

Musée Transitoire #4  
Belfry of the 1st Arrondissement Town Hall  
2A place du Louvre  
75001 Paris

Open Thursday to Saturday  
2 pm – 8 pm  
Opening night: October 11th, 2025, 5 pm

## **MT#4 PRESS RELEASE: *MINISTÈRE TRANSITOIRE***

### **1/ THE MUSÉE TRANSITOIRE: PRESENTATION AND OBJECTIVES**

The Musée Transitoire explores the architecture and acoustics of places in transition. Suspended between two states, two uses, these spaces lend themselves to a temporary transformation devoid of functionality. Conceived as an institution-work and founded by artist Romina Shama, the project questions the formats of exhibitions, conservation and the place of authors in the field of art.

After three editions in 2019, 2021 and 2023, the Musée Transitoire is moving into the Belfry of the former town hall of the 1<sup>st</sup> arrondissement, Place du Louvre, opposite the Louvre colonnade, future entrance to the Museum.

- > Free exhibition, accessible to all
- > Performance programme (sound art, dance, literature)
- > Weekly mediation sessions for schoolchildren & in different languages
- > Remuneration for artists and speakers (DCA scale)
- > Training programme by our steering committee, fully reimbursed by AFDAS
- > Ongoing partnership with the Ménagerie de Verre and the Centre Culturel Suisse
- > VIP Paris+ programme by Art Basel & Starting Sunday by CPGA

The Musée Transitoire supports and promotes contemporary artists to amateur and professional audiences through exhibitions that explore individuals' relationship with contemporary society.

The transitory dimension of the project questions a certain relationship to productivism, the status of objects and the importance we attach to them. By investing in places with no heritage value, buildings "without quality", destined for permanent change, the Musée Transitoire designates a place where we could live together, according to each person's own rhythms.

The works are designed with the aim of using as much as possible the materials found on site, the architecture of the place and its acoustics to question our relationship with materiality and avoid producing new objects.

In 2021, the project received support from the UN's Perception Change Project.

## 2/ THE VENUE

The belfry of the 1st arrondissement town hall, located on Place du Louvre between the Church of Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois and the former town hall, stands 38 metres high. Built between 1858 and 1863 by architect Jacques-Ignace Hittorff, the project aimed to create visual symmetry between the town hall and the church, symbolising the alliance between civil and religious powers.

By hosting the fourth edition of the Musée Transitoire, it becomes the scene of another rapprochement: that of art and institution, fiction and power, in a historical continuity where symbolism takes shape in the architecture itself.

## 3/ EDITION #4: MINISTÈRE TRANSITOIRE [TRANSITORY MINISTRY]

"If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer. And a people that no longer can believe anything cannot make up its mind. It is deprived not only of its capacity to act but also of its capacity to think and to judge."

— Hannah Arendt

In *The Human Condition* (1958), Hannah Arendt distinguishes three forms of human activity:

1. Labour, which meets biological needs and ensures material survival.
2. Work, which produces durable objects and shapes the world we inhabit.
3. Action, which involves speech and collective deliberation, the foundation of politics and freedom.

The Musée Transitoire activates these three dimensions through the creation of a Ministry, questioning the notion of value, not only economic, but also ethical and political. Action then becomes a space for resistance in the face of insidious forms of contemporary totalitarianism.

The fourth edition of the Musée Transitoire will be structured as a collection of news items that bear witness to current tensions: the proliferation of political and social crises, disinformation and the trivialisation of authoritarian discourse. Through these events, often perceived as anecdotal, a landscape is emerging that is accelerating a gradual rise in totalitarian systems.

This exhibition invites visitors to explore these tensions and contradictions. Through a selection of works and reflections, it raises the question of a possible exhaustion of the existing systems and a reconstruction on new foundations, in order to redefine the relationships between the individual, the collective and the structure.

## 4/ THE FOUNDER

An artist of Italian-Egyptian origin, Romina Shama was born in Switzerland. After earning a degree in anthropology from the University of Lausanne, she continued her studies at Central Saint Martins School in London, then moved to Paris.

In 2012, when questioning modes of representation, she created her own double by inverting her name: rachel rom, which both breaks and binds her identity. Continuing this process of erasure, the artist introduced the recurrent regeneration of her works and the appropriation of places, works or texts that do not belong to her. It is in this context that she founded the Musée Transitoire in 2019 as yet another identity and an extension of her practice.

## 5/ PREVIOUS EDITIONS

### MT#1: *I would prefer not to*

In 2019, the first edition focused on the state of limbo that the immaterial era creates within us: a gentle yet firm vertigo that sometimes paralyses us and plunges us into passivity. I would prefer not to echoed Bartleby, the enigmatic character from Herman Melville's eponymous short story who decides overnight to stop 'doing'. He then imposes passive resistance on his employer, a pragmatic solicitor who suffers this impediment without being able to react.

### MT#2: *O*

The second edition took place in 2021 on a 17-hectare plot of land with a large greenhouse at its centre. The previous owners, a couple, lived at either end of the property and used the glass space as a free zone. If any work or idea is infinitely translatable and malleable, the free zone is the place of in-between and questioning as an end in itself.

### MT#3: *Le droit à l'oubli* [*The right to be forgotten*]

The third edition was held in an administrative office building that housed the social security system for the self-employed (RSI) located in the 12th arrondissement of Paris. The exhibition appropriated the legal concept of the right to be forgotten to question the regimes of presence of individuals in contemporary society as well as the place of authors in the field of art. This right to be forgotten asserted itself as an idiorhythmic manifesto – in the sense that Roland Barthes gives to this term borrowed from monastic vocabulary – designating a way of life that combines isolation and coexistence, withdrawal and commitment.

## 6/ INFORMATION

Press kit Transitory Museum #1#2#3

Presentation Transitory Museum #4

Website: <https://www.museetransitoire.com>

Instagram: @museetransitoire\_

For further information, interview requests or visits: [balqis@museetransitoire.com](mailto:balqis@museetransitoire.com)

Information and images can be downloaded on the website. Journalists who wish to do so can subscribe to the Newsletter to receive information about the Musée Transitoire and its upcoming programme:

<https://www.museetransitoire.com/fr/1003/A-propos-Adherer>