an invitation for her to take ownership of the site and transform its spaces with new works designed specifically for the occasion. This will be the first time that such an extensive and eclectic selection of her art, in all of its diverse scales and different mediums, will be presented to the public.