



Gyrinus association presents

La Petite Usine à Taille Douce



**An itinerant, participatory,
intergenerational and collaborative
artistic installation**

Let yourself be persuaded by a wonderful duo of peddlers
and take place in the traveling art installation.

Discover how to make an intaglio print.
Create and leave with your own creation!

Summary

Gyrinus

A cultural and civic association

La Petite Usine à Taille Douce in festivals

- Introduction
- The artistic duo
- The technical data sheet
- The show's creative team
- History

The workshops inspired by La Petite Usine

- Workshops for schools, media libraries, museums and retirement homes
- Historique

Contacts



Gyrinus

A cultural and civic association

Gyrinus is an association created in march 2010 at the instigation of Caroline Blondeel (artist) and Laurent Aubry (technician et stage manager for live performances)

GYRINUS, male name: « tadpole » in latin.

Why such a strange name?

Maybe because we are all mutating tadpoles... Art, meeting, exchanging and sharing with others allow us to dialogue, exchange ideas, broaden our horizons and bring us closer together through artistic creation.

Metamorphosis makes us more sensitive and more present in our lives.

When creating Gyrinus, Caroline et Laurent, the artists, had several **fundamental aims** that are reflected in the Association's projects, mainly but not exclusively centred around La petite Usine (See Association's other actions at www.gyrinus.com)

A cultural and civic aim

First of all, we had the desire to develop a cultural project made of meetings and shows, taking the form of a **pitch** played out in front of an audience, a pitch designed to present and offer this audience **a poetic and artistic activity**, practised thanks to the installation

We also have a civic objective : to promote **living and making together** in a way that brings people together and federates them, to create **links** and **social cohesion**.

Gyrinus aims to be an association that creates and broadcasts artistic events and raises awareness of environmental and citizenship issues, while at the same time encouraging people to tackle artistic questions that poetise everyday life.

La petite usine is therefore a multi-faceted project that combines performance and artistic practice.

An artistic and collaborative intention

To promote **access to art and culture for all**, our various proposals take us out to meet the local **audience on its territory**.

We want to offer everyone **the chance to introduce them to an artistic activity**: a modern, fun and accessible version of **engraving**, an uncommon practice that is often unfamiliar to participants and can seem inaccessible.

As this is **a collective and collaborative activity**, it helps to recreate **social links, solidarity** and **dialogue** between local people. The activity helps to mobilise people's interpersonal skills (joining a group and taking part in a collective work), and also encourages **intergenerational encounters**.

The **participants** are always **surprised and** admiring when they see the results of their creations. It's **a rewarding activity that gives people back their confidence**, especially those in precarious, isolated or fragile situations.

La Petite Usine à Taille Douce en festival

Introduction

La Petite Usine à Taille Douce is a combination of a **show and a pitch** that invites people to take part in an **artistic activity** thanks to a **travelling installation**.

The show is performed by two comedians full of humour and energy. They invite the audience, in a very joyful but educational way, to take part in the activity on offer, overcoming any misgivings they may have. The pitch appeals to everyone's imagination and encourages the audience to engage in a creative and recreational act.



From "design" to drawing: When the volunteers join the installation, they are given a pre-printed drawing sheet. Each sheet is different, and the drawing is taken from an animated film designed in advance by Caroline to suit the site. The participants complete the initial drawing and go through the various stages of creating an intaglio print: drawing, engraving, inking, wiping, printing and cleaning. These successive actions take place over a period of around 20 minutes.



From print to **animated film**: when they leave the workshop, participants take their scanned prints with them. They are informed that about two weeks after the workshop, they will be able to watch the new animated film made by Caroline from all the participants' prints, including their own, on the La Petite Usine à Taille Douce YouTube page !

The Petite Usine runs permanently and continuously for **3h30**. It's aimed at **all ages, from 6 upwards**.

The installation takes the form of a large mobile workbench, fitted out and equipped for engraving. It's a sort of factory workbench, or perhaps a sardine tin, or a canteen table or a market stall... in short, it's **a shared space**.

Its retro aesthetic erases the present, encouraging us to slow down and **take our time**.

The Petite Usine à Taille Douce is a **parenthesis**, an escape from the usual injunctions of daily life by allowing oneself the **pleasure of creating**. People are no longer bound by production and consumption prescriptions ; they accept to be outside time and are patient.

The proximity of participants sitting side by side encourages **exchange, mutual support and creative discovery**. This is where the collaborative, intergenerational approach of La Petite Usine à Taille Douce really comes into its own.



By the way, what is "La Petite Usine à Taille Douce"?
Click [HERE](#) to access the presentation video.

The Caro & Loulou artistic duo

Caroline Blondeel (Caro)

Born in Belgium, dutch-speaking, she studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts of Anvers and Gand (1988-1991) then in la Nuovo Accademia di Belle Arte in Milano (1991).

After obtaining a university diploma in « Arts and creativity in care and educational practices », she runs art and mediation workshops, in particular at the Musée Fabre in Montpellier (2007/2015).

In 2010, she runs a program of cultural activities with inmates at the Béziers prison center.

At the same time, she continues her artistic practice, which combines sculpture, painting, engraving and kinetic installations. She regularly exhibits her work individually and collectively.



Laurent Aubry (Loulou)

He has always worked for the performing arts. In the 1970s, he worked as a show technician in the Paris region (Palais des sports, Palais des congrès, Fête de l'humanité).

From the 1980s onwards, he toured as a lighting technician with Barbara, Le Grand Magic Circus, etc., before settling in Montpellier in 1985. He became General Manager of the CDN Théâtre des treize vents, where he familiarized himself with welcoming companies, theatrical creation and tour organization. He went on to become Technical Director of the festivals *Le printemps des comédiens* and *Saperlipopette voilà enfantillages*, then Technical Director and head of the Hérault

County Council's stage equipment pool.

These professional experiences and his encounter with Caro led him to want to direct and participate in his own creations.

In 2010, they founded the **Gyrinus** association and, in 2013, designed the first version of La Petite Usine à Taille Douce. Today, they propose the 3rd version, considerably redesigned and improved thanks to their experiences.

The technical data sheet



Space requirements

- For the artistic set-up:
 - An available total floor space of 10m x 5m (50m²) : this includes the workbench + the public taking part in the engraving workshop + the artists walking around
 - Dimensions of the workbench: Length: 6m / Width: 2,5m / Height: 2,3m
 - A flat surface sheltered from the wind
- The space needed to accommodate the audience during the performance (depending on the possible size of the audience)

Technical requirements

- Access to a 16A 220V power socket.
- A 15 litres water tank.

Durées

- Installation : 2h
- Dismantling : 2h
- Operating time : Up to 4 hours non-stop

Ouring team

2 or 3 peoples

The pitch creative team

Isabelle Bach : Writing the peddlers pitch

Compagnie Mungo, author, director, actress



In 2000, she set up the Compagnie Mungo with puppeteer Serge Lucas in the Gorges de l'Hérault. The Compagnie Mungo's artistic identity is a blend of puppet theatre and visual arts.

Storytellers, fantasy and humour are their precious lanterns for illuminating profound subjects: living together, learning to love, preserving biodiversity.

Xavier Martin : Stage direction of the peddlers

Compagnie Dare D'Art, Circus director, actor, musician and dancer



Since 1990, he has performed on stage as a dancer, circus artist, actor, musician and director. He had a long artistic collaboration with emblematic "new circus" troupes such as Cirque Plume and Les Colporteurs.

History

Since its creation in October 2013, La Petite Usine à Taille Douce has toured many venues (cities, festivals and exhibitions), such as (non-exhaustive list!):

- ✓ *Saperlipopette* Festival, Montpellier / *La nuit de Pierres vives*, Médiathèque Pierres Vives Montpellier / Festival *Palabrasives*, Villeneuve lès Maguelone (2016)
- ✓ *Gentse Feesten* Festival, Gent Belgique and *Bruxelles les bains* Festival, Bruxelles Belgique (2017)
- ✓ *Hérault, Hérault Patapon* Festival, Sortie ouest Béziers / *Moi, Toi & Co #8* Festival in Grand Parquet Paris-Villette (2018)
- ✓ *Mais Où Va-t-on ?* Festival, Fléchin (2019)
- ✓ *Fête de l'eau*, at Moulin de Siahvy in Saulx les Chartreux / *A l'air libre* Festival, Domaine départemental de Chamarande 91 (2020)
- ✓ *Weekend des arts* Festival, Lieusaint / *Arts et Agapes* Festival, Poussan (2021)
- ✓ *La Fête de l'Iris* Festival, Bruxelles, Belgique / *Embrayage* Festival, St jean de Braye / *Mais Où Va-t-on ?* Festival, Fléchin / *New Season of Grand Parquet La villette*, Paris (2022)
- ✓ *Fête des 10 ans du Musée Médard*, Lunel / Festival *Tranes Cévenoles* Sumène / *O Berges d'Eté*, Massy (2023)

The workshops inspired by La Petite Usine

Cultural initiatives for the region

Workshops for schools, media libraries, museums, retirement homes, etc.

Outside or in addition to festivals (before or after), the Gyrinus association offers collective, participative and intergenerational cultural mediation and artistic creation activities.

The offer is based on two complementary modules :

A **public printmaking workshop** organised in local places and structures (libraries, markets or public squares, secondary schools, retirement homes or EHPAD, social centres, etc.).

An **exhibition-installation of the works produced during the workshop**. Ideally, the exhibition and the workshops can take place in the same place.

Projects are modified according to and in agreement with the partners.

At the end of the project, there must be a time of feedback to show the collective film made from the engravings produced during the workshop.



Historique

- ✓ At Voltaire de Florensac (34) secondary school, engraving courses lasting several weeks and installation for presenting works (2017)
- ✓ At IRTS (Regional Institute for Social Workers) Montpellier (34), one-week immersion engraving course with feedback (2017, 2018 et 2021)
- ✓ At Hérault Departmental Archives, series of 4 workshops of 4 hours over 4 months (2017 et 2018)
- ✓ At Centre d'Arts et du Patrimoine, Quarante (34) - Introductory course in engraving for the team of mediators at the Domaine de Roueïre (2020)
- ✓ At *Rencontres de la langue des signes français (French sign language meetings)*, Halle Tropisme, Montpellier (34) : Performance (2020)
- ✓ At Centre d'Hébergement et de Réinsertion Sociale Stendhal (Stendhal Accommodation and Social Reintegration Centre), Paris XXe : Engraving course for homeless residents of the centre (2020)
- ✓ At Domaine de Roueïre – Centre d'Arts et du Patrimoine, Quarante (34) : Introductory course in engraving for people with disabilities (2021)
- ✓ Engraving workshops at Médiathèques Montaigne Frontignan, Médiathèque Mathieu Chedid Mèze, Médiathèque Malraux Sète (2022-2023)



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Social networks

<https://www.gyrinus.com>

Instagram, YouTube et Facebook : La petite usine à taille douce

