

## Exhibition: Living Atmospheres

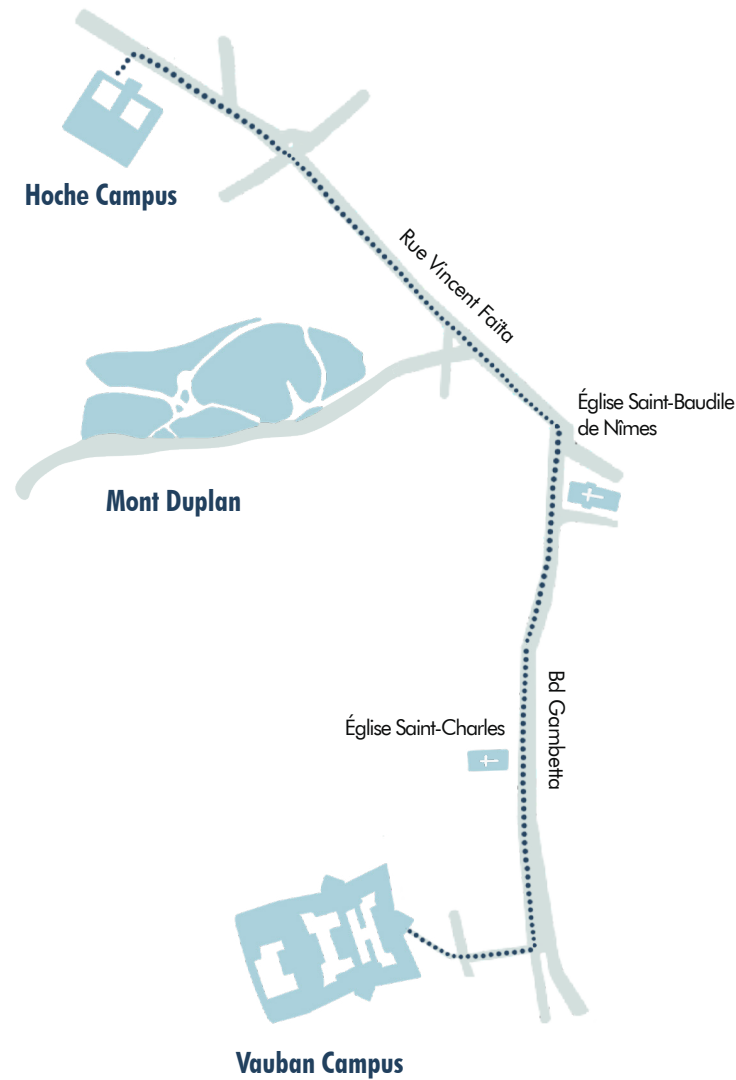
## Vauban Campus - Hoche Campus

(Season Lao)



“Living Atmospheres” showcases important works by Season Lao that constitute an aesthetic meditation on atmosphere, vulnerability, and survival. Positioned in the historic chapel of Nîmes University’s Hoche campus, the exhibition features paintings, site-specific installations, performances, and archival documents that explore how devastated landscapes, salvaged wood, mist, light, and silence can serve as the setting for living memory. Rather than considering disaster purely through the prism of loss, this exhibition suggests that places and beings exist in states of ongoing transformation. Through references to Japanese philosophy, the exhibition contends that atmosphere is not merely a backdrop but a shared conditions of existence and survival.

**May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 17:00 - Hoche Campus, Chapelle**  
**Vernissage of the exhibition “Living Atmospheres / Atmosphères vivantes”**  
**in presence of the artist Season Lao**



Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique

# TRACES AND ATMOSPHERES OF DISASTERS

## International Symposium

**Nîmes University, Vauban Campus**  
**May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

## International Symposium: Traces and Atmospheres of Disasters

What is it like to feel a disaster, and how can the memory of those events be conveyed? This is a common object of investigation for two different epistemological traditions: the semiotics of traces and the new phenomenology of atmospheres. In keeping with Peirce's semiotic tradition, traces of a disastrous event can trigger the feeling and memory of it. It also raises the question nowadays of how memory might be transmitted when traces of the event are absent or have been manipulated. Abduction, the pre-logical inference which makes sense of traces, consciously or not, is at the heart of this reasoning.

A second philosophical tradition emerges to comprehend the atmosphere that emanates from a disaster, with similar questions regarding the possibility of crafting or manipulating these atmospheres. Establishing how an atmosphere was created faces the same difficulties as determining where it originated. At the heart of this aerial or vaporous feeling lies a process situated between the subject and their environment. Beyond the imprints and traces, what floats in the air of a disaster "through-rounding" us?

The ambition of this symposium is to articulate these two notions, traces and atmospheres, coming from distinct epistemological traditions, in discussion with the works of anthropologists, to improve our general understanding of what is occurring under the ill-fated stars.

### Organizers:

Chrome laboratory, Nîmes University  
Projekt laboratory, Nîmes University  
Koias institute, Kobe University

### For further inquiries, please contact the organizers:

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### May 20<sup>th</sup> Vauban Campus, A3 Auditorium

8:30 Arrival of participants / Welcome Coffee (H001)

#### 9:00 Introduction talks

Benoît Roig (President of Nîmes University), Yuhō Hisayama (Director of Koias and organizer), Patrizia Giannoni & Oscar Navarro Carrascal (Directors of Chrome lab), Michela Deni (Director of Projekt lab and organizer), Mathieu Gaulène (Organizer, Chrome lab)

#### Layers of Traces and Atmospheres. From Art to the Sea and Back

9:20 Patrizia Violi

Atmospheres of disasters, memory and oblivion:  
fake traces, false traces and non-traces

10:00 Yukiko Kuwayama

Verbalizing Disaster Atmospheres at Minamata Eco Park:  
A Phenomenological Critical View

10:40 Coffee Break

11:10 Cristina Demaria

Atmospheres of a Future Past:  
Traces and Memories of the Anthropocene

11:50 Yuhō Hisayama

Higashi Yuenchi as an Atmospheric Archive:  
Toward the Unsayable Memory of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

12:30 Lunch Break

#### Crafting Memories in Space through Traces

14:30 Sophie Houdart

Re-membering by Walking.  
The Michinoku Coastal Trail as many ways to leave traces

15:10 Mathieu Gaulène

On the Authenticity of Traces:  
Shifting Atmospheres of Sorrow and Hope in Rikuzentakata

15:50 Coffee Break

16:20 Ching-Yuen Cheung

Fukushima and atmospheric studies

17:00 Carlo Severi

Relational Spaces:  
From the anthropology of art to the study of space and form

### May 21<sup>st</sup> Vauban Campus, A3 Auditorium

8:30 Arrival of participants / Welcome Coffee (H001)

#### Conveying, Coding, and Coping with Disasters through Atmospheres

9:00 Bruce Bégout

Atmosphere and Zeitgeist.  
Toward an Atmospheric Reading of an Epoch

9:40 Francesco Mazzucchelli

Who testifies when humans are not watching?  
Regimes of visibility and narrability in a new fog of war

10:20 Simon Levesque

The living must carry the dead:  
Charlotte Delbo on conveying the deathly atmosphere  
and feelings of the Auschwitz concentration camp

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Béatrice Gisclard & Pierre Fournier

Schrödinger's Cat-astrophe

12:10 Natalie Depraz

Emotional diffusivity and permeability

12:50 Lunch Break

### Hoche Campus, Chapelle

#### Exhibition: Living Atmospheres

15:00 Season Lao

Visit of the exhibition "Living Atmospheres /  
Atmosphères vivantes" in Chapelle (Hoche Campus)

15:30 Romaric Jannel

Non-Determination as a Method:  
Silence, Interval, and the Making of Living Atmospheres  
Through Asian and Japanese Conceptions  
(In the presence of the artist, Season Lao).