

Media release, 22 May 2026

Pierre Huyghe

24 May – 13 September 2026

This summer, Fondation Beyeler will present the first solo exhibition of Pierre Huyghe (*1962, Paris) in a Swiss museum, bringing together new works, recent films, and selected earlier pieces by one of the most innovative artists of his generation.

For more than two decades, Pierre Huyghe has challenged conventional ideas of what an exhibition can be, as exemplified by his participation in Documenta 13 (2012) and Skulptur Projekte Münster (2017). He is recognized for creating exhibitions as speculative fictions from which emerge other modalities of the world – with continuities between life forms, technology, biological and inert matter, that constantly learn, modify, and evolve. His works are not static objects, but dynamic situations shaped by time and unpredictability.

Conceived for the Fondation Beyeler, the exhibition becomes a site-specific experience where each work and the in-between form an ambiguous threshold. Through the interplay of shifting works, combining moving images, sound, objects, living organisms, and machine learning, the exhibition unfolds to the rhythms of *Apnea*, 2026. An artificial breathing organ, curled underwater, breathes at a human rhythm, its membrane oscillates according to apnea. Air, sound and subtle vibrations circulate through walls, until they are desynchronized or interrupted, forming a shared respiratory field that permeates the entire exhibition.

This indeterminate state extends further in *Alchimia*, 2026, where a worm, a larval ancestor of the human unconscious, lies at the threshold of a door. Animated by breath, it murmurs and hums into surrounding matter in a polyphony of voices; when deprived of air, it falters and convulses. Like *Apnea*, it foregrounds respiration as both a physical and symbolic force, shaping our experience.

Subtle experiences, as much felt as observed, open onto an encounter with the unknown. This condition is reinforced by the presence of his most recent film, *Liminals*, 2025. *Liminals*, unfolds as a contemporary myth, it simulates a non-human condition and explores uncertainty. A hollow and faceless human-like figure emerges from shifting states and attempts to exist in a realm outside time and space. “A liminal state, incessant dance of matter”, as described by the artist, where multiple possibilities coexist at once, where every moment is a maybe. As inner and outer realms fold together, boundaries between body, environment and shaping forces dissolve. The film explores whether one can relate to such a reality at all, and what conditions might allow multiple states of existence to be experienced at once.

In this exhibition, a large, closed gate, *Adversary*, 2026, stands as a threshold, at once image and access to what lies beyond. A mental image, a co-production of imagination between human and machine, materialized in a bas-relief door. One single image actualized among all possibilities of mental images. In *Camata*, 2024, a set of machines appears to perform an unknown ritual on an unburied skeleton found in the Atacama lifeless desert in Chile. It is at once an endless funeral rite, a learning process, and the formation of a bodyless subjectivity. Without linearity, beginning or end, the film is continuously re-edited in real time through sensors embedded in the exhibition space. Within the exhibition, in *Timekeeper*, 2026, layers of walls paints and sediments settle across surfaces, while *Light Dust*, 2026, spreads throughout the space, forming a continuous floor. Coloured dust, shifting patterns, and casted artificial light unfold across floors, walls and the ceiling, making time and light perceptible matter.

The works no longer operate as isolated entities but emerge as permeable situations. Movements, images, and events emerge – sometimes synchronized, sometimes dissonant. Earlier works and new productions coexist as active presences within a set of relations that continually reconfigure themselves, giving rise to new narratives.

The exhibition at Fondation Beyeler invites visitors into a “soulcape” – an inner world composed of multiple temporalities, voices, and states. A polyphony that opens onto moments of contradiction and perplexity. It continues the artist’s exploration of a metaphysical and fictional approach to existence, without hierarchy between fiction and reality, the living and the artificial, the human and the non-human. Both sensory and reflective, the exhibition adopts an outside perspective that extends beyond the human experience, becoming the site of formation of subjectivities and opening onto alternative dimensions of reality.

For Pierre Huyghe “fictions are vehicles that give us access to other possible worlds, to a counterfactual imagination. Such fictions, separated from the known, unconstrained by the here and now, are open to speculation, to other roads not taken. They make it possible to experience ourselves from the outside.”

Curators: Mouna Mekouar, Curator at Large, Fondation Beyeler; and Anne Stenne, independent curator.
Project Managers: Charlotte Sarrazin, Associate Curator, Fondation Beyeler; and Paola Ravagni, Head of Production and Exhibition, Pierre Huyghe’s Studio

The exhibition is generously supported by:

Beyeler-Stiftung
Hansjörg Wyss, Wyss Foundation
Thomas & Doris Ammann Stiftung, Zurich

Renato F. Bromfman and Vania F. Rolemberg
Eleanor Heyman Propp
Novartis

as well as further patrons who prefer to remain anonymous.

The art education programme and the free admission scheme for children and young adults up to 25 are supported by the Thomas & Doris Ammann Foundation, Zurich.

Press images are available under www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images

Fondation Beyeler

The Fondation Beyeler in Riehen near Basel is internationally renowned for its high-calibre exhibitions, its significant collection of modern and contemporary art, as well as its ambitious schedule of events. The museum building was designed by Renzo Piano in the idyllic setting of a park with venerable trees and water lily ponds. It boasts a unique location in the heart of a local recreation area, looking out onto fields, pastures and vineyards close to the foothills of the Black Forest. In collaboration with Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, the Fondation Beyeler is constructing a new museum building in the adjoining park, thus further enhancing the harmonious interplay of art, architecture and nature.

Further information:

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Fondation Beyeler opening hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, Wednesday through 8 p.m.



Pierre Huyghe

Liminals, 2025

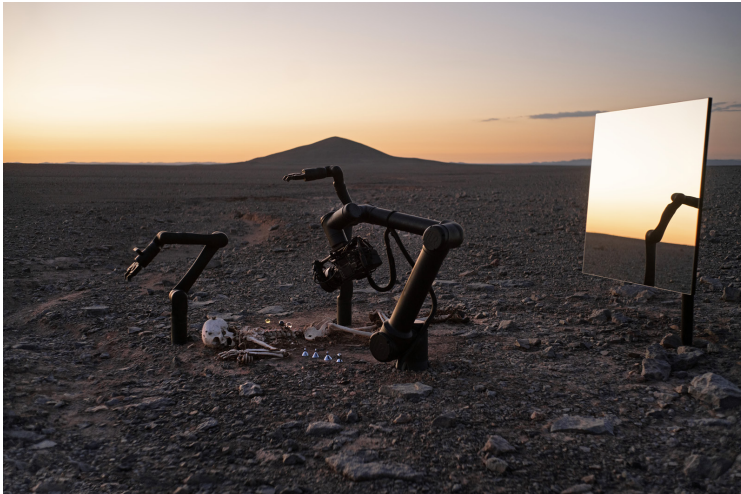
Film, sound, body and landscape photogrammetric scans, motion capture, and real-time physical recording through game engine

Commissioned by LAS Art Foundation and Hartwig Art Foundation

Collection of LAS Art Foundation

Courtesy the artist, LAS Art Foundation, and Hartwig Art Foundation; Galerie Chantal Crousel; Marian Goodman Gallery; Hauser & Wirth; Esther Schipper; TARO NASU; and Anna Lena Films, Paris

© Pierre Huyghe, represented by ProLitteris (CH) / ADAGP (FR)



Pierre Huyghe

Camata, 2024

Photograph

Robotics driven by machine learning, self-directed film

edited in real time, sound, sensors

Collection Maja Hoffmann / Luma Foundation

© Pierre Huyghe, represented by ProLitteris (CH) / ADAGP (FR)



Pierre Huyghe

Human Mask, 2014

Film still

Film, color, sound, 19 min.

Collection Maja Hoffmann / Luma Foundation

© Pierre Huyghe, represented by ProLitteris (CH) / ADAGP (FR)

Press images: www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images

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Biography Pierre Huyghe

Pierre Huyghe (born in 1962, Paris) lives and works in Santiago, Chile. His work is internationally known and presented in various exhibitions around the world: “Liminals”, LAS, Berlin (2026); “Liminal”, Pinault Collection, Venice (2024); “Variants”, Kistefos Museum, Jevnaker (2022); “After UUmwelt”, Luma Foundation, Arles (2021); “UUmwelt”, Serpentine Gallery, London (2018); “After ALife Ahead”, Skulptur Projekte Münster (2017); “The Roof Garden Commission”, Metropolitan Museum, New York (2015); “Pierre Huyghe”, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2014), Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2014) and Centre Pompidou Paris (2013). In 2012, his work *Untilled* was one of the most critically acclaimed contributions to dOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel. In 2019, he was appointed Artistic Director of Okayama Art Summit: If the Snake.

The artist's works are included in the collections of the Centre Pompidou, Paris; The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Kunstmuseum Basel; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; National Gallery, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; SFMOMA, San Francisco; Tate Modern, London, among others.

Associated Events “Pierre Huyghe”

Events

Breathwork

Friday, 5 June, 9–10 a.m.

Wednesday, 12 August, 9–10 a.m.

Tuesday, 25 August, 6.30–7.30 p.m.

Participants immerse themselves in a unique experience that unites mind, body and breath. Inspired by the ambiance of the Pierre Huyghe exhibition, the Breath Fast Club invites you to change down a gear and find your own balance through conscious breathing. Each session begins with a brief introduction to Pierre Huyghe's artistic world, followed by a 30–40 minute breathing exercise led by Rafael Schwarzmann / Breath Fast Club.

The morning events take place before the Museum opens, while the evening event offers participants a moment of reflection after their visit, allowing them to leave the exhibition with a renewed sense of clarity and tranquillity (in German).

Price: Admission + CHF 7.–

Art Breakfast

Sunday, 7 June, 5 July and 16 August, 9–12 a.m.

A delicious breakfast at the Beyeler Restaurant im Park, followed at 11 a.m. by a guided tour of the current exhibition (in German).

Price: Adults CHF 80.– / IV CHF 75.– / Visitors up to age 25 CHF 55.– / Art Club, Young Art Club, Friends of the Fondation Beyeler CHF 48.–

Storytelling Café “Looking – Listening – Growing”

Tuesday, 9 June and 18 August, 2.30 p.m.–4.30 p.m.

Pierre Huyghe's work opens new perspectives onto the connectedness of humans and living matter. Drawing inspiration from the French artist's works, this session of the Storytelling Café is devoted to the topic of Looking – Listening – Growing. It centres on moments in which we attentively perceive and register the way all things are related and engaging in exchange. We consider situations that surprise us, change us, or make us grow (in German).

Moderation: Monika Hungerbühler, feminist theologian and pastoral worker, trained Storytelling Café moderator, accompanied by a Fondation Beyeler art educator. Open to all 18 and over.

Price: Participation is free with a valid ticket.

Wednesday Matinée

Wednesday, 24 June, 10–12 a.m.

The Wednesday Matinée invites visitors to explore the fascinating universe of artist Pierre Huyghe (*1962, Paris), whose works merge reality and fiction. Cinematic, technological and biological elements are combined into dynamic situations, giving rise to new subjectivities that evolve and develop over time. This comprehensive exhibition features new creations alongside key works of the past years (in German).

Price: CHF 10.– (incl. admission fee)

Tours

A Work in Conversation

Every second Wednesday from 10 June, 12.30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Every second Wednesday in the month at midday, a 30-minute work viewing takes place during which a brief but intensive examination of a selected artwork from the “Pierre Huyghe” exhibition can be enjoyed.

Participants learn about the work, its origin and background and can exchange their thoughts and ideas in interactive discussions (in German).

10 June: *Umwelt*, 2011
24 June: *Cambrian Explosion*, 2019
8 July: *Camata*, 2024 – ongoing
22 July: *Timekeeper*, 2026
5 August: *Human Mask*, 2014
19 August: *Cambrian Explosion*, 2019
2 September: *Idiom*, 2024 – ongoing

Price: Admission fee + CHF 7. –

Curator's Tour

Wednesday, 10 June (in French) and 12 August (in German), 6.30–7.30 p.m.

See the “Pierre Huyghe” exhibition through the eyes of the show's curators on this tour.

Price: CHF 35.– / Art Club, Young Art Club, Friends of the Fondation Beyeler, Museums–PASS–Musées CHF 10.–

Guided tour for deaf visitors

Thursday, 25 June and 30 July, 4.30–5.30 p.m.

During the tour specifically for deaf or hearing impaired visitors, interpreters translate the discussion of selected works in the exhibition into German Sign Language.

Visitors with a hearing aid or cochlea implant can join with the help of an induction loop.

Accompanying persons of people with hearing impairments who are unable to visit the museum independently can participate free of charge.

Price: Participation in the tour is free with a valid admission ticket.

Guided tour for visitors with visual impairments

Thursday, 2 July and 27 August, 4.30–5.30 p.m.

This tour makes the exhibition accessible to blind visitors and visitors with visual impairments. Selected works are discussed in depth. Materials and objects are used to create an immersive art experience (in German).

Participation is free with a valid admission ticket. Companions of people with visual impairments or blindness who are unable to visit the museum independently also participate free of charge. Guide dogs are permitted in the museum.

Price: admission fee / free for accompanying person

Workshops

One-day workshop “Living systems”

Saturday, 30 May, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

A guided tour of the current exhibition, focusing on speculative realism and its connection to natural phenomena, provides inspiration for participants' own creative experimentation.

A hybrid collage is created, using photographs, drawings, pressed organic matter and electronic components. This collage reacts to touch with sounds produced beforehand by the participants themselves. The workshop is conceived and led by Sophie Kellner – designer and lecturer in Tender and Physical Computing at the HGK Basel. Open to all 16 and over with an interest in precision handiwork.

Price: admission fee + CHF 60.–

Workshop for children

Wednesday, 10 June and 26 August, 2–4.30 p.m.

An adventure tour of the exhibition serves as the starting point for this workshop, providing inspiration for expressing one's own creativity. Our studio space allows for artistic experimentation, leading up to producing a personal work of art.

Price: CHF 20.– (incl. Material)

A nascent language: writing workshop with Eva Leuenberger

Wednesday, 10 June and 26 August, 2–4.30 p.m.

Pierre Huyghe's artistic practice dissolves the supposed opposition between nature and technology. It combines cinematic, technological, digital and biological elements into dynamic processes – such as the development of non-human communication. Through experimental free association writing about these hybrid works, participants find and invent words and texts, guided by the Swiss poet Eva Leuenberger (*1991 Bern, lives in Biel). Open to all 18 and over.

Price: CHF 20.– (incl. Material)

Sketch it!

Wednesday, 24 June and 22 July, 6.30–7.30 p.m.

"Sketch It!" provides an opportunity to engage creatively with selected works on display at the Fondation Beyeler. Participants thus gain a fresh perspective on the original works. All materials provided.

Price: admission fee + CHF 10.–

Open Studio

Saturday/Sunday, 27/28 June, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. each day

Saturday/Sunday, 25/26 July, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. each day

Saturday/Sunday, 29/30 August, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. each day

The Open Studio workshops are a hands-on opportunity to find out more about the themes and techniques used by artists and to experiment with different creative means.

No registration necessary. Attendance is free and open to all age groups (children up to 12 accompanied by an adult).

Price: free admission

New realities. "Speculative Drawing" workshop

Wednesday, 15 July and 19 August, 6.00–8.30 p.m.

A guided tour of the current exhibition, focusing on speculative realism and its connection to natural phenomena, provides inspiration for participants' own creative experimentation. Using various materials and techniques, participants produce fictional landscapes. Open to all 18 and over. No prior knowledge required.

Price: admission fee + CHF 20.–

Further offers

Fondation Beyeler opening hours:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, Wednesday through 8 p.m.

Public guided tours and events

Daily programme at: fondationbeyeler.ch/en/programme/calendar

“Pierre Huyghe” – exhibited works

Room 1

Umwelt, 2011

Ants

Courtesy the artist and Esther Schipper, Berlin / Paris / Seoul

Sans Titre, 2014

Carpet extracted from the Museum Ludwig, Cologne, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist and Esther Schipper, Berlin / Paris / Seoul

Light Dust, 2026

Printed carpet, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist

Room 2

Timekeeper, 2026

Architectural intervention, succession of paints from previous exhibitions, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist

Pierre Huyghe, Valentina Muhr, and Estela Huyghe-Muhr

Estelarium, 2015

Basalt, 23 x 54 x 49 cm

Courtesy the artists

Light Dust, 2026

Printed carpet, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist

Room 3

Liminals, 2025

Film, sound, body and landscape photogrammetric scans, motion capture, and real-time physical recording through game engine

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Light Dust, 2026

Printed carpet, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist

Room 4

Cambrian Explosion 19, 2013

Aquarium, horseshoe crabs, arrow crabs, anemones, sand, floating rock, 175 x 190 x 220 cm

Private collection

L'hésitant, 2026

Steel track, coated aluminum panel, motors, control unit, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist

Light Dust, 2026
Printed carpet, dimensions variable
Courtesy the artist

Room 5 *Apnea*, 2026
Aquarium, soft robotics, silicone, mineral cast landscape, floating rock, sound, control unit, ventilation system, holes in walls, switchable glass, aquarium: 171 x 139 x 175 cm, holes: dia. 4 cm, switchable glass: 200 x 350 cm
Courtesy the artist

Light Dust, 2026
Printed carpet, dimensions variable
Courtesy the artist

Room 6 *Human Mask*, 2014
Film, color, sound, 19 min.
Collection Maja Hoffmann / Luma Foundation

Light Dust, 2026
Printed carpet, dimensions variable
Courtesy the artist

Room 7 *Adversary*, 2026
Aluminum cast, 350 x 350 x 7 cm
Courtesy the artist

Max Ernst
The Witch, 1941
Oil on canvas, 24.5 x 19 cm
Princeton University Art Museum
Gift of Alfred H. Barr Jr., Class of 1922, and Mrs. Barr

Camata, 2024
Robotics driven by machine learning, self-directed film edited in real time, sound, sensors
Collection Maja Hoffmann / Luma Foundation

Idiom, 2024—ongoing
Real-time voice generated by neural network, golden LED mask, dimensions variable
Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel

Anna Huyghe
L'adestinée, 2013–26
Wood, metal, 8.3 x 6.4 x 6.5 cm
Courtesy Pierre Huyghe

Light Dust, 2026
Printed carpet, dimensions variable
Courtesy the artist

Room 8 *Alchimia*, 2026
Soft robotics, silicone, sound, control unit, dimensions variable
Courtesy the artist

L'hésitant, 2026

Steel track, coated aluminum panel, motors, control unit, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist

Light Dust, 2026

Printed carpet, dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist

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The Art Education Programme and enabling free admission for children and young adults up to 25 years are supported by the Thomas & Doris Ammann Foundation, Zurich.