



**AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AU ROYAUME-UNI**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

**INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS**
ROYAUME-UNI



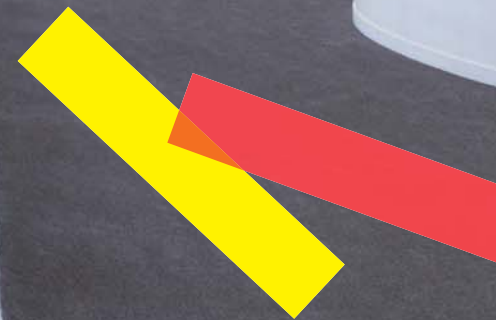
**C'NE
LUMIÈRE I**

**LA
MÉTAPHORE**

**C'NET
LUMIÈRE II**

French Culture as You Like It

Spring - Summer Highlights 2021







The Institut français du Royaume-Uni reopens its doors on 17 May 2021 with a bang!

Novelties and festivities include a revamped foyer and a new space, L'Atelier, the launch of Beyond Words Literature Festival, a revised offer for the whole family, and many new films, including a preview screening of Academy Awards and BAFTA-winning *The Father*.

We are thrilled to welcome back our audiences onsite, for nothing can replace the magic of watching a film on the big screen, sharing a cultural experience in real life, or debate over a glass of wine; in other words, being together.

"Together" was this year's Night of Ideas' motto, together we get the strength to go through these difficult times, and together the Institut brings us back.

Together with our British friends, we'll keep weaving a shared future, not only in London but also throughout the United Kingdom, thanks also to our flagship Franco-British programmes supporting artists and creation from both sides of the Channel.

Together, we'll keep imagining a better, more inclusive and more sustainable future.

Together with my team, we look forward to welcoming you back at the Institut.

A très bientôt !

Bertrand Buchwalter

Cultural Counsellor, French Embassy to the UK
Director, Institut français du Royaume-Uni



Connexion

Renovation of the Foyer

The Institut français reopens with a newly revamped Foyer enhancing the visitor's experience and a brand-new space, L'Atelier, dedicated to educational activities.

From the very access to the building to the comfy Ciné Lumière seats, the friendly Café Tangerine to the Library rooms, the visitor's journey has been improved while new signage and screens better display the information.

Thanks to the addition of a second lift leading to the lower ground floor, where the second screen Ciné Lumière II is located, public spaces are now 100% accessible to all.

The magnificent Art Deco features are highlighted, with new designer furniture adding a stylish touch to the space, and special lighting and acoustic treatment contribute to create a pleasant atmosphere.

Special thanks to the French Institute Trust, the Patron's Circle and the generous donors whose support has made possible the renovation of the foyer.



CONNEXION

FRENCH
INSTITUTE
TRUST



Promoting the French Language

At the heart of the Institut français' mission is the teaching of the French language, through its Language Centre and the UK-wide French network including the Institut français d'Ecosse and 11 Alliances Françaises. Furthermore, the Institut collaborates with schools throughout the UK on educational programmes to promote the learning of French so it remains among the UK's top choices for the study of a foreign language, and it also organises trainings for teachers of French.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/education

Francophonie

The full month of March was dedicated to the Francophonie with a nationwide series of events promoting the diversity and wealth of the French language. Among the highlights, the French Pop Video competition has gathered more than 150 primary and secondary students in the UK school system, including England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, and the Channel Islands. The grand winners of the French song video contest will be announced during a special awards ceremony followed by a live concert with a French talent as part of the Fête de la musique 2021.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/francophonie



Language Centre

Attracting 7000 students every year, whether onsite or online, the Language Centre of the Institut français has proved its excellence in the teaching of French since 1910. It offers general French courses as well as corporate training, business French, and courses on various aspects of French culture and current affairs. It also provides courses catered to young learners. Under the guidance of 80 highly qualified teachers, who are all native French speakers, students learn in a friendly and stimulating environment.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/french-courses

Renovation Campaign

The Institut français, with the support of its Trust, is launching a large-scale renovation project, consisting in 3 successive stages to modernise its Language Centre, both onsite and online.

Ideally located in front of the South Kensington tube station, its listed building needs to have its spaces revamped to keep welcoming people in the best way possible, and live up to the excellence of its teaching.

The Institut will also lead an important work on its digital solutions to improve the online experience of students. They will thus enjoy a more efficient navigation, optimised access to content, innovative learning tools and an attractive studying environment.

www.institut-francais.org.uk



**FRENCH
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// Promoting the French Language

Books & Ideas

La Médiathèque

The library of the Institut français is the largest free-access collection of French material in the UK, with nearly 50,000 items, completed by an extensive collection of digital resources on its platform Culturethèque.

Freshly revamped, easy to access, dynamic and responsive, the library's new online catalogue enables readers to explore its rich collection of books, films, music for all ages and all language levels, in just a few clicks.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/la-mediathèque

Burgess Programme

Literary fiction, non-fiction, comics, children's literature: the best of French literature in English translation is supported by the Institut français through the Burgess Translation Programme (539 titles supported since 1993).

This year and among others, *Civilisations* by Laurent Binet (Vintage), *The Art of Losing* by Alice Zeniter (Picador), *Frink and Freud* by Lionel Richerand (SelfMadeHero) will be featured in the Beyond Words Festival. This is achieved thanks to all the UK publishers and translators who make French fiction and non-fiction accessible to British readers!

www.institut-francais.org.uk/burgess



Beyond Words Festival

The Institut français reopens its doors and goes Beyond Words, onsite, online, or both, with its festival dedicated to the best of French literature in English translation. It is largely thanks to literature that we have managed to get through this year, confined to our rooms, where imagination was synonymous with escape. Now great literature is back in top form.

Expect the hottest publications, readings, exclusive conversations, screen adaptations, music and a great line-up including acclaimed authors Maylis de Kerangal, Laurent Binet, Ananda Devi, Douglas Stuart or Eric Vuillard, and new voices Rebecca Watson, Alice Zeniter, Julia Kerninon and Delphine Minoui, to name but a few.

17-23 May 2021

www.beyondwordslitfest.co.uk

Debates

Crossing French, British and European perspectives, the Institut français invites audiences to reflect upon issues central to our time, not only as part of the Night of Ideas in January, but also all the year-long, through festivals, debates and screenings.

On Topic ●

This year's edition of Beyond Words festival of literature is very much in touch with current affairs and will take us beyond borders and out of our comfort zone, tackling the Syrian war, the Franco-Algerian relationship, decolonial feminism or poverty.

Alice Zeniter, Kaouther Adimi and Natalya Vince will discuss how trans-Mediterranean literary ties continue to inform the Franco-Algerian relationship. After a decade of war in Syria, Albert Londres-prized journalist Delphine Minoui will explore how literature has coped with the war and the devastation it has left in its wake.

Eric Vuillard and Booker Prize winner Douglas Stuart will dive into the long, terrible, and ongoing history of poverty. As for bestselling author Laurent Binet, he will put us in the strange situation of having to imagine an inverted globalisation in which Europe would be the colonised and not the coloniser.

www.beyondwordslitfest.co.uk
www.institut-francais.org.uk/talks

// **Books & Ideas**



Laurent Binet ©Jean-François Paga



Alice Zeniter



Kaouther Adimi



Eric Vuillard ©Melania Avanzato

Refugee Week



Funan, dir. D. Do

The Refugee Week seems to be the perfect time to remind us of what other people go through to find some kind of normalcy in their everyday life and to give us clues on how to help them. On this occasion we will show the beautiful and moving animation film *Funan* (also part of our Anima(c)tion series), during a special event with director Denis Do. A tribute to his mother, *Funan* tells of her survival and struggle during the Khmer Rouge regime. A panel and events with our long-time partner the RBKC Refugee Welcome Committee, the association Children of the Mekong and other key organisations will welcome audiences from all horizons.

16-20 June (tbc)

www.institut-francais.org.uk/refugee-week

New Forms of Journalism

In the last few years, new exciting forms of journalism have emerged. Podcasts and audio storytelling have become incredibly popular. In France, journalists such as Lauren Bastide (*La Poudre, Nouvelle Écoutes*), Sophie-Marie Larrouy (*A bientôt de te revoir, Binge Audio*) and Charlotte Pudlowski (*Transfert, Slate* and founder of *Louie Media*) are considered as pioneers on the topics they cover (feminism, work culture, identity politics). We will discuss this phenomenon with podcasters at the forefront from both countries.

www.institut-francais.org.uk



/// Books & Ideas



Cinema in all its Glory

Ciné Lumière

If you look for the best of French and world cinema, look no further. Ciné Lumière has established itself as one of London's best independent cinemas. With its spacious main screen, Ciné Lumière I, and its new boutique screen, Ciné Lumière II, your favourite cinema is back on top form!

www.institut-francais.org.uk/cine-lumiere



Best of César 2021



La Bonne épouse, dir. M. Provost

While cinemas were closed almost everywhere, we got to see the awards ceremonies without being able to watch any of the films. Hence this broad selection of films nominated and awarded at this year's French César, with documentaries, fiction and animation films, by emerging as well as established directors: a unique opportunity to discover newcomers and see films with your favourite actors. The selection includes *La Bonne épouse* starring Juliette Binoche and *De Gaulle* with Lambert Wilson.



La Nuit venue, dir. F. Farruci

New Releases



In addition to our César season, we will be releasing several award-winning French and European films, including *The Father* by Florian Zeller, *My Donkey, My Lover and I* with Laure Calamy, *Frankie* with Isabelle Huppert, *Sparkling: The Story of Champagne* by Frank Manion, *Night of the Kings* by Philippe Lacôte, and the beautifully restored *Mandabi (The Money Order)* by Ousmane Sembene.



Our programme will also feature long-awaited European and international films such as *Nomadland* by Chloe Zhao, *Another Round* by Thomas Vinterberg and *Ammonite* by Francis Lee, starring Kate Winslet.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/cine-lumiere



// Cinema in all its Glory

From top to bottom: *Frankie*, dir. I. Sachs; *The Father*, dir. F. Zeller; *My Donkey...*, dir. Caroline Vignal; *Nomadland*, dir. C. Zhao; *Another Round*, dir. T. Vinterberg

As Diverse as the World

Ciné Lumière reopens its doors with a rich offer of festival screenings representing cinema from around the world, with both new films and classics, many of them co-produced with France.

We'll kick off with the Spanish Spring Weekend (28-30 May), featuring Pedro Almodóvar's *The Human Voice* after Jean Cocteau's play. We'll then welcome screening of the Bagri Foundation London Indian Film Festival (22 June-2 July). Both festivals will return for second editions in September.



The Human Voice, dir. P. Almodóvar



Arab Blues, dir. M. Labidi Labbé



Mandabi, dir. O. Sembene

Safar Film Festival and Shubbak, the UK's largest festival of contemporary Arab culture, are joining forces this July to offer screenings, discussions and masterclasses, with a special focus on Franco-Tunisian actor Sami Bouajila who won the César 2021 for Best Actor for his role in Mehdi Barsaoui's *A Son*.

From September on, we'll host our usual slate of festivals, including the London Film Festival (6-17 October), the UK Jewish Film Festival, Kino Klassika, the Iranian Film Festival, the first edition of the Tunisian Film Festival and of course our very much awaited French Film Festival in November.

[www.institut-francais.org.uk/
cine-lumiere](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk/cine-lumiere)

/// Cinema in all its Glory





Visual and Performing Arts

Fluxus Art Projects

Fluxus Art Projects is a Franco-British charity launched by the Institut français in London in 2010. It offers artists of both countries a chance to shine on the international art scene at a turning point in their career. It promotes active and fruitful collaboration between France and the UK, by supporting art institutions of both countries organising artistic projects such as exhibitions and residencies of French artists in the UK, as well as British artists in France, curatorial projects and research trips.

In 11 years, Fluxus has supported more than 200 projects, and 250 artists, among them, Philippe Parreno, Samara Scott, Laure Prouvost, Kader Attia, Zineb Sedira, Jeremy Deller, Sonia Boyce, Julie Béna and Mimosa Echard.

www.fluxusartprojects.com



Top picture: Julie Béna, Kunstraum – hors les murs



Samara Scott, CAPC © Arthur Pequin

Cross-Channel Theatre ●

Aiming at promoting French playwrights and new writing in the UK, *Cross-Channel Theatre* gathers a committee of French and British practitioners and experts who select contemporary plays to be translated into English. The selected plays are then presented to professionals through staged readings with a view to having them produced in the UK.

The latest staged reading featuring Alexandra Badea's play, *After Her (A la trace)*, translated by Simon Scardifield and directed by Alice Malin, is available on replay on the Institute's website.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/cross-channel-theatre

Cross-Channel
THEATRE



To the Sound of Music

Diaphonique

Created in 2010, the Diaphonique fund supports classical contemporary music collaborations between France and the UK: commissions, concerts, tours, residencies and educative projects. It has funded 116 commissions and 91 projects performing pieces from 262 composers from both sides of the Channel, among whom Tansy Davies, Laura Bowler, Anna Clyne, Anne Gillis, Betsy Jolas, George Benjamin, Franck Vigroux and Thierry Pécou.

www.diaphonique.org

DIAPHONIQUE

Salons

en musique

The series of chamber music of the Institut français is back with a first live concert on 20 May as part of Beyond Words.

Drawing inspiration from a mixed repertoire including pieces by Erik Satie, Lili Boulanger, Fritz Kreisler, Henry Purcell, and their own compositions, violinist Agathe Max and pianist Anne Lovett meld both classical and contemporary music with electronics and the multi-media installation *Obscure clarté* by visual artist Li Chevalier. More chamber music concerts to come in the Autumn.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/salons-musique





Stories and Images

Anima(c)tion

French animation goes back as far as 1882, beginning with Emile Reynaud's first public screening of *Pantomimes Lumineuses*. Today, France is a major global player in the world of animated film with the European co-production and Oscar nominated *Wolfwalkers* by Tomm Moore & Ross Stewart.

Our new series, Anima(c)tion, aims to focus on French animated gems and will kick off with *Le Roman de Renard*, the first feature-length animation film ever made in France. Exploring techniques and history, with regular screenings of both classic and contemporary films, the programme sets to building bridges between the French and British *savoir-faire* with screenings, talks, Q&As, workshops etc. Open to all ages and levels of knowledge, from animation enthusiasts to those eager to discover this ever evolving, rich and diverse art.

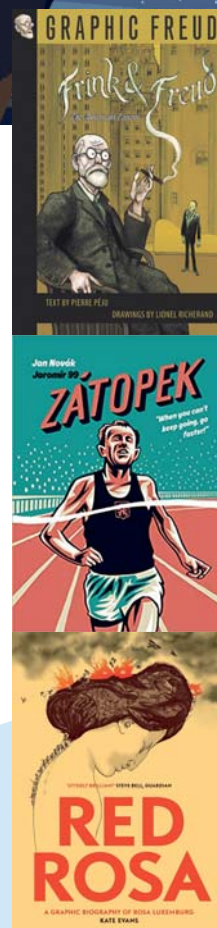
www.institut-francais.org.uk/animaction

Comics / Biographics

We keep celebrating the art of comics with *BD2021: France loves Comics*, and Beyond Words Festival offers us another opportunity to do so. Comics, bandes dessinées, graphic novels... whatever its form, the genre is on top form! It has also become a prized method to convey the lives of great historical figures from Sigmund Freud to Rosa Luxemburg or Emil Zatopek. Cartoonists Kate Evans, Lionel Richerand and Jan Novak join comic veteran Paul Gravett on what makes "biographics" so popular and on the flexibility, they offer in the exploration of the lives of history's greats.

Video Games

The Institut français will continue to champion French talents and to explore the new trends in video games. The next event to look forward to is organised in collaboration with Mayamada and features French creator Miryam Houali, co-founder of the video game studio *Accidental Queens*. Mayamada's GamePads Online are video game events bringing communities together to celebrate the culture we all love, by promoting inclusion and diversity.





Kids' Corner

New spaces, new offers, the kids' corner becomes bigger!

L'Atelier

Part of the Connexion project, L'Atelier is a new multifunctional space dedicated to young audiences. This step free access room will allow classes, children, teenagers and the whole family to enjoy, discover and learn more about the art of cinema in a friendly environment.

Flexible and interactive, hands-on activities, digital experiences and discussions will be on offer in L'Atelier, making it a bubbling discovery space!



www.institut-francais.org.uk/kids-families

CinéFamilies

The CinéKids you know will change into CinéFamilies for the best! The whole family will be able to enjoy time together at the movies during weekends but also weekdays. In addition to our regular screenings and relaxed screenings designed for children with sensory difficulties, our CinéFamilies programme will feature a wider diversity of films complemented by Q&As and events. Our CinéBabies screenings will allow parents to catch the latest films on release while keeping their babies with them. They will also be able to take their toddlers to our CinéTots, a dedicated programme for preschoolers (and future cinephiles) bringing the magic of cinema to the middle of the week.



www.institut-francais.org.uk/kids-families



Bibliothèque Quentin Blake

Named after its beloved patron, Sir Quentin Blake, the children's library of the Institute is rich of a catalogue including thousands of books and material for children up to 12 years old and offers a wide range of activities for children and families.

Until it fully reopens, kids can still enjoy activities online such as role-playing games, storytelling times and craft sessions. As soon as it is safely possible, a variety of new workshops and activities will resume onsite, including nursery rhyme times, writing workshops, art clubs and some video game sessions.

// Kids' Corner

© Quentin Blake 2015





Women Shaping the World

Women Shaping the World is the Institut français' series of events which addresses the issues and perspectives of women's rights and champions the work of female artists, filmmakers and writers.

Pioneer Women Filmmakers in French Cinema

As part of our Classics series, we present a selection of films directed by women who were trailblazers in the history of cinema, from Alice Guy, the first person to make a fiction film, to Germaine Dulac, Jacqueline Audry, Agnès Varda, Nelly Kaplan, Chantal Akerman, Diane Kurys... Many of the films presented have been rediscovered and restored in recent years, while too many films directed by women are still extremely difficult to source.

www.institut-francais/pioneer-women-film.org.uk

The Podcast

This new rendezvous takes place every first Sunday of the month and questions the links between feminism and culture in France and the UK. How do culture and pop culture influence political and social change? How do artists, authors, filmmakers, or theatre directors integrate feminist issues into their work? Each month, we invite two influential voices from both side of the Channel to discuss the intricate links between feminist topics and culture, and hopefully pave the way to a better understanding of the issues at stake.

Coming episodes include online misogyny with Julia Ebner (June), the female body and its representation with Camille Froidevaux-Metterie and Rachel MacLean (July), the influence of pop culture on feminism with Sareeta Domingo and Jennifer Padjemi (August), and decolonising the arts with Françoise Vergès and the Cocoa Butter Club (September).

www.institut-francais.org.uk/women-shaping-the-world



Beyond Words with Women Writers

Women writers take centre stage at Beyond Words Festival. One of the *Observers'* Top 10 debut novelists, Rebecca Watson, and the author of *A Respectable Occupation*, Julia Kerninon discuss with Lauren Elkin how young women authors can bring a different voice to the literary world. As for Françoise Vergès, a veteran of the feminist cause, she publishes *Decolonial Feminism*, a powerful manifesto for an intersectional feminism centered around anticolonialism and anti-racism, which she will discuss with Opinions Editor of *gal-dem* Diyora Shadijanova.

www.beyondwordslitfest.co.uk



Françoise Vergès



Lauren Elkin © Francesca Mantovani

Literature and #MeToo



Literature also allows to voice the unspeakable. At the end of 2019, as women around the world began to speak out, Vanessa Springora reclaims her own story after being abused by famous French writer Matzneff as a young teenager. Devastating in its sobriety, Springora's cathartic memoir, *Consent*, is a major testimony of the #MeToo movement, which will be discussed as part of our monthly book club rendezvous.

3 June

www.institut-francais.org.uk/women-shaping-the-world

WOMEN
SHAPING
THE WORLD

// Women Shaping The World

The Earth Here and Now

Global warming, loss of biodiversity, pollution, natural disasters: our planet is facing major environmental issues today. To save the ecosystem that sustains life on Earth, we have to transform our current globalised system and develop a different relationship to nature.

This year, the Climate Change Conference COP26 will be held in the UK and hosted in Glasgow. It will be the first time nations come together after the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015.

Nature in question

In a series of talks, philosophers, environmentalists and artists will discuss the way we can rethink ecological activism and practices, by imagining new types of alliances and cohabitation with the living world. Guests to be confirmed include philosophers Baptiste Morizot, Mark Alizart and Vinciane Despret.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/earth-here-now

THE EARTH
HERE AND NOW





Désobéissant.e.s !, dir.s A. Flaux & A. Chiappini

Green

on Screen

Ciné Lumière regularly features screenings of films on the environment, with a particular emphasis on inspiring individuals, groups and organisations trying to act, at their own level, on issues such as global warming. We'll start with *Désobéissant.e.s !* by Alizée Chiappini and Adèle Flaux, in partnership with Arte in English, a documentary following various groups of young people who decide to join forces to fight the climate emergency.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/earth-here-now

To Bees or not to Be

Their food and habitat are disappearing fast, and so are the bees. And if bees disappear forever that's bad news for all of us. Pupils from French schools in the UK, alongside pupils from Belgium, Finland and Sweden, have been invited to take part in the *L'Ecole des Abeilles* project in partnership with the *Observatoire français d'Apidologie*. It aims to raise children's awareness of the fundamental role played by bees in our ecosystems. On this year's World Bee Day, 20 May 2021, pupils will share their works and reflections on environmental topics.

www.institut-francais.org.uk/earth-here-now

// The Earth Here and Now



Celebrating Remembering

Napoleon

Join former French Minister of Foreign Affairs Hubert Védrine and historian and philosopher Theodore Zeldin for an exceptional discussion on Napoleon, on 14 June. Since he was defeated in Waterloo by the Duke of Wellington, and then exiled on the island of Saint Helena, where he died as a British prisoner, Napoleon has been the object of great interest, not to say fascination, on the part of historians from both sides of the Channel. On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his death, let us compare French and British views on the one of whom Churchill said that “he may have been a military tyrant, a conqueror, a man of order and discipline, a man of mundane ambitions and overwhelming egotism, but his grandeur defied misfortune and rises superior even to time.”



J.-L. David, Napoleon crossing the Alps

14 June

www.institut-francais.org.uk/napoleon

In Search of Marcel Proust

“Life is too short, and Proust is too long,” said the cruel Anatole France. Too long, really? On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Marcel Proust’s birth, let us hear what Antoine Compagnon, professor at the Collège de France, and Christopher Prendergast, author of *Living and Dying with Marcel Proust*, have to say about the timelessness of the French literary genius, in an inspiring discussion to come. Our reading group will also explore *Swann’s Way*, the first volume of Marcel Proust’s monumental novel, on 1 July. Our tribute will be complemented by two very different adaptations of *In Search of Lost Time: La Captive* by Chantal Akerman (2000), an adaptation of *La Prisonnière* and *Time Regained* by Raúl Ruiz (1999).

www.institut-francais.org.uk



J.-E. Blanche, Marcel Proust

As Free as Juliette Gréco

French singer and actress Juliette Gréco's style and personality marked generations. She was the soul of the Rive Gauche and a truly free spirit who inspired no others than Jean-Paul Sartre and Orson Wells, Miles Davis and Serge Gainsbourg. The Institute pays a belated homage to her with a screening of one of her earliest films, Cocteau's *Orphée*. The film will be preceded by a lecture, *Juliette Gréco: Image, Singer, Actor*, by Professor Richard Dyer (King's College London).

12 July



Orphée, dir. Jean Cocteau

As Wise as Jean de la Fontaine

“Beware, so long as you live, of judging men by their outward appearance.”

They may have depicted the vices and virtues of the French society in the 17th century, Jean de la Fontaine's fables, full of crafty or vain animals, are still today as fresh and witty, as universal and topical, as they were 4 centuries ago.

As part of the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of his birth, pupils from French and British schools in the UK will be invited to rediscover his famous Fables and share, from 14 to 20 June 2021, their contributions through videos, readings and drawings. The best productions will be featured at the South Ken Kids Festival, happening this year from 15 to 21 November.

An exhibition of rarely seen watercolours by master of French Symbolist movement Gustave Moreau, illustrating the Fables of Jean de la Fontaine, is also to discover at Waddesdon Manor from 16 June to 17 October.

www.institut-francais.org.uk



H. Rigaud, Jean de la Fontaine



G. Moreau, The lion & the gnat (detail)

// Celebrating / Remembering



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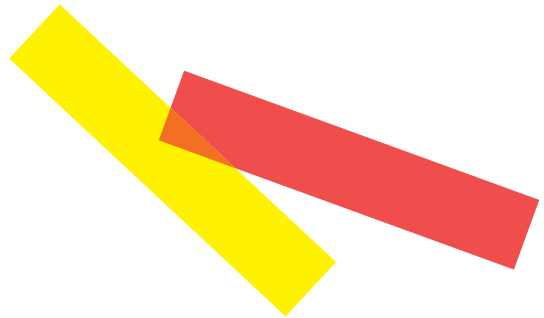
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