



Françoise Sémiramothe

COLOR AS TERRITORY

EXHIBITION

Dora Maar Cultural Center | La Mob
MÉNERBES

March 19 – May 24, 2026

la mob

D  RA
MAAR
CULTURAL CENTER

Françoise Sémiramothe

Color as Territory

EXHIBITION AT LA MOB DORA MAAR CULTURAL CENTER

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The Dora Maar Cultural Center (DMCC) is delighted to open its 2026 season with a major exhibition by Guadeloupean artist Françoise Sémiramothe (b. 1968, Saint-Claude, Guadeloupe). Her vibrant works take over La Mob, showcasing a pivotal moment in her artistic evolution.

Sémiramothe's career traces an intimate geography: from her native Guadeloupe to Marseille, with formative periods in Paris, Aix-en-Provence, Los Angeles, and Williamstown. Her residency at the Maison Dora Maar in March 2022 served as a particular catalyst, enriching her practice through new encounters and decisive discoveries.

At the core of her practice lies a passionate exploration of color. Working with flat tints, the artist harnesses the raw power of primary colors while summoning the full spectrum of the rainbow. This chromatic mastery, driven by a liberation of gesture, transforms the canvas into a field of dynamic forces where each line captures vital energy and emotion.

The works on view at La Mob represent a new frontier, combining her research on

color with a linear precision that captures the impressions of the places depicted. As the artist explains:

[I select] places that make me feel good, that evoke joy. By selecting photos of different locations, I remember exactly the state I was in. These photos act as markers of my mood, linked to the passage of time without any sense of nostalgia. [...] This new series of drawings is born of a need—a kind of chromatic escape, allowing oneself a breath of air in a world under constant duress.

Sémiramothe's work is also a dialogue of memory, resonating deeply with the writings of the late great Guadeloupean author Maryse Condé (1934–2024). Through her works, Sémiramothe extends Condé's narratives, weaving an unbreakable bond between the visual arts and the power of Caribbean literature.

The exhibition is made possible by the Dora Maar Cultural Center and is organized by Frauke V. Josenhans, deputy director and chief curator at the DMCC.



Françoise Sémiramothe

BIOGRAPHIE DE L'ARTISTE

Françoise Sémiramothe is a Guadeloupean visual artist who lives and works in Marseille. She graduated from the École supérieure d'art d'Aix-en-Provence Félix Ciccolini.

The year 2006 marked a turning point in her career through her meetings with writers Maryse Condé and Françoise Donadieu, as well as the painter Gérard Fromanger. These exchanges fostered deep friendships and fertile collaborations, exploring the vibrant resonances between the visual arts and the written word.

While her practice is multifaceted, painting remains her primary medium. Her pictorial research fluctuates between the rigor of form and the energy of color, guided by a fascination with the still image—whether rendered on paper, canvas, or murals.

Over time, her artistic intent has evolved within a sophisticated lineage, spanning the Narrative Figuration movement, and chromatic exploration following the legacy of Henri Matisse, and the abstract vocabulary of Bridget Riley, Sol LeWitt, and Josef Albers. She also finds inspiration in Baroque art, particularly in the dramatic compositions of Caravaggio.

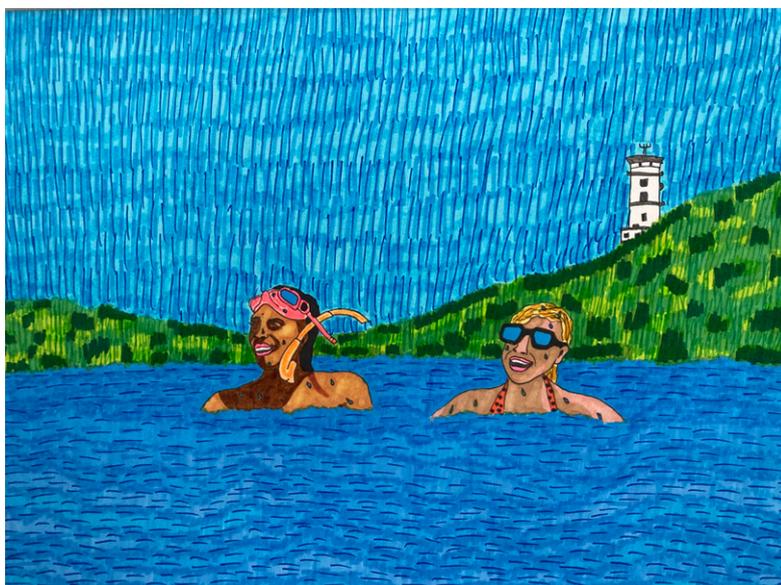
In 2025, she held the prestigious position of Sterling Brown '22 Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Africana Studies Department at Williams College, Massachusetts. Alongside her personal creative work, she frequently engages with various cultural institutions, often collaborating with the Marseille-based visual artist Gilles Benistri.

Her work has been the subject of numerous national and international exhibitions, spanning from Friche la Belle de Mai and MUCEM in Marseille to LUMA Arles, as well as venues in Guadeloupe, Los Angeles, and the 62 Center in Williamstown.

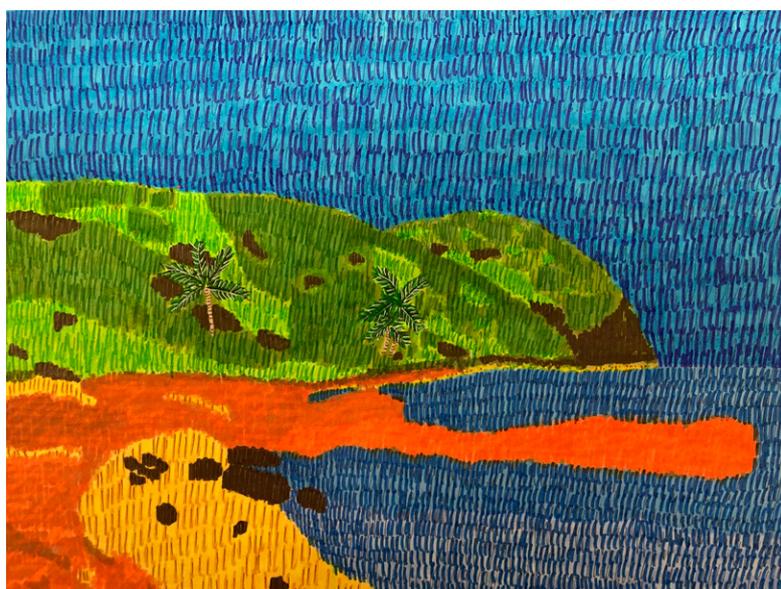
Her pieces are held in several notable collections, including MACMA (Musée d'art contemporain de Martinique), Frac Sud, Médiathèque Charles Nègre in Grasse, and various private collections.

Françoise Sémiramoth

A SELECTION OF WORKS TO DISCOVER



*Comme des poissons dans l'eau /
Snorkling, 2023*
Felt pen on paper, 24 x 32 cm



Sargassum, 2024
Felt pen on paper, 24 x 32 cm



Nevada, 2023
Felt pen on paper, 32 x 24 cm



In the living room, 2023
Felt pen on paper, 24 x 32 cm

la mob

Located in Ménerbes, in the heart of Provence, the Dora Maar Cultural Centre comprises two historic 18th century properties: the Dora Maar House, where the Surrealist artist stayed every autumn for 50 years, and the nearby Hôtel de Tingry. Throughout the year, both venues offer a dynamic cultural programme showcasing contemporary and historical works in dialogue with the spaces.

Since 2021, La Mob has been open to the public as a welcoming center, which houses a gallery space and a shop. It takes its name from Dora Maar's iconic moped, which is still on site. The gallery presents the history of the Maison Dora Maar through time and through the work of the former residents. Mirroring the residency program, La Mob is open from March to November and hosts two to three exhibitions annually.

VERNISSAGE

March 19, at 6 PM

In the presence of the artist

COMMUNITY EVENT

March 21

11am-12pm YOUNG PUBLIC | free

Reading workshop around the literary works
by Maryse Condé (in French)

2-4pm ADULT PUBLIC | 10 €

Workshop around color with the artist
online registration

OPENING HOURS

Wednesday to Sunday

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM / 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION

ADDRESS

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84560 Ménerbes, France

CONTACT & TOURS

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ONLINE REGISTRATION

maisondoramaar.org

AN EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY THE DORA MAAR CULTURAL CENTER



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