

ARTISTS IN THE ARCTIC 2018

2nd EDITION

/// PRESS RELEASE

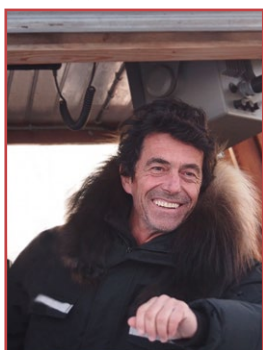
CROSS-CULTURAL STORIES IN GREENLAND

1 boat, **1** crew, **8** artists, **1** scientist, isolated for **3** months in the middle of the ice, sharing a common goal: Getting trapped up there, way up there, to the middle of the ice, at latitudes beyond the Polar Circle. Getting isolated in extreme conditions, in a confined space, to take time to create, exchange, meet Greenlanders and share their every-day life. This is the ice-centric adventure that the boat **Le Manguier** offers this year to 8 artists and a scientist from various backgrounds.

The idea is to offer cross-cultural stories, proving that Man is not doomed to get caught in the vicious spiral of systematic, destructive hyper-consumerism; but to show that every Human is a Creator with the ability to come with new solutions and adapt to extreme conditions, while being true to themselves, to his group and to his natural environment.

The project leader :

Philippe HERCHER, alias Phil the Seaman, Captain of the Manguier.



«One of the most beautiful way to be proactive is to witness in the art creation».

He has a twin passion, le sea and the boats. During his life, he shared them in many ways: navigation, joined voyages, education, naval construction, promotion of the maritime heritage...

During his life: an insatiable curiosity in others and new destinations. With Philippe, navigation turns into sharing. Along with the ones he meets during his voyages, he shares his motivations, his discoveries, his enthusiasms, and sometimes his doubts.

Purchasing the Manguier in 2002 appeared to be written in the course of this unique seaman... since then, he keeps on sailing, as a captain and expedition leader in an environment he got to know: the Arctic.

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Objectives

Why spend a winter in the sea ice off the Greenland west coast and bring together a group of artists aboard **Le Manguier**? Greenland is definitely changing; the ice is certainly melting and huge financial interests are looming over its mineral resources. We cannot just stand and watch the destruction of this one-of-a-kind Arctic universe. Now is the time to act, not just think! And since art touches us like nothing else can, we chose this medium to add a poetic and sensitive dimension to the scientific studies, awareness-raising measures and preservation projects that have already brought the Arctic problem to the fore. Dostoevsky captured our ideal with his words: "Beauty will save the world". This is the reason why our project was buildt. In a near future, polar ice, northern wildlife and Inuit culture may soon be no more than a memory, and these losses are a sign of changes that threaten the rest of the planet. It is therefore crucial that we bear witness to the striking beauty of what is at stake!

Theme

From the **15th of January to the 3rd of April**, eight artists of different nationalities and backgrounds will live aboard the Manguier, in the midst of the ice of **Greenland**, in the omnipresent cold and dark, where the familiar loses its hold and learning to live in harmony with nature becomes a must. The artists, through their work, their points of view, their interaction amongst themselves and with the Greenlanders, will be precious testimonies of the cultural and environmental reality of the Far North, in a complete climate and sociological change.



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The ship

Le Manguier ("The Mango Tree") is a former 70-feet/110-ton tugboat purchased in 2002 by Captain Philippe Hercher. From 2003 to 2006, major work was done to convert Le Manguier into a small exploration vessel. The back deck was fully removed in order to construct a large, 430ft² living area surrounded by passageways. In 2009, the tugboat was fitted with masts and sails in order to reduce its diesel consumption and CO2 emissions. But the Manguier is above all a great human adventure, bringing together people from all ages and backgrounds, facilitating exchanges between scientists, fishermen, artists, seafarers; young or old. And most of all, making dreams come true! Since 2004, the Manguier has sailed more than 40'000 miles (75'000 km), including a circumnavigation of the Arctic. Since 2015, the Manguier has been sailing mainly in Greenland.

The association (French Law of 1901)

The Manguier is also, and perhaps first and foremost, a state of mind, one born of curiosity, exchange, sharing, discovery and enthusiasm. Embarking onboard the Manguier broadens your horizons, makes your senses come alive, hones your observation skills and enhances your perception and intuition. It makes you see the world and the people in it in a different light, sparking imagination and creativity. In short, it helps you become a human being in the best possible sense! More than a hundred people sailed in the Manguier since its restoration: students from Bastia, Douarnenez or Dillingham; fishermen from Tunisia, Ireland, Alaska and Canada; artists, scientists, Orthodox pilgrims... all curious people who, for the most part, became life-long friends. These activities resulted in the creation of a non-profit organization, « **Les amis du Manguier** » ("The friends of the Mango-Tree"), whose main goal is to manage the "Artists in the Arctic" project.

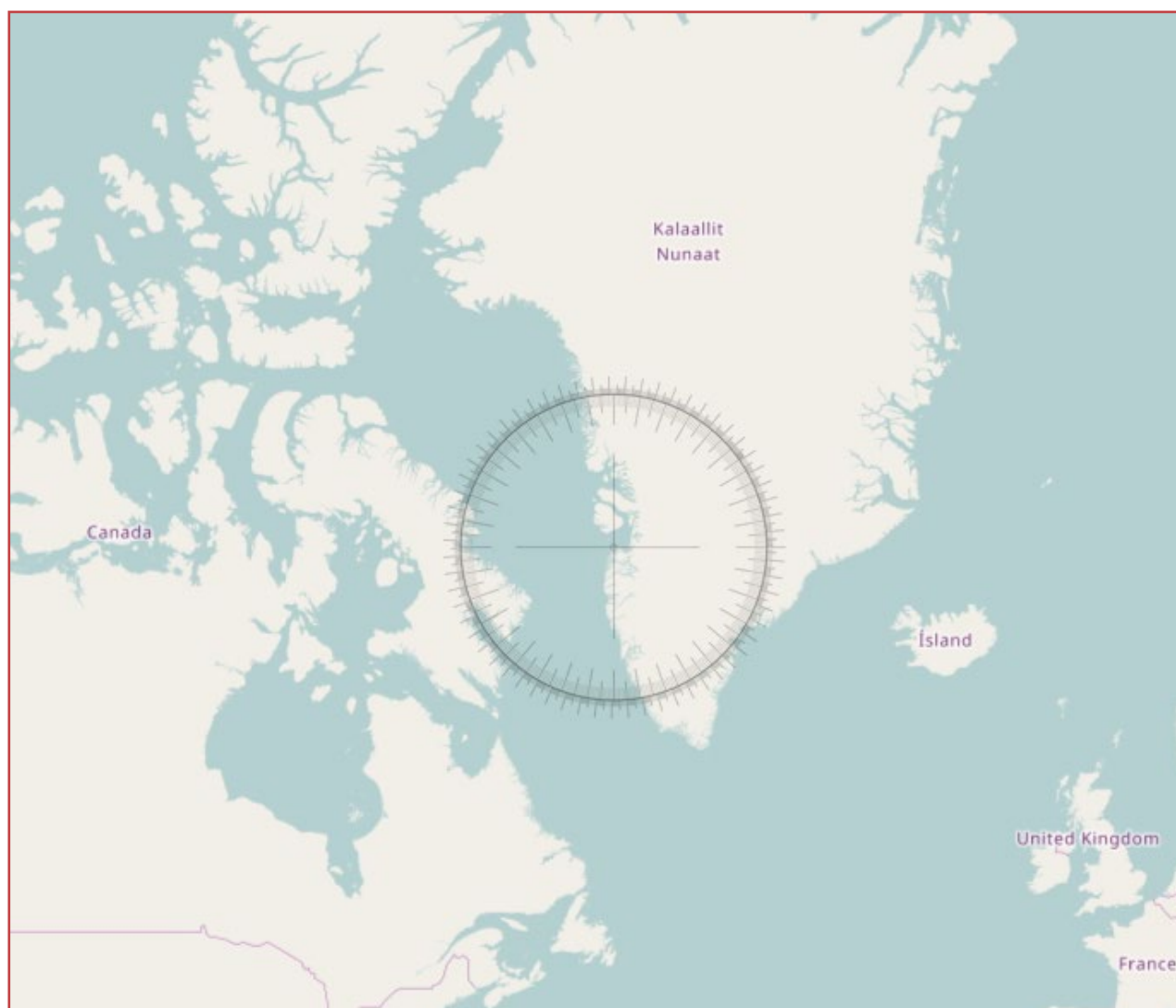


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The anchorage

During this second edition of «Artists in the Arctic», the **Manguier** will winter in the middle of the ice on the west coast of Greenland, in a small bay immediately South of the little village of **Akunaak** (68°44'N – 52°21'W), with only 85 inhabitants. The town of Aasiaat, located 25kms away, will be accessible by helicopter or skidoo. The wintering location, far from the city, will enable the artists aboard to be totally immersed in nature, yet be close enough to the city to exchange, share and create with Greenlandic students and artists.



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The residency

4 artists will stay at the same time onboard the Manguier, turned into a real base camp for this residency. Two persons will be in charge of welcoming the artists. Because this second residency is very unique and truly original due to its remoteness, the cold and the harsh conditions, a researcher in psychology at the CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) will join it: Arnaud Rey. He is interested in the way language works and in the reasons for its absence in our monkey cousins. He will be onboard together with the crew during the first residency. Considering the studies related to life conditions in remote environments, our entry into the anthropocenic era and the rising projects concerning inhabited flights, Arnaud Rey studies will focus on the human behavior onboard the Manguier.

The first artists will arrive on the 15th of January for a month, almost during the complete polar night period. The last group will leave at the beginning of April, when the day light will be complete almost permanently.



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Length of the stay

After the Residency 2017, the length of the residency was extended. Two stays of 4 weeks are scheduled for 2018:

- . from the 15th of January to the 13th of February
- . from the 5th of March to the 3rd of April.

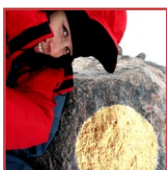


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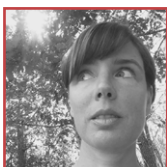
Les artistes

Oïjha, visual artist



Ann-Isabelle Guyomard, alias Oïjha, is a visual artist dedicated to polar areas. PhD in law for Antarctica, she has performed Land Art works both in the Arctic and the Antarctic and has initiated the first exhibition of France in the Seventh continent: "GAMMA – Growth of Antarctic Mindful Modern Art", currently taking place in the Dumont d'Urville scientific station, Adelie Land.

Fleur, writer



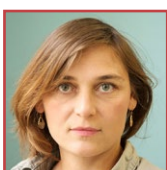
Fleur Daugey is a writer, journalist and animal behaviourist. She has worked for several nature conservation programs in France and abroad. Since 2009, writing is the way she chose to raise awareness for nature protection. But she is also curious about other topics such as historical and cultural ones. She writes books, articles and comics for children and adults alike.

Théo, photographer and writer



Théo Giacometti is a French indépendant photographer and writer. He makes reports for newspaper and magazine, and several personal projects. With his sensitive photographic language, he bring back from his travels some words and pictures mostly about wide spaces, nature and the part of human in his environment.

Aurélie, filmmaker



Initially trained as a graphic artist, swiss filmmaker and producer Aurélie Mertenat has also worked on numerous film productions, notably as a sound recorder and assistant for Yves Yersin, Christelle Lheureux and Richard Dindo. Graduated in film from HEAD – Geneva in 2010, she joined then Terrain Vague, an author's collective who share a high-quality vision of contemporary production in film. Her first medium-length documentary *Petra tenera* was screened in Festival Locarno 2017 and in international festivals.

Férial, photographer



Bi-cultural artist, with a French mother and a Kabyl father, Férial is a free-spirited utopian with a wonder of the future always sparkling in her eyes. She has a diploma from les Arts décoratifs de Nice (Villa Arson) and l'École d'Art Beaubourg de Paris. Her artistic quest is driven by an insatiable curiosity and a boundless energy flirting with the mystical, thus opening up the royal path of creation. Through the prism of the human heart, her artistic life is set on unravelling the emotions people are made of.

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Cora Laba, singer, author-composer



She develops an "organic music" (voice, body percussion, human beat box) during the years she sings and creates music with bands such as the female vocalists Crise Carmen, electronic orchestra Orkestronika, or for theater and dance companies. After 2 years in Ukraine, she creates her own folk in a solo project which hybrids organic with electronic sounds. The mountain of her childhood is a powerful source of inspiration: stone, water, ice and voice in those natural sound boxes, irrigate her songs and soundscapes. <https://soundcloud.com/cora-laba/>

Remi, film director



Remi Mazet is 46-ish. After a master's degree in the image department of the French national film school, La Fémis, he worked as a DOP all around the globe. From Yakoutia to Iran, through South-East Asia, Latin America and Africa, driven by his passion for cinema, he embarked on an unfathomable quantity of adventures and penniless movie shootings. Ten years ago, he started directing his own films, on the edge of comedy and documentary genres. In parallel to an experimental project on Ice melting, on the Manguier ship, he will also participate in creating a common piece focused on the creative residency "Artists in Arctic 2018".

Deborah, visual artist



Born in 1971, Deborah Davis works and lives in Eastern Townships (Quebec, Canada). Deborah is a very active artist in the Quebec art scene. In addition to her studio work, Davis teaches a wide range of printmaking techniques. In the Beauchamp Art Galleries (Quebec, Montreal, Toronto) she is represented by a series of large-scale works on wood, which include diptychs and triptychs done in a variety of mediums. To etch on canvas, the movement of her expression evolved through an on going exploration of materials. Her works offer the viewer a dream world or dimension with perspectives that transcend the laws of nature. She questions her daily life and revisit her memories to generate a vivid amalgamation of emotions that turn the reel to engage the images in her mind. Her work is characterized therein by the attraction of textures that inhabit the space. With sweeping gestures and spontaneous movements are these spaces and textures created. It is in this space that silent forces of nature influence her creation.

These projects will enrich and complement each other and will evolve depending on encounters and residency constraints. They will superimpose themselves and intermix to transmit and recount the specific atmosphere of the icebound Arctic.

Researchers

Arnaud Rey, CNRS researcher in psychology



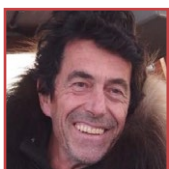
CNRS researcher in psychology, Arnaud Rey is interested in the way language works and in the reasons for its absence in our monkey cousins. Trained in EMDR therapy and hypnosis, he also works on the links between language, imagination, emotion regulation and therapeutic process. At the time of our entry into the anthropocene era, where fascinating projects of manned flights to Mars are envisaged (contemporary odysseys), he hopes to contribute, at his level, to this new chapter in the history of humanity.

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STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PROJECT

This project was conceived and initiated by Philippe Hercher, Captain of the Manguier. The stay is organized by Les Amis du Manguier and is coordinated by a steering committee. Together with this project, several persons will help to promote exchanges with the Greenland artists, the schools and the local population.



Philippe Hercher. Captain of the Manguier
Responsible for technics and logistics



Louis Adam. Second Captain
Aged twenty-seven years, with a design master's degree and a marine carpenter's degree, he knows the Manguier quite well since his embarkment as a sailor in 2009 between France and Norway. He is open-minded and very respectful of the world which surrounds him, and will be the resourceful and necessary Second Captain.



Olivier Pasteur. Webmaster
Long-life friend, Olivier is in charge of the whole website and blog of the Manguier, amongst many other things ! He is also the reliable adviser and moderator... with several other activities!



Cécile Ferrus. Secretariat
Between the bees (her job) and the kayak (her hobby), Cécile saves some time to deal with all the work related to the secretariat of the project. She embarked several times onboard the Manguier and got passionate, like many others before her, by the Arctic.



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Programme / Échanges culturels

During the previous residency, the artists have been participating to several cultural actions. Because sharing and creating in common are important values in this project, the 2018 will continue this participation with students from primary schools of high schools, the Aasiaat Museum and the local artists. For the 2017 residency:

- . Aasiaat radio program by Philippe HERCHER.
- . A week partnership gathering Karin HUET and the Aasiaat college students from the Language Section
- . Exhibition and show at the Aasiaat Museum of the art works from Claire ASTIGARRAGA and Cécile ZAWIEJA
- . Co-lecture by Karin HUET and Maria STEENHOLDT at the Aasiaat Museum
- . Engraving workshop at the college by Benjamin VISSEROT
- . Music workshop at the primary school and the college by Julien BIROT
- . Concert at the "TULUGAK" bar by Julien BIROT and several musicians from Aasiaat
- . Participation to the Snow Sculpture Festival – 1st Prize



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Back to France, a brochure presenting the work of the artists has been published and was presented at the Embassy of Denmark during the evening show of the 27th September 2017.

Several exhibitions were shown and others are still running :

- . 29, 30 September, 1 October 2017: Karin HUET presents her experience of the residency, St Céré (46400, France).
- . from the 2nd to the 12th of November 2017: St Simion Hotel, Angoulême : exhibition "Artists in the Arctic"
- . from the 16th of December 2017 to the 31st of January 2018: collective exhibition at the Bistrophe, Marseille (13000, France)
- . from the 5th of March to the 22nd of October 2018: exhibition "The Manguier - 9 years of expeditions in the Arctic", Galea Park, Corsica.



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