CHABRAM 2
CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN

Philipp Farra
Questions d'un ouvrier qui lit
10 – 25 octobre

This exhibition follows the artist Philipp Farra's eight-month residency at L'Arche Les Sapins, a social and medical care organization that supports adults with mental disabilities.

Over the past eight months, Philipp accompanied the community of L'Arche Les Sapins in their daily lives in Lignières-Ambleville and the surrounding area, both in their work at the ESAT (Establishment and Service for Assistance Through Work) and in certain aspects of their lives and activities outside of work. This process of observation and engagement gave rise to the film *Le travail la santé* (2026, 33 min), the exhibition's central work.

The film portrays the institution while also exploring the world of work more broadly: the tasks performed, each person's responsibilities, individual approaches to working, and the relationships that develop around work, as well as, perhaps, the challenges and fears associated with it.

The project was initiated by Sophie von Olfers, an independent curator based in Charente. When Sophie learned that Philipp had lived at Les Sapins for a year in 2010 as part of his civic service and that he wanted to return to the site to potentially develop an art project there, she brought together L'Arche Les Sapins and CHABRAM², a contemporary art center in a former school, located just two and a half miles from Les Sapins. Sophie's association, Domaine de Beaulieu RIP, will publish a small booklet to accompany the project.

The exhibition's title, *Questions d'un ouvrier qui lit*, refers to a poem by Bertolt Brecht, written in 1935 during his exile in Denmark. The poem questions the role of written history by highlighting the often-invisible roles of workers, enslaved people, and anonymous individuals behind great conquerors and famous monuments. Brecht thus shifts the focus away from the figures to whom history typically attributes great achievements and toward those whose labor made them materially possible. This question of the visibility of work, and of how we look at it, is an important starting point for Philipp's project.

The film is presented alongside a series of thirteen photographs of flowers and plants cultivated at the ESAT. Details, still lives, and sometimes blurred forms seemingly

rendered in soft focus – these photographs offer a different rhythm. They introduce a moment of silence and contemplation into the exhibition. Their beauty provides another way of looking at what is produced and cultivated, bringing out a more sensitive and meditative dimension of work.

Through a practice that spans video, photography, installation, and documentary strategies, Philipp Farra explores stories and situations that often remain largely unseen in the public sphere. He is also interested in production processes, institutional operations, and the technical, social, and architectural systems that contribute to the creation of very tangible human realities.

With this project, developed at L'Arche Les Sapins and during his residency in Charente at CHABRAM², the artist turns his attention to existing situations, images, and objects connected to specific histories, while bringing experiences and realities that are rarely represented into view. One question runs throughout the exhibition: What becomes visible, who or what remains outside the frame, and what structures determine this visibility?

From this encounter between a personal history, a place, and a community, a project emerged that naturally found its place. It received remarkable support from numerous public and private funding bodies and institutions. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to DRAC Nouvelle-Aquitaine, the Charente Department, the Grand Cognac Urban Community, the municipality of Bellevigne, and the Goethe-Institut Paris for their support of this project. We also thank the Fondation d'entreprise Martell and FRAC Delta Nouvelle-Aquitaine for their generous in-kind support.

Exhibition Opening
Saturday, October 10, 4–9 p.m.
5 p.m. — Guided tour with the artist
BBQ organized by L'Arche Les Sapins

Floral Workshop with Les Fleurs de Roussillon
Sunday, October 11, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Free admission. Reservations required: contact.chabram@gmail.com. Maximum of 15 participants per workshop.

Professional Gathering
Monday, October 12, 3–6 p.m.
Conversation with Sophie von Olfers and the artist.

Artist-Led tour for School Groups
Monday, October 12, in the morning

First Gallery

Flowers Les Sapins 1–13, 2026
Handmade chromogenic prints (C-prints), produced in the darkroom, 40 × 40 cm, framed.

Second Gallery

le travail la santé, 2026
Color video with sound, 33 minutes, 10 seconds.

L'ÉCOLE — Contemporary Art Center CHABRAM²
9 rue Jean Daudin - Touzac
16120 Bellevigne, France
Opening hours: Saturdays and Sundays, 2–6 p.m.; weekdays by appointment.
www.chabram.com

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