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Faces

Art Brut - The Collection

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ISBN	9791254600528
Publisher	5 Continents Editions
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	8.07 in x 10.04 in
Pages	152 Pages
Illustrations	125 color
Name of series	Art Brut - The Collection
Price	$40.00

- The theme of the sixth Biennale de l'Art Brut (2023–2024) is faces, a distinctive feature of human beings, which, thanks to their expression, can encompass the complexity of the entire person—their body and their spirit
- Published to accompany an exhibition at Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, from 8 December 2023 to 28 April 2024

The volume accompanying an exhibition at Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, from 8 December 2023 to 28 April 2024 invites us to reflect on the role a face can play in mediating communication through the gaze. We are all aware of how powerful it can be when eyes meet, as well as their crucial role in giving dignity to people through caring. But the face can also be considered from another, almost conflicting, point of view, as a visible surface masking the invisible aspects of the human being: it can either reveal or conceal feelings and emotions, thoughts and concerns…

The subject of faces deserves to be explored here in all its anthropological depth. In Art Brut, its production marked as it is by a powerful creative urge, this exploration takes on a singular dimension, with the presentation of works whose figurative content facilitates the encounter with this inalienable aspect of humanity, which becomes somehow inevitable, regardless of the marginality of the social and cultural acknowledgement of the artists.

These faces, whether withdrawn or seeking, with their attentive, questioning, communicative, absent, or empty expressions, reflect a manner of relating to the world that interrogates, through a *mise en abyme* of sorts, our very encounter with humanity.

Pascal Roman is a professor of Clinical Psychology, Psychopathology, and Psychoanalysis. **Marc Décimo** is a professor of Contemporary Art History at the University of Paris Ouest-Nanterre and director of the Collège de Pataphysique.

Published 31st Jan 2024