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PRESS KIT

SPRING 2026 AT MBAL

POUR TOUT FAIRE, IL FAUT UNE FLEUR

**COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION
CURATED BY NICOLAS POLLI**

28 MARCH - 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

EXHIBITION OPENING ON 27 MARCH 6 P.M.



The MBAL is pleased to present, as part of its Spring 2026 season, the exhibition *Pour tout faire, il faut une fleur* (to make anything, a flower is needed). Conceived by Swiss artist, graphic designer, publisher, and educator **Nicolas Polli**, the project offers an original reflection on the intersections between photography, graphic design, and hybrid artistic practices. The exhibition brings together a constellation of Swiss and international creators from diverse disciplines, united by a common desire to blur traditional boundaries between artistic fields. Upcycling and circularity are at the heart of this investigation, where raw materials and creative processes intermingle to generate new beginnings.

The exhibition arises from a need to understand how different areas of graphic arts interconnect with one another. It explores particularly the ambivalence of an era marked both by professional hyper-specialization and by a growing demand for versatility — a tension reflected in **Nicolas Polli's** own career as a photographer, graphic designer, publisher, and educator.

Through a dynamic and immersive scenography, the exhibition highlights a generation of artists whose paths escape conventional classifications. It emphasizes stories of training, overlapping influences, the imagination of childhood, and contemporary forms of collaboration and transmission. The selected artists dissect in depth the cycle of things: tools merge with final outcomes, behind-the-scenes processes become central pieces themselves, actions provoke reactions, and repetitions generate differences.

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A MUSÉE DES
BEAUX-ARTS
LE LOCLE

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Recycling of materials is central to this process: for example, design elements created by one of the artists, originally made from materials salvaged from past exhibitions, are repurposed again as structures intended to host the works on display. In this way, the exhibition can be understood as an exploration of processes, where even mistakes become grounds for experimentation.

It is an ambitious project, deeply rooted in the Swiss context while remaining resolutely international, and it speaks as much to art lovers as to emerging creators in search of alternative models of practice.

Conceived as a space for dialogue, the exhibition brings together photographic works as well as publications, graphic installations, editorial objects, personal archives, as well as painting and sculpture. It also features a participatory installation designed for children in the Salle Marie-Anne Calame and the adjacent space, offering young visitors an opportunity to engage directly with the themes of the exhibition.

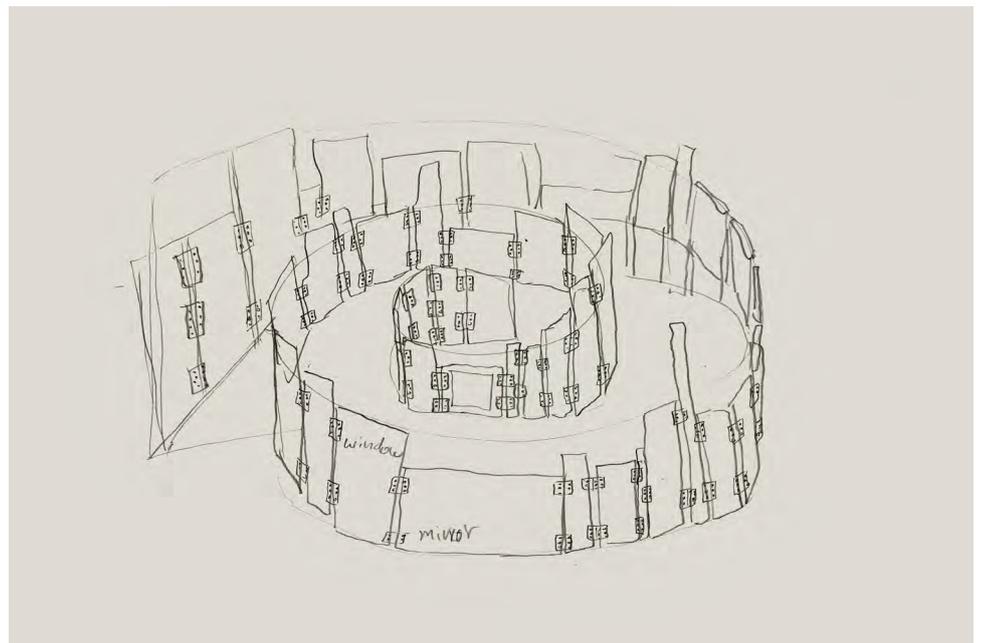
In order to reinforce the idea of circularity and self-production, a publication has been designed that serves both as a catalogue and as an accompanying text in the exhibition rooms. Five sheets in 70 x 100 cm offset format will be printed in multiple copies and made available to visitors in the cafeteria area. These are made to be taken, folded and assembled by the public, so that they can be consulted throughout the exhibition. The sheets thus form a self-produced 'catalogue', extending the exhibition experience through a participatory gesture.



Jeanne Jacob, *Les chuchotements*, 2025
Courtesy of the artist.

Artists featured :

- Ayed Arafah
- Ruth van Beek
- Linus Bill & Adrien Horni
- Alina Frieske
- Sabine Hess
- Jeanne Jacob
- Enzo Mari
- Aldo Mozzini
- Nicolas Polli
- Olga Prader
- Erin O'Keefe
- Peter Fischli & David Weiss



Ayed Arafah, preparatory sketch, 2025
Courtesy of the artist. In collaboration with Wonder Cabinet Bethléem, Palestine.

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Nicolas Polli

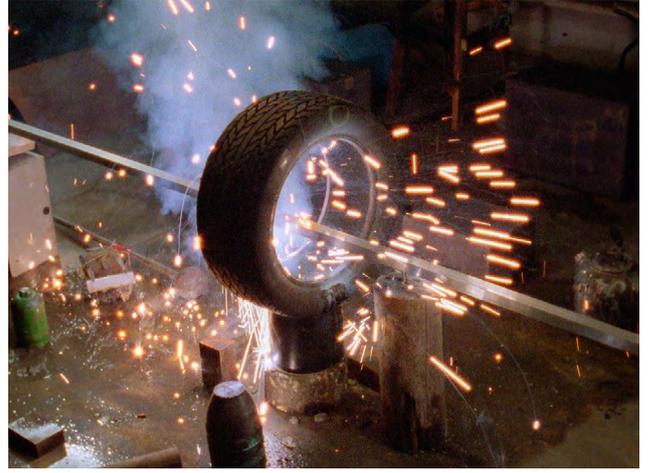
Curator

As a professional in the field of graphic arts, **Nicolas Polli** is at the heart of these concerns. Born in 1989 in Brusino Arsizio, Switzerland, Polli is a Swiss photographer, graphic designer, editor, and educator. He studied Art Direction at ECAL (École cantonale d'art de Lausanne), where he received his Master's degree. Polli works fluidly between personal projects and commercial commissions. His photographic work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and he has published two monographs. Between 2012 and 2020, he co-founded and co-edited YETmagazine, a publication devoted to contemporary photography that gained international recognition and received a Swiss Design Award. In 2018 and 2020 he was awarded the Swiss Design Award. In 2016, he began developing his independent studio, Atelier CIAO, specialising in editorial design and still life photography. After working with several publishers, he founded his own experimental editorial platform, CIAO Press, which focuses on contemporary photography, illustration, and design. Polli has taught photography and photobook design at various universities and, since 2021, has been a resident at Atelier Robert in Biel/Bienne.



Nicolas Polli, *Per fare tutto, ci vuole un fiore*, 2025
Courtesy of the artist.

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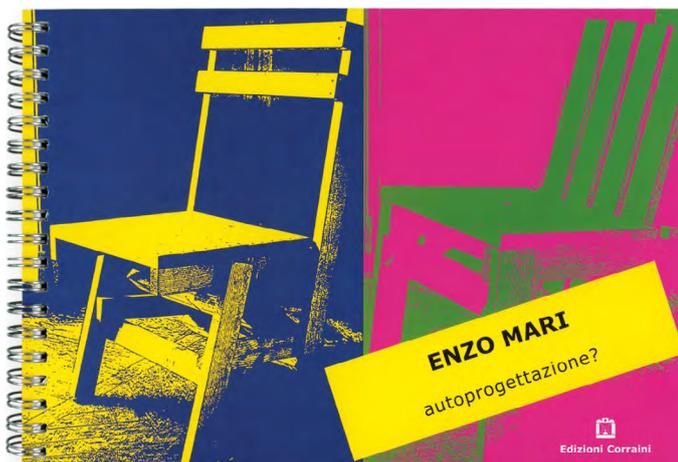


Peter Fischli & David Weiss, *The Way Things Go* (video extract), 1986-1989. Courtesy of Estate Peter Fischli David Weiss, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Matthew Marks and Sprüth Magers.

Highlights of the Spring 2026 season

- **Opening reception of the exhibition**
27 March 2026 - 6 p.m.
In presence of the artists and the curator Nicolas Polli, DJ set with LUDj
- **Conversation on the legendary figure of Enzo Mari**
Date to be confirmed - 5:30 p.m.
Discussion with Emanuele Quinz (art and design historian, Paris 8), Barbara Casavecchia (editor-in-chief Mousse magazine) and Nicolas Polli.
- **Visit of the exhibition in presence of the artists**
Date to be confirmed - 5:30 p.m.
- **Conversation on artist book publishing**
29 May 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
Discussion with Bruno Ceschel (Fondateur de Self Publish Be Happy) and Nicolas Polli (CIAO Press)
- **Creative workshops**
April, May and June 2026
For adults and children with the MBAL mediation team
- **Closing concert**
6 Septembre 2026 - 5:30 p.m.
With Swiss musician Leoni Leoni

More information on the EVENTS page of the museum :
<https://www.mbal.ch/en/events/>

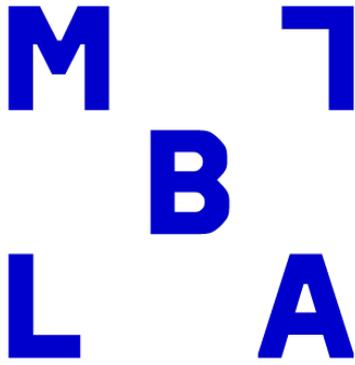


Enzo Mari, cover of *autoprogettazione ?*, 1974, édition de 2002, Corraini Edizioni

This exhibition has received support from:

fondation suisse pour la culture
prohelvetia





THE FINE ARTS MUSEUM OF LOCLE - MBAL

The Fine Arts Museum of Le Locle – MBAL is a leading institution in Switzerland with an international reputation, thanks to programming that is both bold and accessible. The museum offers monographic and thematic exhibitions that broaden perspectives and bring together art from yesterday and today, from here and elsewhere, creating a dialogue between works from its collection and contemporary Swiss and international creation.

Located in the city centre of Le Locle and established in 1862, the MBAL occupies a magnificent Art Nouveau building renovated in 2014. It features 800 m² of exhibition space as well as a virtual platform dedicated to digital art, ORBIT_E. The collection, comprising around 5,000 pieces – paintings, sculptures, and works on paper by Swiss and international artists from the 17th century to today – also includes prestigious deposits such as those from the Swiss Confederation and the Gottfried Keller Foundation.

Under the direction of curator and writer Federica Chiocchetti (PhD) since 2022, MBAL pursues an inclusive programming and an acquisition policy committed to gender equality, with the goal of achieving parity.



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Wednesday - Sunday: 11:00 - 17:00

First Sunday of the month : Free admission