



*Press release
July 19, 2018*

**LAURE ALBIN GUILLOT, THE CRAFTSWOMAN OF PHOTOGRAPHY
MAISON NATIONALE DES ARTISTES, NOGENT-SUR-MARNE
FROM SEPTEMBER 13 TO NOVEMBER 25, 2018**

In keeping with their over ten-year long partnership, from September 13 to November 25, the Jeu de Paume and the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques (FNAGP) are happy to present an exhibition on Laure Albin Guillot, a major actress of the French photography in the 1920s-40s, at the Maison Nationale des Artistes (MNA) of Nogent-sur-Marne. Curated by Delphine Desveaux, director of the Roger-Viollet Collections at the Bibliothèque historique de la Ville de Paris, the exhibition will gather about forty reproductions from the Roger-Viollet Collections.

Founded in 1945, the MNA is an exceptional retirement home for ageing artists in need of a quiet place or in a situation of dependence. The MNA organizes temporary exhibitions dedicated to its residents and open to the public. Laure Albin Guillot (Paris, 1879-1962) lived at the MNA at the end of her life. In 2013, the Jeu de Paume held her first retrospective exhibition in Europe.

Laure Albin Guillot was among the most popular photographers in the interwar years. Her works were featured in salons and reviews starting in the early 1920s, but it was really during the 1930s and 1940s that she took over the French photographic landscape as both an artist and institutional figure. As an independent photographer, she tried various genres like portrait, nude, landscape, still life and reporting at a lesser extent. Extraordinary technician and witness of her time, she took advantage of the new modes of image diffusion, making illustrations and advertisements for the press and publishing sector.

In France, Laure Albin Guillot was also one of the firsts to explore the decorative dimension of photography through her formal researches on the infinitely small. Thanks to the photomicrography technique she renamed "micrography", Laure Albin Guillot combined science and plastic arts and opened new creative ways.

Member of the Société des artistes décorateurs, of the French Photographic society, director of the photographic archives of the General Directorate of Fine Arts (prior to the Ministry of Culture), first director of the Cinémathèque nationale and president of the Union féminine des carrières libérales et commerciales, she was a very active personality with a particular awareness for the media and cultural issues of her time.

The Roger-Viollet Collections are the fruit of the labor carried out from 1938 to 1985 by Hélène Roger (1901-1985) and Jean-Victor Fischer (1904-1985), two photography lovers and great travellers who founded the "Documentation générale photographique Roger-Viollet". Built on the iconographic fund of Laurent Ollivier created in 1880 with photographs by Léopold Mercier, Alinari, Broggi and Anderson, they added photographs from Hélène's family, which counted many art lovers of all kinds. This first collection of about 50,000 shots kept growing after the war thanks to a tireless acquisition policy (Albert Harlingue, Laure Albin Guillot, Roger Berson, Gaston Paris, Charles Hurault, Jacques Boyer, Lipnitzki, the Ferrier-Soulier studios, Neurdein...). This is how Hélène Roger and Jean-Victor Fischer built a unique photographic collection, which spanned over a century and a half of photographic history, almost from its origins to the 1970s. The founders of the Roger-Viollet Collections donated it to the City of Paris in 1985. They entered the Bibliothèque historique de la Ville de Paris in 2018.

Holder of a PhD in Art History, **Delphine Desveaux** is the director of the Roger-Viollet Collections. In charge of the conservation and promotion of the fund of nearly eight million photographs, she conceives and curates both monographic (*Choumoff, un parisien russe* at the Musée Rodin in 2005 and *Laure Albin Guillot, l'enjeu classique* at the Jeu de Paume in 2013) and themed exhibitions (*Portraits d'écrivains* at Victor Hugo's House in 2011, *Jours de Guerre / Excelsior* at the Senate in 2014 and *Dans l'atelier, l'artiste photographié* at the Petit Palais, musée des Beaux-arts de la Ville de Paris, in 2016).

A monographic book on the work of Laure Albin Guillot is published by the Collection du Parc, co-edition Jeu de Paume / FNAGP / Bernard Chauveau editions in September 2018.

This exhibition has been co-produced by the Jeu de Paume and the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques and organized with the support of the City of Paris.

The Maison Nationale des Artistes is part of the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques.

Exhibition from September 13 to November 25, 2018

Curator: Delphine Desveaux, director of the Roger-Viollet Collections at the Bibliothèque historique de la Ville de Paris

Wednesday, September 12

Press visit at 3pm – shuttle leaving at 2:30pm from Place de la Nation

Opening from 6pm to 8:30pm – shuttle leaving at 6pm from Place de la Nation

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Open to the public everyday from 9am to 12pm and from 2pm to 6pm

Free entrance

Access

RER A: Nogent-sur-Marne then bus 114 or 210, stop at Sous-préfecture

RER E: Nogent-Le Perreux then direction Tribunal d'instance

Metro line 1: Château de Vincennes then bus 114 or 210, stop at Sous-préfecture

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Visuals available on request