



WAMBERAWO

**DRAWINGS BY SERGE DUBUC
IN WEST PAPUA**

5 - 28 MARCH 2026

**GALERIE MEYER - OCEANIC & ARCTIC ART
17 RUE DES BEAUX-ARTS, 75006, PARIS**



PRESS RELEASE

MAMBERAMO.

DRAWINGS BY SERGE DUBUC IN WEST PAPUA

5 - 28 MARCH 2026

GALERIE MEYER, PARIS

Galerie Meyer is pleased to present MAMBERAMO - Drawings by Serge Dubuc in West Papua, an exhibition dedicated to the artist's graphic work around his stay in the Mamberamo River region of West Papua in 2011.

The exhibition will offer a boxed set, composed of four booklets of twenty-six drawings each and produced in only three copies*, as well as a set of drawings made in 2025 from photographs taken in the same context. These two bodies of work compare two periods of the artist's work: drawing resulting from field practice, conceived as a tool for observation and description, and drawing developed later, at a distance, from existing images.

Through this dialogue between in situ drawing and reinterpretation drawing, the exhibition offers a reflection on this medium as a means of analysis and transmission, particularly in its relationship to photography. It highlights the role of time, attention and precision in the representation of life forms and technical practices inscribed in traditional modes of operation.

Between an artistic gaze, an ethnographic approach and a work of memory, Serge Dubuc's drawings question the way in which a field experience is transformed into images, and then into visual knowledge. The Mamberamo exhibition thus invites us to think of drawing as a tool of knowledge, located at the crossroads of observation, archive, restitution and interpretation.

Practical information :

Private Opening on Thursday, March 5 from 5 p.m.

Open Tuesday to Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., 7 p.m. on Saturdays

Galerie Meyer, 17 Rue des Beaux-Arts, 75006, Paris

* This travel diary has been printed in 3 signed and numbered copies on Etival grain torchon paper 300 g. Each copy is accompanied by an original drawing in coloured pencil on Clairefontaine Mix Media 250g paper. Price per boxed set : 3000 €

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Our Instagram : @galeriemeyeroceanicart

Fris ol Daga

Mali

Mali

IKAWIN

GORUM
&
BLUKUM

KASUARI

BAWANA
BABU
KAKATUA

BOAYA

BOMBAN Pays Wano

Un voyage en Papouasie occidentale - Août 2011 Région Mamberamo Fawi-Dotei-Bambu-Dagai-Bomban-Demite-Bambu-Fawi

Ces dessins ont été réalisés en Août 2011 lors d'un voyage en Papouasie occidentale dans la région Mamberamo. Cette aire peu visitée a été, à la fin des années 80, le terrain d'étude d'Anne-Marie et Pierre Péterquin, couple de préhistoriens reconnus et auteurs d'un ouvrage passionnant sur les derniers tailleurs de pierre de la planète (1).
Vingt ans plus tard, deux amis et moi-même, tous trois passionnés de feu et de pierre, avons emprunté leurs pas et à l'arc, production de feu et taille de pierre, avons rencontré leurs descendants à notre tour. Dubé et Wano, qui bien qu'ayant depuis lors délaissé la collecte des informations des Péterquin étaient déçus lors de notre passage : nous avons en revanche rencontré leurs enfants : leur émotion à la découverte du livre (2), véritable sésame dans lequel ils ont reconnu leurs parents, fut immense.
Notre «if inédit pour l'histoire, production de feu...» nous a en outre aidés à franchir quelques barrières : il s'agit, contrairement à la photographie et dans nos tentatives de prises de contact, de dessin, qui ne se traduit pas dans nos tentatives de prises de contact.
Pour ce qui me concerne, le dessin a été un mode de communication apte à franchir quelques barrières : il s'agit, contrairement à la photographie et dans nos tentatives de prises de contact, de dessin, qui ne se traduit pas dans nos tentatives de prises de contact.
Je garde aujourd'hui intact le souvenir de cet univers végétal qui partout impose sa loi, nous renvoyant chaque jour un peu plus à notre inadaptation, et de ces gens si vivants par delà les vicissitudes.

Serge Dubuc, Janvier 2026

(1) Ecologie d'un outil - la hache de pierre en Iran Jaya - CNRS Editions
(2) J'avais pris soin de le mettre dans mes bagages...

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Projet de recherche financé par le CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) - UMR 5175 - 100 rue de la République - 93000 La Courneuve
Ce carnet de voyage a été réalisé en 2011 et est disponible en français et en anglais. Contact : serge.dubuc@univ-nouvelle-guinée.edu.au
Chaque page est une œuvre d'art. Un dessin est un acte de résistance. Un carnet de voyage est un acte de résistance.





SERGE DUBUC

Born in Paris in 1962, Serge Dubuc showed an early taste for drawing and far-off cultures. This disposition was sharpened by the family neighbour Théodore Brauner, the photographer and brother of the artist and collector Victor Brauner.

After studying architecture (a misdirection, according to his own words), Serge turned to scenography and decorative painting, before becoming a sculpture restorer in 1999 following a decisive encounter in Tahiti.

Until recently, his appearances as an artist were limited to a few exhibitions in the context of open workshops, but the Covid crisis exerted a salutary effect on him, and reactivated a practice that had remained confidential until then. This was followed by a first exhibition at the Galerie Meyer in 2021, followed by another with Gallery Tischenko as part of the Parcours des Mondes 2023.

Two trips in New Guinea in 2008 and 2011 were an opportunity for him to bring back dozens of drawings and sketches depicting daily life, portraits and gestures.

For Serge Dubuc who has had the "Papuaans in his head" since early childhood, this experience was a shock wave which is finally reflected here fifteen years later with the present exhibition...





IN THE WORDS OF THE ARTIST

A voyage to West Papua - August 2011

Mamberamo Region

Fawi-Dorei-Bambu-Dagai-Bomban-Dagai-Demite-Bambu-Fawi

These drawings were made in August 2011 during a trip to the Mamberamo region in West Papua.

At the end of the 80s, this little-visited area was studied by Anne-Marie and Pierre Pétrequin, the renowned prehistorians and authors of a fascinating book on the last stone-age people on the planet (1). Twenty years later, two friends and I, passionate about archery, fire making and stone blades, followed in their footsteps...

It was our turn to meet the local hunter-fishermen-gatherers of the Iao, Dubelé and Wano populations, who, although having since abandoned their stone blades for metal ones, still perpetuate their traditional way of life. If most of the Petrequins' informants had passed away before our visit, we did meet their children. Their emotion at the discovery of the Petrequins' book (2), a complete time capsule, wherein they recognized their parents, was immense.

Our keen interest in many aspects of their material culture (canoe making, carrying nets, fire production, etc.) also helped us in our attempts to make contact.

As far as I am concerned, drawing and sketching are modes of communication capable of overcoming many barriers. Unlike photography and its « stolen moments », drawing requires a certain amount of self-sacrifice, if only because of the harsh climatic conditions.

Today, I retain intact the memory of the vegetal world of the Mamberamo which imposes its laws everywhere, reminding us a little more each day of our inadequacies, and of the people of the Mamberamo who live within and beyond the vicissitudes of their environment.

I think of them every day when it rains...

Serge Dubuc, January 2026

(1) *Ecologie d'un outil : la hache de pierre en Irian Jaya* - CNRS Editions

(2) I had carried it in my baggage...



S. Dubuc 2025