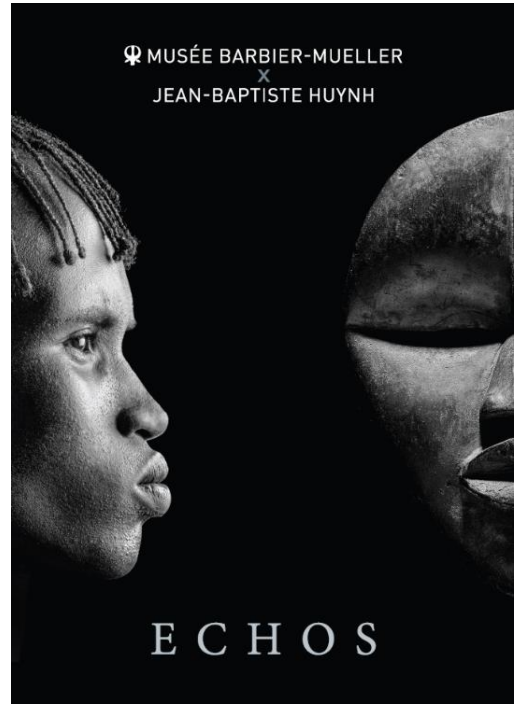




MUSÉE BARBIER-MUELLER
GENÈVE

Collection familiale depuis 1907
Fondation reconnue d'utilité publique

From 29 January to 14 September 2025
Vernissage Tuesday, 28 January 2025



For its new exhibition, the Musée Barbier-Mueller has invited the photographer Jean-Baptiste Huynh (b. Châteauroux, 1966) to be its guest artist. This has resulted in *Échos*, a unique exchange between his aesthetic universe and the artworks in the Barbier-Mueller collection. Known for his portraits and nudes in a pared-down style, Huynh has travelled around the planet to capture its beauty. He immersed himself in the museum storerooms, selecting and photographing a series of works from the collection, which he presents in dialogue with his own. The photographs and artworks presented in the exhibition and accompanying catalogue are interwoven in such a way as to imbue pieces from Africa, Oceania, Europe and Asia created in different periods with a contemporary aura, while highlighting their forms and materials.

The meeting of these two worlds reveals striking formal and thematic similarities that transcend time and space. The face of a Suri child from the Omo valley in southern Ethiopia thus enters a dialogue with a small *lukwakongo* mask made by the Lega people living in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With *Échos*, Huynh takes a fresh look at the works in the Barbier-Mueller collection that resonate with his own photographs. This conversation, alternately – or all at once – sensory, intellectual and aesthetic, invites the observer to reflect on universal themes, such as birth, life, old age and death.



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Publication

The exhibition catalogue has been designed as a special object that is both as a space for aesthetic exploration and as an educational tool. It features a succession of photographs taken by Jean-Baptiste Huynh around the world, together with his previously unpublished photographs of works from the Barbier-Mueller collection. Each exhibit is accompanied by a scholarly entry written by a specialist.

Échos, bilingual edition (French and English), Édition Musée Barbier-Mueller, Geneva

Jean-Baptiste Huynh

Jean-Baptiste Huynh was born to a French mother and a Vietnamese father in Châteauroux, France, in 1966. He taught himself photographic, lighting and printing techniques. His pared-down, timeless style has enabled him to explore a wide range of subjects, including portraits; nudes; the mineral, plant and animal kingdoms; and spiritual symbols. The recurring themes in his work are self-image, light and the relationship with infinity. Huynh's photographic work takes form in his exhibitions, set designs and books, projects considered an integral part of his oeuvre.

The Musée Barbier-Mueller

Treasures from around the world in an intimate, internationally renowned museum

Located in the heart of Geneva's Old Town, the Musée Barbier-Mueller houses a diverse collection of objets d'art that it maintains, exhibits and studies. The collection now comprises several thousands of works from antiquity to the present day, with objects from every continent. Every two years, the Musée Barbier-Mueller presents temporary exhibitions and new hangings of its permanent collection. The Musée Barbier-Mueller regularly invites contemporary artists to view the works in the collection and to rethink the design of the exhibition spaces, thus changing our understanding of the works on display over time. Lectures, meetings, readings and performances are also part of the exhibition programme.

Practical information

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The museum is open every day from 11 am to 5 pm.

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