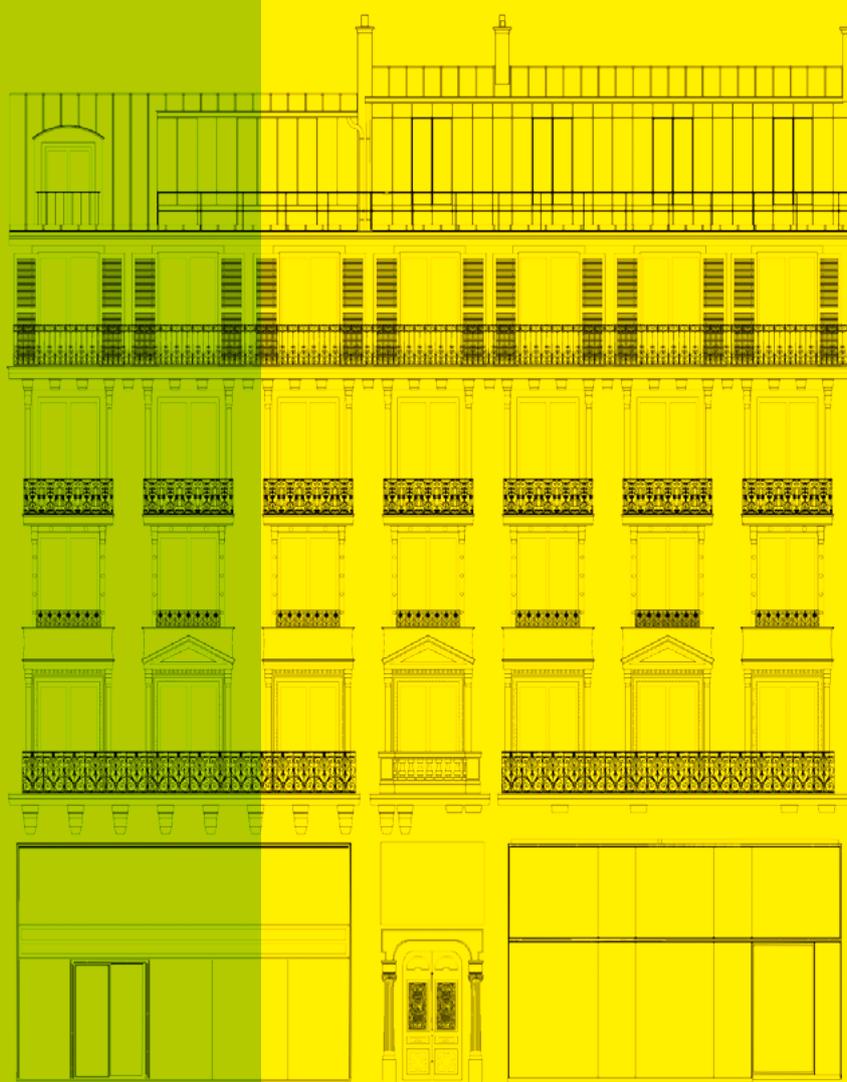


59 RIVOLI

AFTERSQUAT

PRESS RELEASE



Chez Robert



électron libre



© Anne - Laure Kopeikin

Regarding the production of this press release, we would like to thank Vincent Tisler for the writing, Olga Wladivoskvaya for the archive images, Anne-Laure Kopeikin and Manon Stanquic-Hé for the recent photos, Stefano Alaimo for the layout and logos, Camélia Sarnefors for the translation, Zoé Mary for the graphic design, and of course all of the artists of 59 Rivoli, the true glue of this beautiful project..



PRESENTATION

59 Rivoli is one of the oldest alternative Parisian destinations. By alternative, I refer to its capacity to create a sort of bridge between two worlds: the Rue de Rivoli, itself a vital commercial artery and tourist destination, and 59's own history as a squat.

Its particular way of functioning results from being both institutionalized and autonomous at the same time. Its purchase by the City of Paris in 2003 meant that 59 Rivoli was officially a hybrid, and a sort of place that is unclassifiable.

My arrival at 59 Rivoli marked a desire to expand it to what may be perceived as under-represented artistic territories: a way of bringing those out of the shadows regardless of gender, class or identity. At first working with Suisse Marocain, one of the founding artists of 59 Rivoli and with whom I shared the management of the studios and the main gallery, I am also eager to continue and endure the cosmopolitan relationships anchored in its 20-year history.

On the occasion of 59 Rivoli's 20th anniversary, I would like to open a collective reflection with other participants in the government-regulated alternative Parisian art scene: exhibitions, performances, projections... So many opportunities to exchange and project the future of this exceptional place in perpetual evolution.

Lucie Camous,
Administrative Director of 59 Rivoli
and Gallery Curator

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CONTACTS

1200

followers on Twitter

18 000

likes on Facebook

30 000

views on YouTube

01

THE 59 IN NUMBERS

30

exhibitions in our main gallery per year

100

concerts per year

Saturdays and Sundays at 6 p.m.

80 000

visitors per year

5000

subscribers to the newsletter

6000

Followers on Instagram



Gaspard, Bruno y Kalex
los tres fundadores del
59 frente al edificio en
diciembre de 1999.

« Art, by producing a sense where everything seems only to lead to profit, art, by walking at its own rhythm so slowly, so invisible, where everything is only acceleration and communication, art continues to receive and to say, in an unknown and universal language, the distraught quest of which each one is alternately a messenger during their brief existence. The intimate desire buried at the heart of History and the rage against the end of the light, Lights ... "Rage, rage, against the dying of the light...»

Gaspard Delanoë,
President of the 59 Rivoli

Next to Place du Châtelet, 59 Rivoli nurtures in its mythical walls in the very heart of Paris more than 30 artists. Every Saturday and Sunday, live concerts animate the place and its main gallery (open to collective exhibitions from outsideartists not at 59 Rivoli). 59 Rivoli aims to be - in essence - an artistic pole around which singular expressions, languages of art, and varied creativities revolve. Filled with history, 59 Rivoli is first of all a vector of cultural progress, at the same time alternative and institutionalized, anchored in the Parisian touristic landscape. At the heart of a "museumified" capital, 59 Rivoli ends up being an island of originality, a real factory of the possible, to infinity.

1999 - 2002

First There Was the Squat

On November 1st, 1999, Kalex, Gaspard Delanoë, and Bruno Dumont forced open the front door of 59 Rue de Rivoli in Paris, a gigantic Haussmann building that had been abandoned for eight years by the Crédit Lyonnais bank. During this time, the bank went bankrupt and its assets were liquidated (among which were two hundred vacant buildings in Paris). A few days later, about ten artists came to squat in the building, live in it and establish their studios there, that they then opened to visitors

The facade of 59 Rivoli in 2001 when City Hall threatened to close the building.



Self-managed by the collective known as "Chez Robert, Électrons Libres" (Free Electrons), 59 Rivoli welcomed during its very first year of existence more than 40,000 visitors. Nevertheless, the threat of eviction was still impending. In 2000, a court order forced them to leave: the artist-squatters were then given 8 months to vacate the building. Taking note that the occupants were not noisy and that they opened their doors to the public, the Paris authorities decided to wait for the municipal elections to make a final decision regarding the opening or permanent closure of the place. In 2001, Bertrand Delanoë is elected mayor and committed to acquiring the building. The eventual agreement established with the squatters a semi-institutional place that continues to this day. Institutionalizing 59 Rivoli symbolically opened the way to the signing of other agreements of squat-occupations such as the Tour 111, the "Petite Rockette", the "Jardin d'Alice", the "Gare XP", the "Générale", the "Théâtre de Verre", and other artist-squatters collectives.



Pascal Foucart, current treasurer of the Association in front of the 59 Rivoli entrance in 2009.

A studio of the Saint Anne Tower, a temporary artist squat in 2001.



Gaspard Delanoë, founder and current president of 59 Rivoli

Suisse-Marocain, artist at 59 Rivoli since 1999



Thierry Hadebar in his workshop in 1999.



MADAGASCAR
LES MIJES
EST GRATUIT!!
FREE
VISIT
IN PARIS

OPEN
1:00-8:00 PM
TUESDAY-SUNDAY

VOUS DEJA VOUS

A visitor in Anita Savary's workshop, one of 59 Rivoli's permanent artists.



© Zoé Mary

« "The City had definitely imposed a non-negotiable condition on this legalization: artist studios in the building could not be lived in and had to remain open workshops only, without the possibility of habitation. In the heat of the movement, some refused to give up, while others considered that it was worth it. By vote, we opted in favour of the compromise." »

Gaspard Delanoë for the magazine Imagination Week, September 2015

2009 - ...

The Aftersquat, a Non-conventional Site

After several years of renovation, the official reopening of 59 Rivoli took place on November 9th, 2009. This key date legalized the presence of the artists, encouraged the creative mission they promoted, and marked the sustainability of a project becoming reality. The concept: shelter, in an alternative space, a small group of around thirty artists setting up their own studios and sharing with the public the experience of daily creation. With 50,000 visitors in the first year, 59 Rivoli became the third most visited Parisian destination for contemporary art, behind the Centre Georges Pompidou and the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume¹.

Today, the artists' collective, attracting tens of thousands of visitors every year, has established itself as a new kind of access to art, more intimate, more democratic, and partially fills the shortage of artist studios in Paris

¹ Source: Ministry of Culture, annual ranking of the places of distribution of contemporary Art in 2009. In this ranking, 59 Rivoli is also classified seventh on the national level.

The entrance of the Igor Balut Museum, on the fourth floor of 59 Rivoli.



© Zoé Mary



© Zoé Mary

Interaction between artist Maïtena Barret and children of the Musée en Herbe.

“We stand there alongside with the absurd, the shameless and the insult. We collect the desirous, the child’s play, the revolutionaries, the strange and the foreigner, the improbable and the beauty to believe in it every day again and again. It is difficult, it is moving, it is annoying, it is heartening. It is a progress, a constant effort, a plural and often damaged reflection.”

Muriel Ryngaert,
Former Administrative Director of 59
Rivoli

59 Rivoli, an Artistic Incubator

In essence, the 59 Rivoli Association manages an innovative cooperative and artistic project. The building itself is a laboratory of creation and experiment encouraging the intersection of multiple artistic disciplines. 59 Rivoli is at the same time a cultural incubator and an institution which has remained, over the years, a place of artistic renewal, without ever losing its soul of an artists’ squat

The 59 Rivoli Association also promotes a space of solidarity and cooperation working on a model of “collective management”. Therefore, the artistic project supports the development of a space based on voluntary work and the availability of its participants. Finally, 59 Rivoli embodies the sustainability of collective art in the city. By participating in the revitalization of a commercial neighbourhood, the spot gradually won the hearts of the local residents. All of the studios and artistic events at 59 are open free of charge to the largest number of visitors, to delight, to shake the consciousness, and to touch the spirits. The Association also organizes a large number of school and citizens’ visits, opening new territories of dialogue and committing a part of itself to establishing links with local cultural entities and other associations, in a dynamic of artistic transmission. This approach allows us to reach a new audience, to democratize art, to allow access, and to showcase the wings of artistic creation

Being an Artist at 59 Rivoli

Since its inception, over 500 artists have benefited from a residence at 59 Rivoli. Currently, 15 studios are attributed to permanent artists and 15 to those in a 3- to 6-month residence. In each space, the artists are "free electrons".
Dentro de ellos, los artistas son verdaderos «electrones libres».

59 Rivoli has on its 6 floors 30 connected artist studios whose artists practice multiple disciplines: painters, plasticians, graphic designers, sculptors, etc. Residents, free to set up their space as they want, maintain an open installation which eases interaction with visitors.

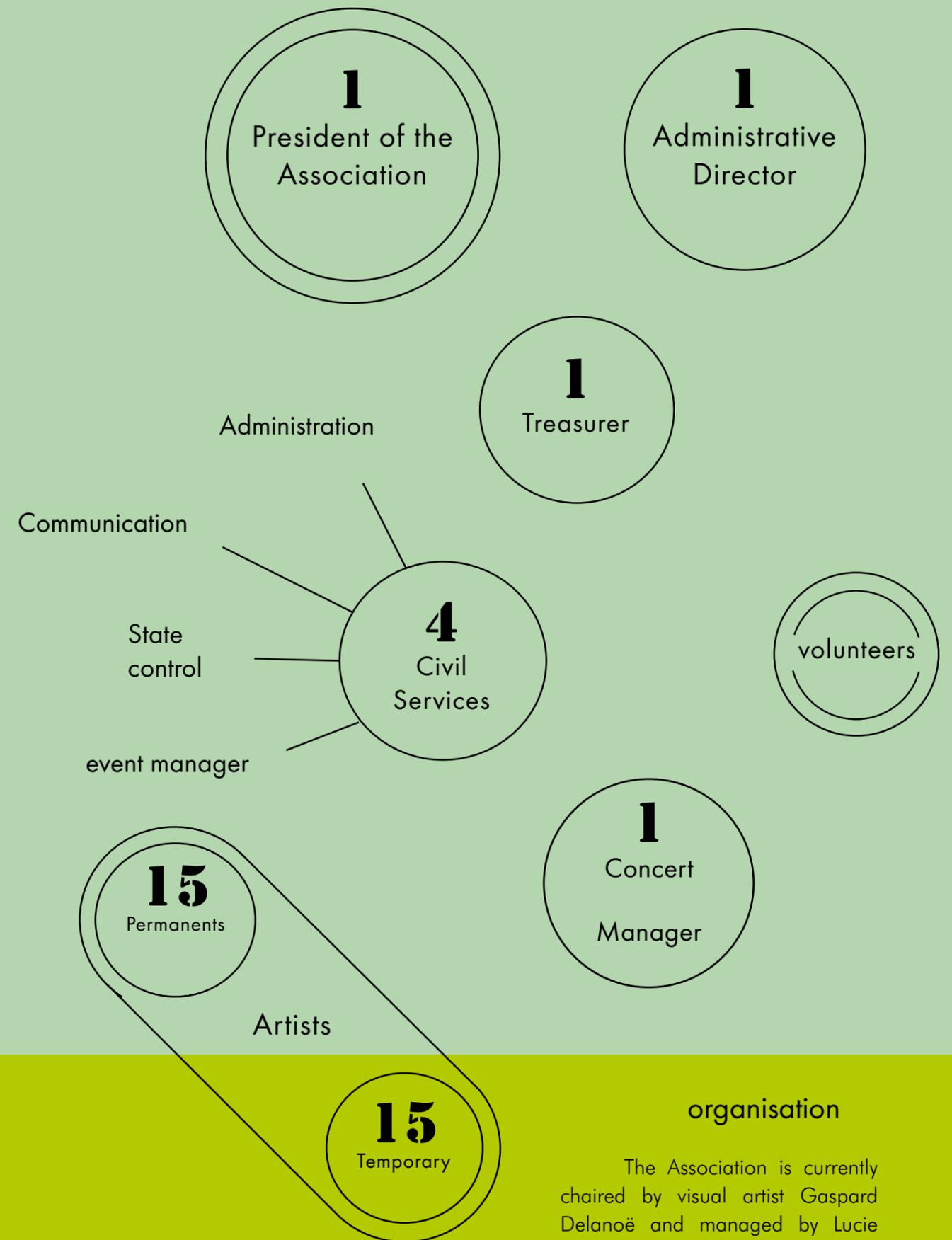
A special committee, made up of two 59 Rivoli artists and a director as well as two representatives of the City Hall of Paris, chooses new residents among the pool of applicants. No outside authority comes to influence or dictate the individual and collective work of the artists in residence or the permanent artists. Posteriormente, los artistas piensan, crean y realizan sus proyectos juntos. Ninguna autoridad externa influye en su trabajo individual y colectivo.

Además de los talleres, el 59 Rivoli también alberga a muchos artistas del exterior para exhibir, tocar en conciertos o realizar performances. Estas diferentes actividades permiten crear puentes de creación entre horizontes heterogéneos.



Here, the artist KASHINK re-spray painting the ground floor staircases

© Anne - Laure Kopeikin



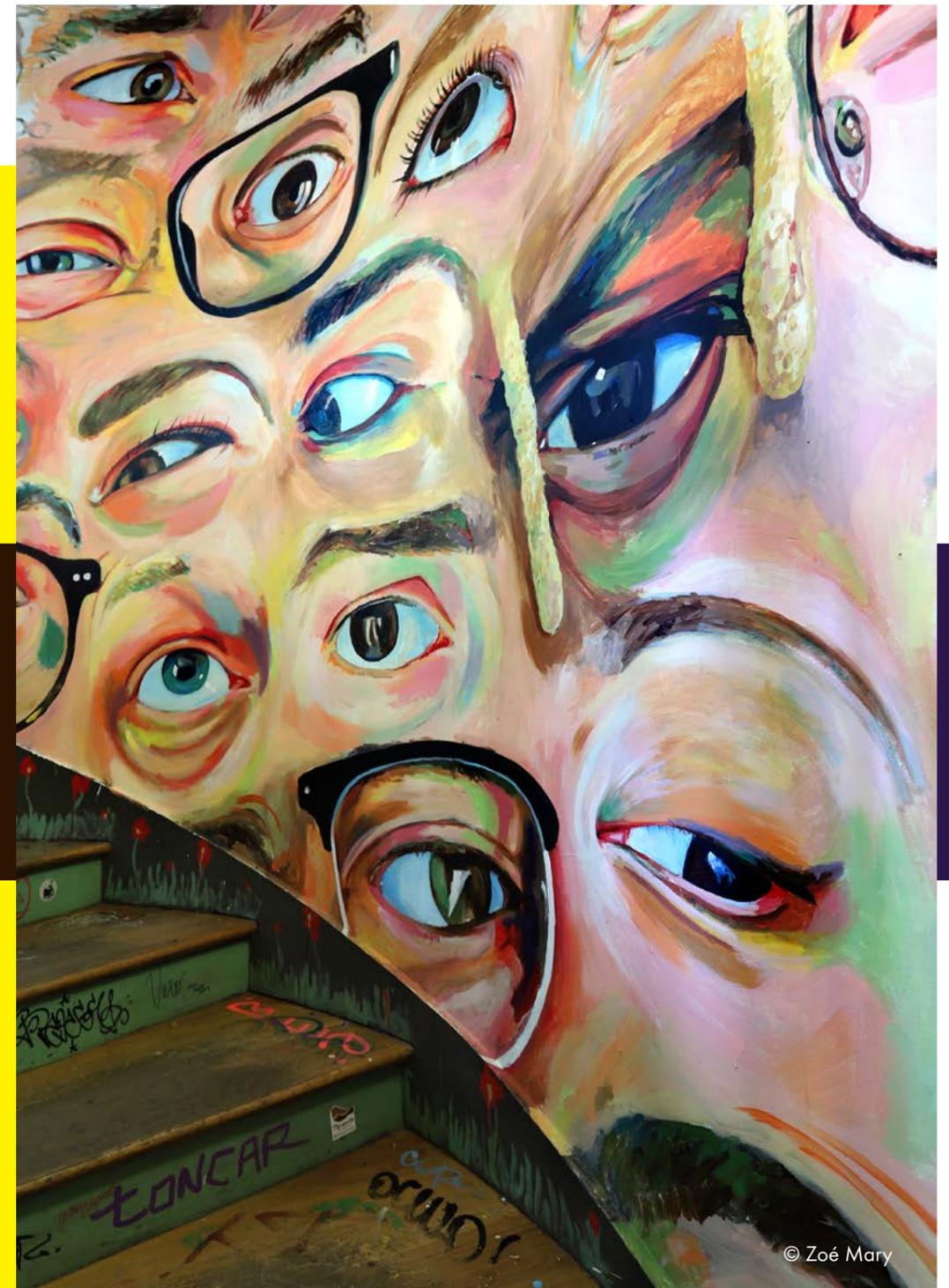
A Place in Perpetual Evolution...

At the heart of the building rises a wide spiral staircase giving access to the six floors at 59. Here, visitors can admire the rising frescoes, changed every so often upon the arrival of new artists and ideas.

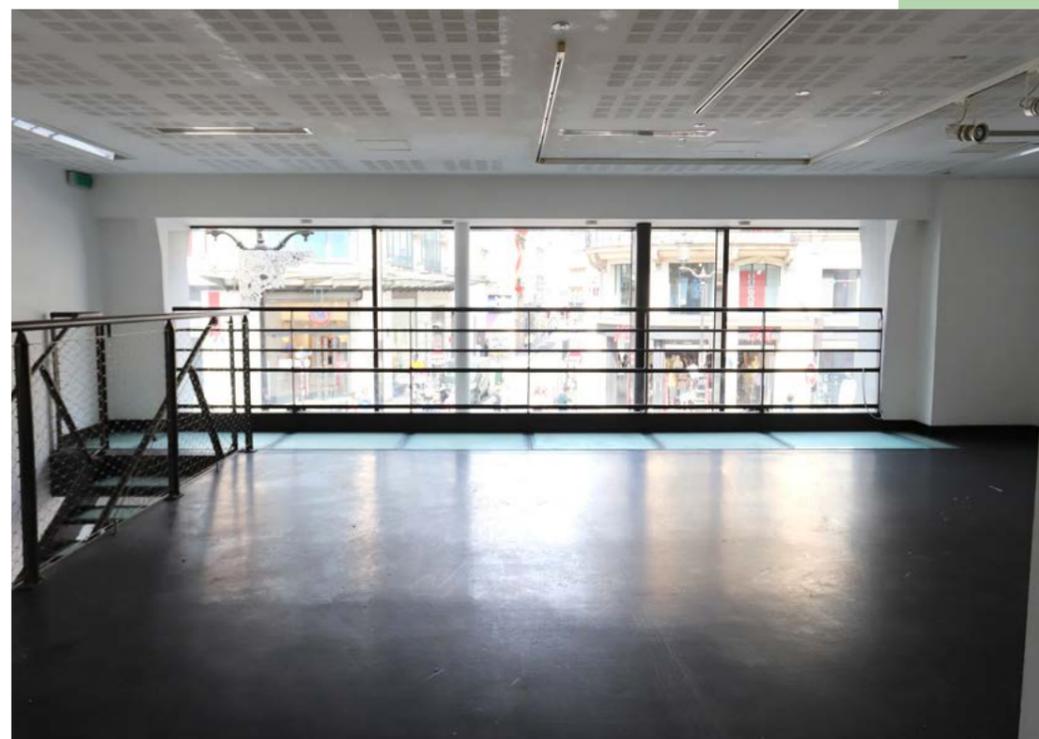
As for 59's facade, it takes on a new look twice per year. Resident and permanent artists, and occasionally outside organisations, participate in this revision and dress the building up in original artwork, to the delight of the passers-by and the curious.

... A Place on the International Stage

Since its reopening in 2009, 59 Rivoli has been a model of artistic diversity. Artists of many nationalities have helped weave an international, artistic network. Thanks to these connections, among many other collective exhibitions, the artists of 59 Rivoli have shown at the Academy of Fine Arts of Florence and at the House of Slovaekie in Prague in 2017, in the former house of Rembrandt in Amsterdam in 2018, and in 2019 at the Cantiere San Bernardo in Pisa, Italy.



Eduardo Fonseca's fresco completed in 2018 in the staircase of 59 Rivoli.



04

THE EXHIBITION AREA

In addition to the 30 studios, 59 Rivoli also has a two-level gallery and exhibition area of more than 90 m² directly on Rue de Rivoli. In this space there is a new art exhibit every two weeks. This gallery is not for the artists from 59, rather, it is a gallery open to artists worldwide selected by the 59 Rivoli Association. Numerous influences interact within each other, from around France and elsewhere, notably, an exchange with Madagasyart, which puts on an exhibition every year to promote Madagascar art. The array of style, technique, and artistic influences contribute to the curatorial project of the gallery.

The 59 Rivoli gallery also hosts live events – concerts, artistic performances, DJ sets, conferences, meetings - all of which accent the exhibitions and liven up the space. All of these characteristics contribute to make the gallery a singular place of exhibition, with a rich, eclectic and international programming.

25
exhibitions
per year

30 000 visitors per year

284
artists featured
in 2018



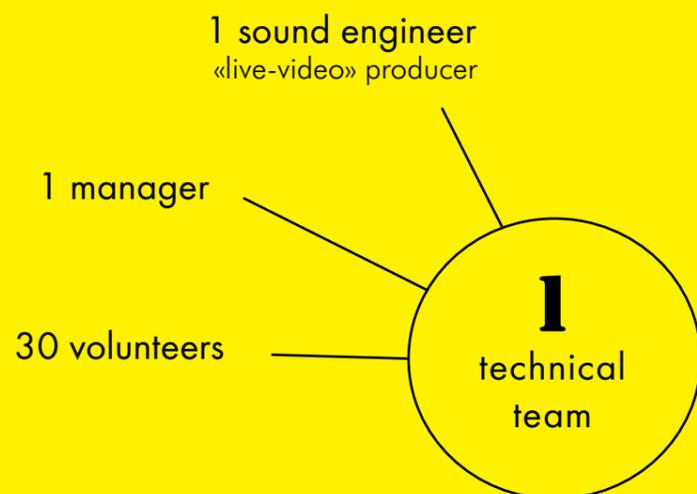
Concert tribute to Snarky puppy, 59 Rivoli.
© Olivier C. 2017



80
concerts
per year

10 000 espectadores al año

4 000 suscripciones para la música
200 000 vistas en videos musicales



A Space Dedicated to Music...

Music has always played an important role at 59 Rivoli. Before becoming an Aftersquat, music artists such as Yaron Herman, La Rue Ketanou or even Matthieu Chedid, performed in the building. Today its walls, with the backing of the City of Paris, continue to vibrate to the rythm of concerts. For the last 8 years, every Saturday and Sunday starting at 6 p.m., from September to the end of June, a team of volunteers has organised an eclectic programming among emerging talent and established musicians. Here, all music genres can be heard. As in the artist studios above, the musicians who entertain in the gallery have a blank check and come with original compositions of their choice. And just as it is for the artist studios, the concerts are always offered to the public for free.

Music Residence Possibility

Two musicians are selected every year to benefit from a music residence. The residents are chosen for a period of six months and within this time, they play once a month in the gallery.

Off-site Concerts

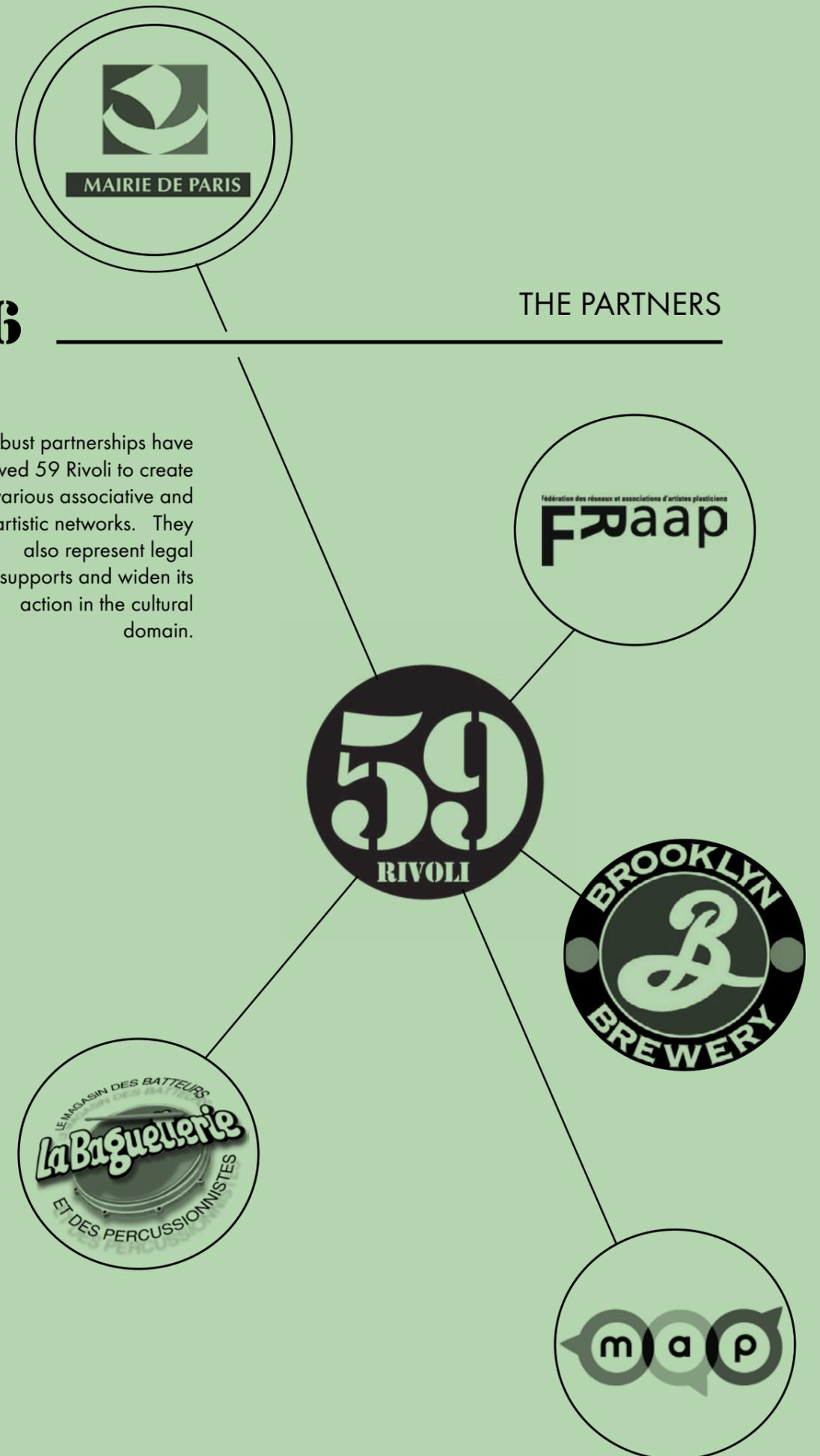
To promote musicians who have performed at 59 Rivoli before, the volunteer team organizes twice a year a musical event at other venues such as La Java, La Bellevilloise, Le Petit Bain, La Halle Pajol, Le Supersonic, and La Guinguette de Tours. These concerts have contributed to the creation of a bridges between music professionals and the public, with the goal of being a real springboard for the musicians. Artists such as L.E.J, 3 Some Sisters, 2 Birds Band, or Last Train have been able to benefit from these off-site productions.

Since 2012, 59 Rivoli has been a part of the M.A.P. network (the current music network of Paris). As an active member it participates in meetings and with other groups to contribute to the artistic brilliance of the city.



In the main stairwell at 59 Rivoli, a fresco created by KASHINK rises to the first floor, where it eventually meets the frescoed work of Tito and Mulk, former resident artists at 59.

Robust partnerships have allowed 59 Rivoli to create various associative and artistic networks. They also represent legal supports and widen its action in the cultural domain.



Website :
www.59rivoli.org



<https://fr-fr.facebook.com/59rivoli/>



<https://www.instagram.com/59rivoli/>



<https://twitter.com/59rivoli/>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/59RIVOLI>



<https://soundcloud.com/59rivoli>



<http://59rivoli.tumblr.com>



<https://openagenda.com/59-rivoli>



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Patronage
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Open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 Châtelet: subway lines 1, 4, 7, 14 / RER A, B and D / Bus lines 38, 47, 58, 67,
 74, 75, 76, 85, 21, 72, 81, 96

