

# *The Narcissus Theorem* Jean-Michel Othoniel

September 28, 2021 – January 2, 2022



Petit Palais  
Musée des Beaux-Arts  
de la Ville de Paris

Information  
petitpalais.paris.fr

**From September 28, 2021 to January 2, 2022, at the invitation of the Petit Palais, Jean-Michel Othoniel is taking over the museum and its garden. This will be the artist's biggest solo show in Paris since his retrospective *My Way* at the Centre Pompidou in 2011.**

For the occasion, with more than 70 new artworks, Othoniel has invented "The Narcissus Theorem," about a man-flower who, in reflecting himself, reflects the world around him. According to Gaston Bachelard "narcissism is not always neurotic. It can also play a positive role in aesthetic work. Sublimation is not always the negation of desire. It can be sublimation for the sake of an ideal".

Othoniel weaves a web of unreality, enchantment, illusion and liberation of the imagination. *Rivers of blue bricks*, *Lotus*, *Necklaces*, *Crown of the Night*, *Wild Knots*, and *Precious Stonewall* are hidden in the architecture, placed on the water mirrors of the pools, hanging from trees; new works dialogue with the architecture of the Petit Palais and the golds go its garden.

This exhibition is a message of opening, freely given to the public. Placed under the sign of re-enchantment and the theory of reflections that the artist has been developing for going on ten years in a dialogue with the Mexican mathematician Aubin Arroyo, this exhibition is an occasion to dream and, as long as it lasts, to resist the disillusionment of the world.

## Curation

Christophe Leribault, director of the Petit Palais  
Juliette Singer, chief curator of heritage, responsible for contemporary art projects at the Petit Palais

Exhibition organized with the support of Perrotin and Christian Dior Parfums as part of its *Cultural Gardens* initiative.

On this occasion, Actes Sud is producing a book to be co-published by Perrotin at the time of the exhibition.



Jean-Michel Othoniel, *Gold Lotus*, 2019  
Photo: Claire Dorn / Courtesy of the Artist & Perrotin  
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