



Les Amis De l'œuvre de Blasco Mentor

Le petit journal N° 8 may/ september 2023

Editorial

At the request of some members of our association, we organized with Mrs. Rollin Royer, Director of the Endowment Fund "Univers Mentor", an informal meeting, on October 9, 2023 at the village hall of Solliès-Toucas. Discussions particularly caught our attention: those relating to emotions, the desire to convince as well as the offer of help that "Univers Mentor" could bring for our possible projects. Let us hope that in the future, beyond words and the past, concrete actions can be carried out together, in mutual respect, for the promotion of Blasco Mentor's work.

Our projects

We told you about it in our previous little journal (N° 7, February/March/April 2023), we worked at the beginning of the year on a new project. We wanted to introduce the children of our village to the beautiful murals "Mercury and Abundance", by Blasco Mentor, completed in 1976 at Palazzo Castiglione for the Union of Tourism and Labour in Milan. At that time, this 250 m2 project was the largest in Europe.

To finance this outing for the students of the Guy Menut school, we had sent an application for a subsidy to the FDVA (Fonds d'Aide à la Vie Associative). At the end of the summer, we received a negative response from the FDVA. We are currently looking for further funding to carry out this project.

Forum of Associations

As every year now, our association was invited to participate in the Forum of Associations in Solliès-Toucas, on Saturday 9 September.

Our entire office was present to welcome you to our booth. It's always a great time to meet our members, introduce people to Blasco Mentor's work and register new members.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support us.

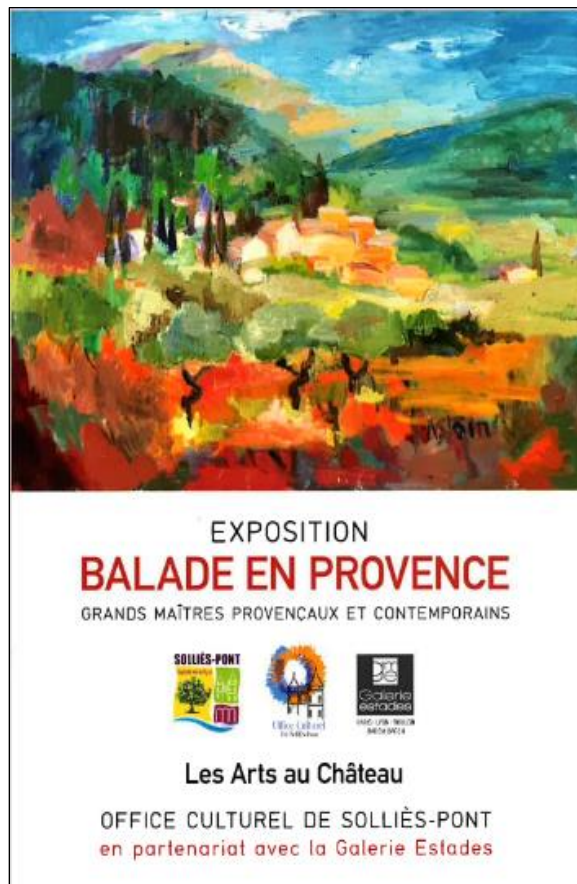
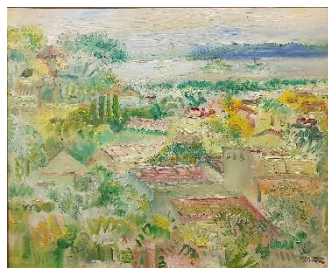


Exhibition

From 12 to 22 September, as part of the European Heritage Days, an exhibition of great Provençal and contemporary masters was organised at the Château de Solliès-Pont.

"Balade en Provence", in partnership with the Michel Estades gallery, presented a fine collection of Provençal painters, ancient and contemporary. In this exhibition, alongside Nardi, Baboulène, Astoin, Ambrogiani, Courdouan, Camoin, etc., two paintings by Blasco Mentor featured prominently: "Environs of Toulon" and "View of the Bay, Hyères", both belonging to the collection of Michel Estades.

A great opportunity to admire Mentor's works, alongside those of his peers.



Casa Nieves

In our next Petit journal (N°8 October/November/December 2023), we will take stock of the progress of the rehabilitation work of Casa Nieves.

Meeting

On October 9th, at the request of some of our members, a meeting was organized at the village hall of SollièsToucas, between members of the Endowment Fund "Univers Mentor" and our association "Les Amis de l'Œuvre de Blasco Mentor".

Present that evening to speak on behalf of "Univers Mentor" were Mrs. Isabelle Rollin Royer, Director, and holder of the moral rights to the work, Mrs. Michèle Cairety, former secretary of the artist. Mr. Luc Benito, director and Mr. Thierry Marcer, bailiff, represented the advisory committee of "Univers Mentor". The "Friends of Mentor" were represented by Mr. Alain de Lespinois, President, Mr. Jean-Paul Kassangoye, Treasurer, Mrs. Paule Forner, Secretary, Mr. Didier Ellena, Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. Line Boué, Assistant Secretary. A dozen members of our association had responded to our invitation to participate in this meeting.

Mrs. Isabelle Rollin Royer reminded the audience of the conditions for the creation of the "Univers Mentor" Endowment Fund (following the successive bequests of Blasco Mentor and his wife Neige). She explained at length how the Fund works and mentioned the members of the Fund, as well as those who are part of the Advisory Committee of the Endowment Fund, all volunteers and chosen for their skills or their proximity to the Mentor couple. She also recalled her function as director of the Fund and holder of the moral rights over Mentor's works (those held by the town hall as well as those exhibited at Casa Nieves)

As such, she has the right to look at and control all writings, publications, projects around Mentor and his work. The various projects that we had carried out over the past few months and which had been refused by the Endowment Fund were mentioned (dissemination on our website of testimonies about people who knew the artist, realization of a virtual tour of the Casa Nieves, creation of a mural in the heart of the village). It is still out of the question for Ms. Rollin Royer to allow us to carry them out, but "Univers Mentor" will take up these ideas when the time is deemed opportune.

Also discussed during this meeting was the project to create a Mentor Museum in the town (as it was written in the artist's will). Given its scale and its excessive cost (about 12 million euros), it will never be carried out in Solliès-Toucas (due to a lack of suitable land and sufficient subsidies). The sharp decline in Mentor's rating in recent years makes it difficult to seek public or private funding.

For the Toucassins to discover or rediscover Mentor and benefit from the bequests (which were initially made to the municipality), it was a question, as part of a municipal project of centrality, to propose the creation of a permanent exhibition of Mentor's works in the heart of the village. This idea has aroused everyone's interest, and it will deserve to be presented to the municipality.

Other topics were discussed (work on Casa Nieves, security of the site, sustainability, and conservation of the works, etc.). You will be able to find the entire meeting in the minutes that we will send to each of our members.

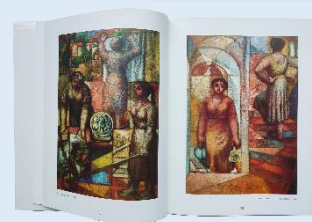
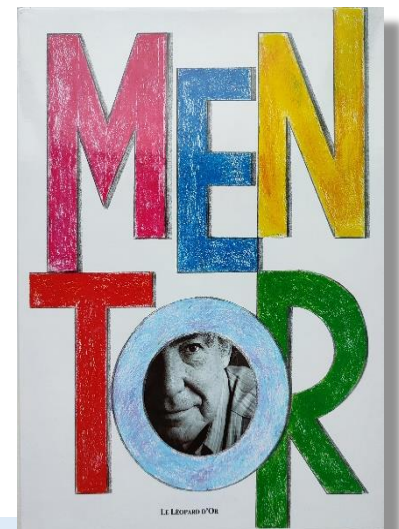
Biography

Editions Le Léopard d'Or has authorized us to present on our website the beautiful book "Mentor", published in 1993.

This 195-page bound monograph, with a preface by Hervé Bazin, is a reference work on the artist. Very well documented (texts and photos taken from the artist's archives) and magnificently illustrated (124 color photos), it presents more than 50 years of creations, from 1940 to 1992. For our members, the publisher offers a limited quantity of books at a very preferential rate of 20 euros (usual selling price 60 euros). We thank him for this generous proposal.

To acquire it, you can contact them by email or phone (contacts at the end of the journal)

On the www.leopardor.fr you can discover all the publications of this publisher.



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