For the first time the Villa Arson is welcoming the works of the recently graduated artists in its exhibition galleries. Over 1000 m² will be dedicated to presenting the new developments in their work since their graduation in 2020. In this way we hope to accompany them under professional conditions. During their post graduation year they were able to produce new works and to develop their ongoing projects.

It is not only a graduating class that we are exhibiting, but an entire generation with its thoughts, materials, and its own commitments. We aim to put the spotlight on a generation which, in the words of curator Marie de Gaulejac, offers us a “thrashing beauty”. Sylvain Lizon
The exhibition Construire sa prétendue features 19 young artists who graduated from the Villa Arson in 2020 after spending several years investigating ways of creating, of living and thinking, on their own or collectively, thus shaping their vision, defining their missions, desiring their intended. Construire sa prétendue, is a title borrowed from writer Maggie Nelson in her book The Argonauts, where the word family (placed after intended) was voluntarily removed. In the exhibition, “intended” takes on the meaning of something “promised”: building a hypothetical future, carnal or ill, striving to deviate from its course or to retrace heritages, experiences or personal fantasies.

The 19 artists featured chose to show works conceived after school as well as new productions including material practices like photography, sculpture, drawing and video but also immaterial practices like sound, collaborative or performative, which inhabit and shape the spaces of the Villa Arson.

It would be useless to try and define artists whose profiles and artistic practices differ so widely. It would be equally meaningless to try and highlight specific themes, and vain to attempt to resume in a few lines what the public is likely to enjoy.

What we wish to stress as introduction to the exhibition, is the unveiling of a thrashing beauty, the witnessing of a rising energy, a rage, and the turning of a corner alongside with them. This is what is at stake. Bold or discrete, they are taking on a stance after school. Each one of them offers forms, installations, moments of listening and of speech, texts, readings and performances. Formal propositions as well as thoughts are sketched out and invented. I am joining them and accompanying them to show the many contours and promising approaches of a generation of artists.

Marie de Gaulejac