

Come for the art, stay the night at French foundation

Provençal offshoot of Hubert Bonnet's Brussels art space doubles as a five-room guest house

OPENINGS

By **Caroline Roux**

SAINT-PAUL-DE-VEENCE. The Belgian collector Hubert Bonnet once told *The Art Newspaper* that a 1974 floor sculpture by Carl Andre, *Thirteenth Copper Cardinal*, is the piece he would save if his house were on fire. Now that work is on show at a new outpost of his art non-profit, Fondation CAB, which opened on 25 June in the Provençal village of Saint-Paul-de-Vence – better known as the home of another distinctive private collection, the Fondation Maeght.

Fondation CAB has taken over a former art gallery that was purpose-built in the 1950s and most recently occupied by the Belgian dealer Guy Peters. Bonnet spotted it three years ago after dining at the nearby Colombe d'Or restaurant with the artist Bernard Venet, who opened his own foundation in Le Muy, Provence in 2014. A collector of property as well as art, Bonnet quickly acquired the building.

Minimalism and Modernism

The original foundation, established in Brussels in 2012, celebrates Bonnet's love of Minimalist art (his first acquisition in 1990 was a single stack by Donald Judd) and invites young artists on residencies, which culminate in exhibitions. The same principles apply in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, where there is also a general artist's studio.

But with the designer Charles Zana, Bonnet has also turned the venue into a five-room guest house. Offices have been converted into two bedrooms, and an extension now accommodates two more suites (priced at €225-€250 a night). A 1944 demountable house designed by Jean Prouvé, designed to solve housing shortages in France and its colonies after the Second World War, provides a unique fifth room in the gardens, available at €750 a night. All are furnished with pieces from Bonnet's extensive collection of 20th-century design.



A demountable house designed by the architect Jean Prouvé in 1944 provides one of five guest suites at Fondation CAB, which are all fitted out with pieces from Hubert Bonnet's collection of 20th-century design



20th-century design is a perfect match with Minimalist art. They share some of the same values in their truth to materials

Hubert Bonnet, founder of Fondation CAB

"20th-century design is a perfect match with Minimalist art," Bonnet says. "They share some of the same values in their truth to, and sparing use of, materials." Zana even compares the Prouvé house to a Sol LeWitt sculpture. "Both are just a metal frame," he says.

Visitors are welcome to stay the night or just eat local *ceviche* in the on-site restaurant, which comes with Charlotte Perriand tables and chairs and a large LeWitt wall drawing. The opening gallery displays include works by stars of the Minimalist school, such as Dan Flavin, François Morellet and Robert Mangol, as well as contemporary artists such as Daniel Steegmann Mangrané and Béatrice Balcou.



A rendering of the planned hub for LGBTQ+ artists (pictured at left) in the new Design District

A home for queer artists in London

By **Kabir Jhala**

LONDON. A new charity is crowdfunding to launch London's first permanent venue dedicated to LGBTQ+ artists in the UK. Founded by the curator and film-maker Ashley Joiner, Queercircle is planning to open a cultural centre this winter in the city's new purpose-built Design District in Greenwich.

Designed by David Kohn Architects, the 2,800 sq. ft venue will comprise a gallery, library and project spaces that will host a programme of exhibition commissions and paid residencies for LGBTQ+ artists. Queercircle also aims to develop adjoining affordable artist studios.

Joiner hopes the new site can be London's answer to queer art venues in other cities, such as the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art in New York and Berlin's Schwules Museum. Beyond supporting LGBTQ+ artists, they want to offer the wider queer community a safe space at a time of rising reports of homophobic and transphobic hate crimes in the UK. "Now more than ever, the LGBTQ+ community needs and deserves a place to come together, to tackle social isolation and support our mental health and wellbeing," Joiner says.

With a projected budget of £400,000, the initiative is supported by the Greater London Authority (GLA), Outset Studiomaekers Initiative and Arts Council England. The crowdfunding campaign launched on 9 June with a £40,000 target; within ten days, it had attracted around £10,000 in donations.

The project is backed by London's official Night Czar Amy Lamé and a board of trustees including artists Isaac Julien and Kidzanna Violet Hwami and the actor and collector Russell Tovey.