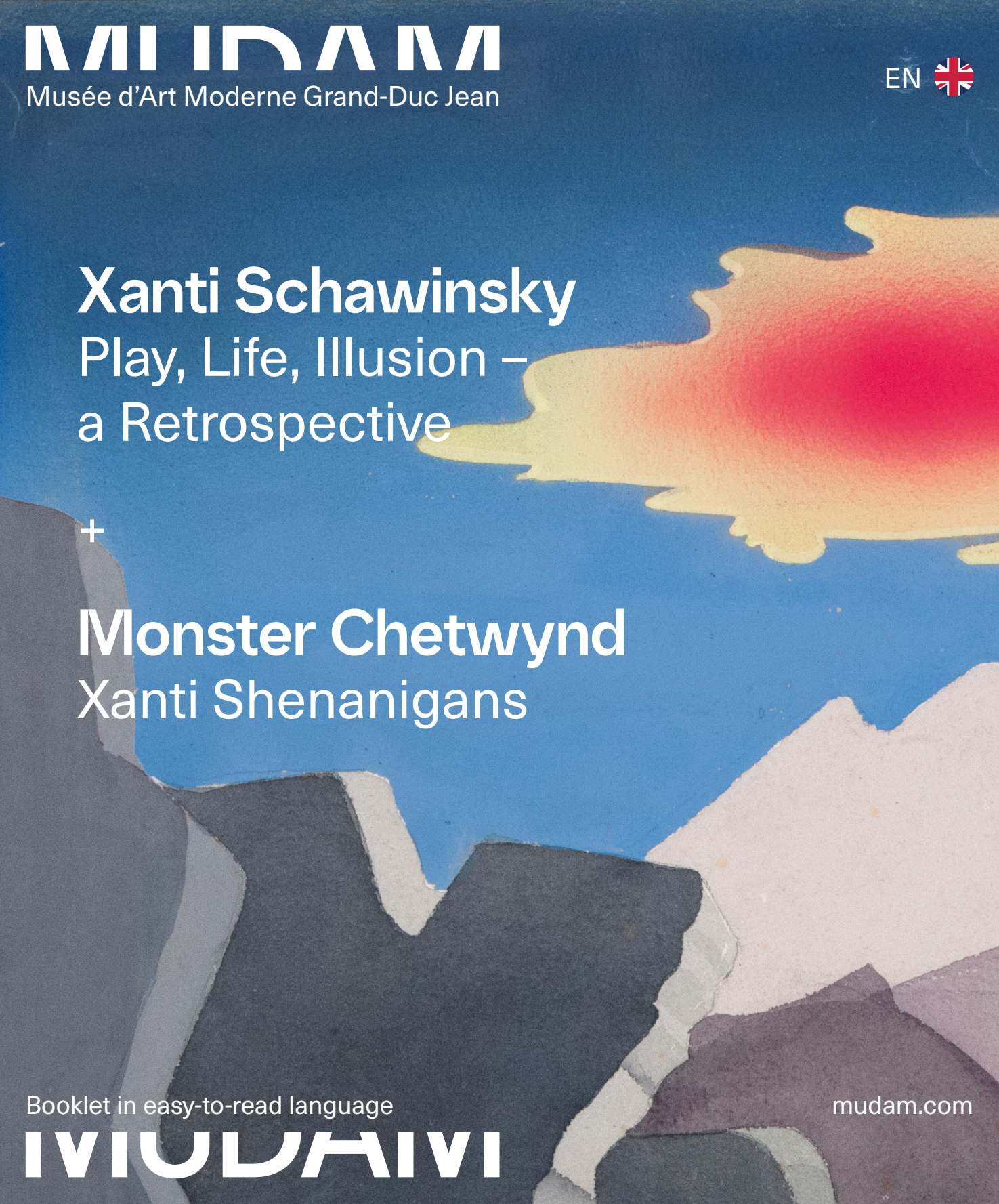




MUDAM

Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean

EN 

Xanti Schawinsky

Play, Life, Illusion – a Retrospective

+

Monster Chetwynd

Xanti Shenanigans

Booklet in easy-to-read language

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About the exhibition



These pages are written in easy-to-read English

The exhibition is named:

Play, Life, Illusion – a Retrospective.

The exhibition shows the work of an important artist from the 20th century.

His name is Xanti Schawinsky.

The exhibition is in the two galleries on the lower level.

There is also a special installation in the Foyer.

That's the space between the two galleries.

Here, we can see the work by an artist from today.

Her name is Monster Chetwynd.

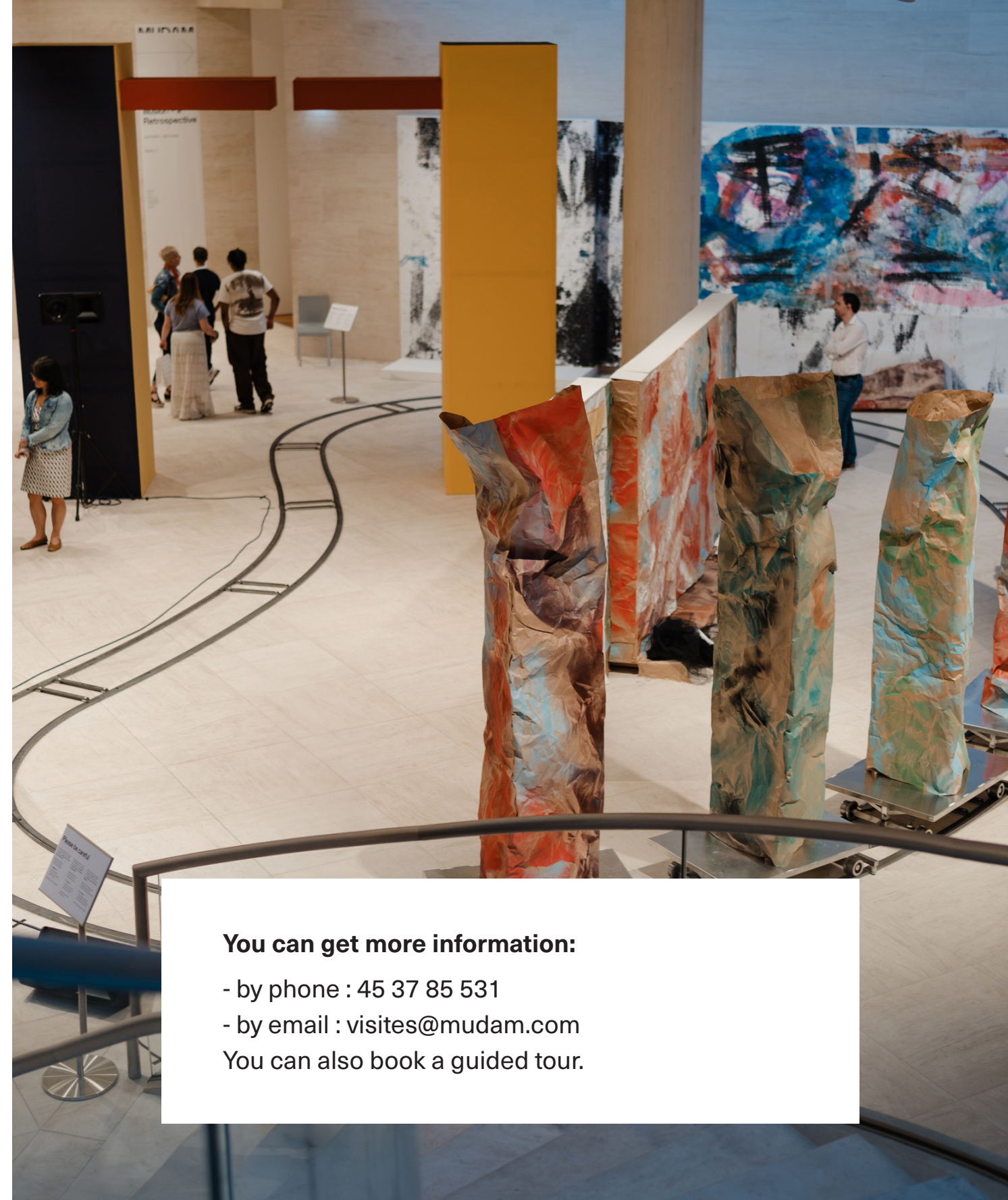
This part is called 'Xanti Shenanigans'.

It is a play on words with Xanti Shawinsky's name.

'Shenanigans' means 'silly behaviour' or 'tricks'.

You can see the exhibition until 5 January, 2025.

These pages only give you a sneak peek of the exhibition.

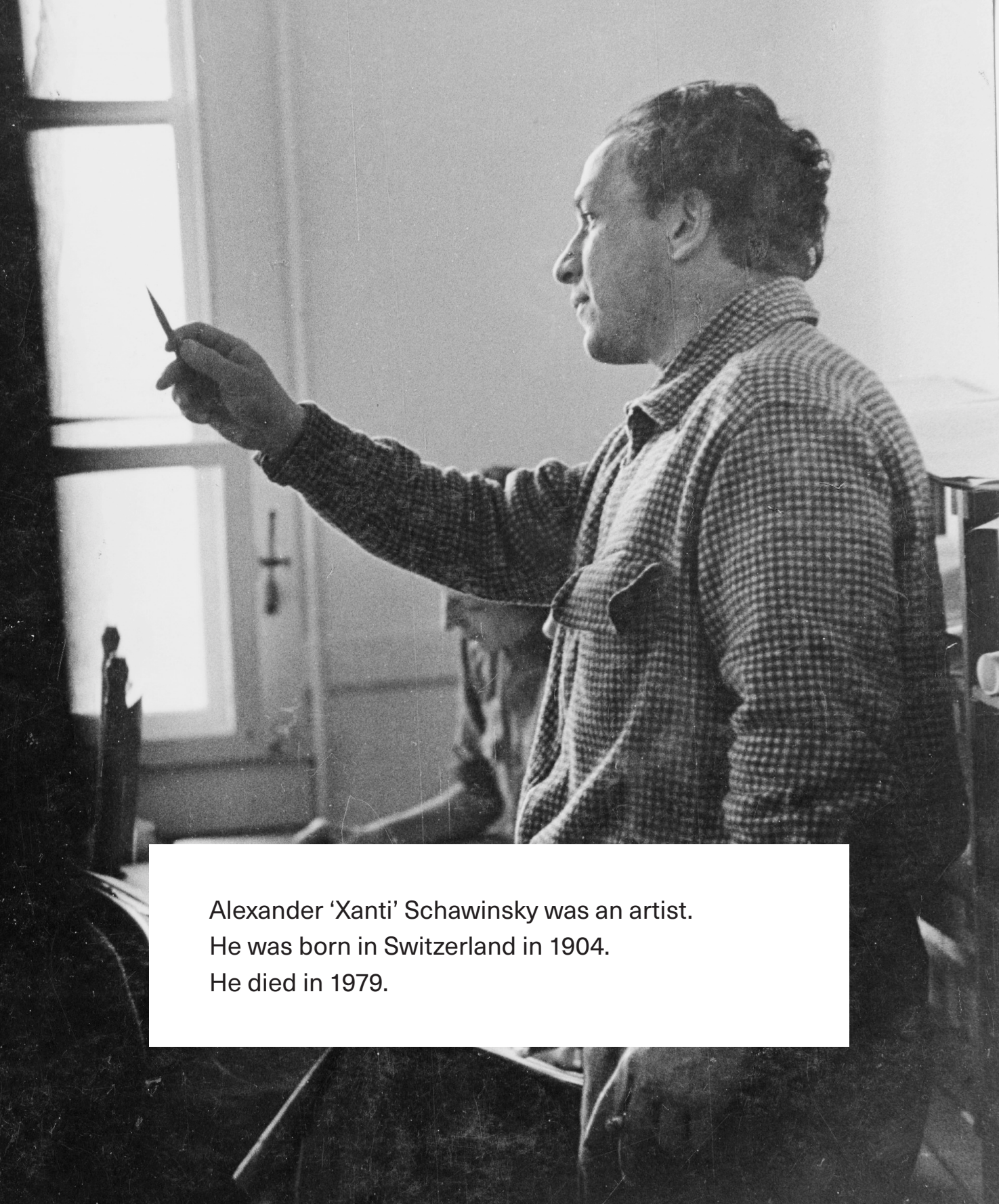


You can get more information:

- by phone : 45 37 85 531

- by email : visites@mudam.com

You can also book a guided tour.



Alexander 'Xanti' Schawinsky was an artist.
He was born in Switzerland in 1904.
He died in 1979.

Xanti Schawinsky

Dies ist die erste große Ausstellung seiner Werke außerhalb der Schweiz.

Xanti did many different things:

He did theatre.

He took photos.

He made drawings for ads and posters.

He painted.

In the 1920s, Xanti studied and taught at a famous school in Germany.
This school was called Bauhaus.
It opened in 1919 in Weimar, Germany.

Bauhaus artists wanted to find links between
fine arts and applied arts.

Fine arts are: painting, sculpture, photography.

Applied arts are: design, architecture, textiles.

In design, they wanted to create beautiful objects.
The objects should be simple and useful.



Xanti worked a lot for the theatre:

He created sets for the stage.

He designed costumes.

He made shows that were very new.

First gallery

Here, we see many drawings and paintings.

They are related to his theater work.

Xanti often thought about the relationship between humans and machines.

A famous work shows a contest or fight between a 'tap dancer' and a 'tap dancing machine'.

Another work shows a plan for a theatre stage that could move. The stage is pulled by a locomotive.

Xanti invented the '**Spectodrama**':

It's a special kind of theatre.

It combines dance, light, sound and images.

The exhibition shows collages and photos of shows.

World War II (1939–1945) forced many artists to leave Europe.

Xanti fled Germany a few years before the war started.

He first went to Italy.

In Italy, Xanti also made many drawings for advertising: he drew for well-known brands.

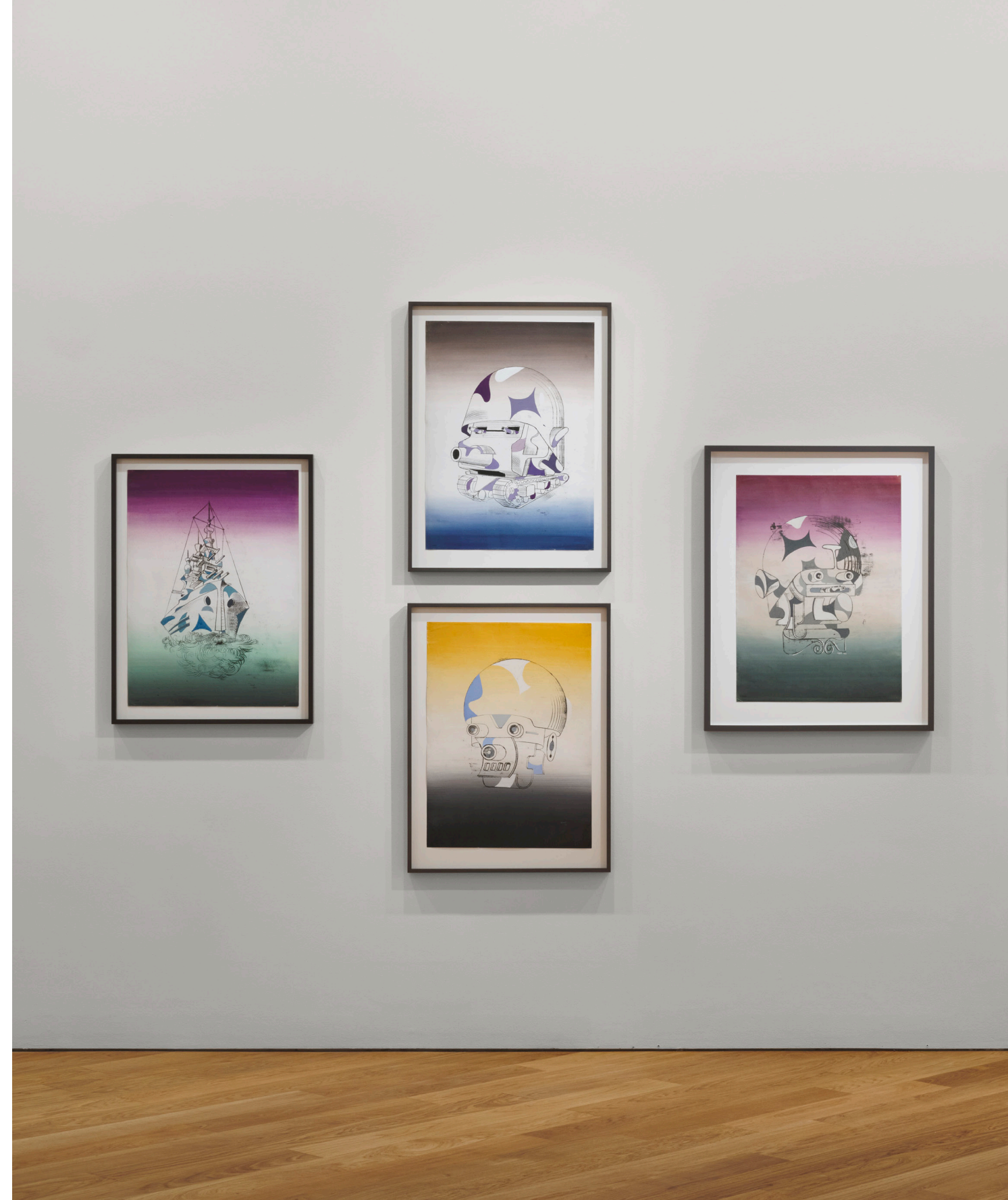
In 1936, he fled Europe and went to the United States.
In the late 1930s, Xanti taught at a school in the United States.

This school was called **Black Mountain College**.
Many famous artists studied and taught there.
This school was similar to the Bauhaus.

The artists wanted to find links between artistic fields:
theatre, dance, painting, sculpture, music...

During the war, Xanti made special paintings:

he painted faces made of weapons and war objects.
These paintings are called '**Faces of War**'.





Second gallery

After the war, Xanti painted in an unusual way:

He made paintings by dancing on the canvas.

He painted with car tyres.

He used smoke to make paintings.

He made paintings by crumbling paper or canvas.

Then he sprayed paint on it.

He made abstract paintings with several layers of fabric.

They look like optical illusions.

Xanti was very interested in science:

he liked to mix art and science.

Xanti's work is important:

He had many new ideas.

His art has influenced other artists.



Monster Chetwynd

An artist from today has been invited to respond to Xanti's work.
Her name is Monster Chetwynd.
She has created a special work for the exhibition.

Monster was born in London in 1973.
She now lives in Switzerland.

Monster does a lot of different things:

She makes performances with people.
She makes paintings.
She makes sculptures.
She makes videos.

Monster uses simple materials for her works:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Fabric

She's interested in the idea of DIY:

how can you make art with what you find?

She likes to mix different references:

- Old art
- Television
- Popular festivals

Monster likes to work with other people.
Together, they make fun and crazy performances.

For this exhibition, Monster has made a big installation.
She was inspired by Xanti's ideas and shapes.
Some of her costumes and paintings are made
by rolling on the canvas with a car.

The little train that runs through the installation
is inspired by one of Xanti's works.
It is shown in the first gallery.
It shows a mobile theatre stage.

On the opening day of the exhibition,
Monster did a performance.
She used her installation as a set.
This show was created with 12 people.
She was inspired by TV dating shows.



