



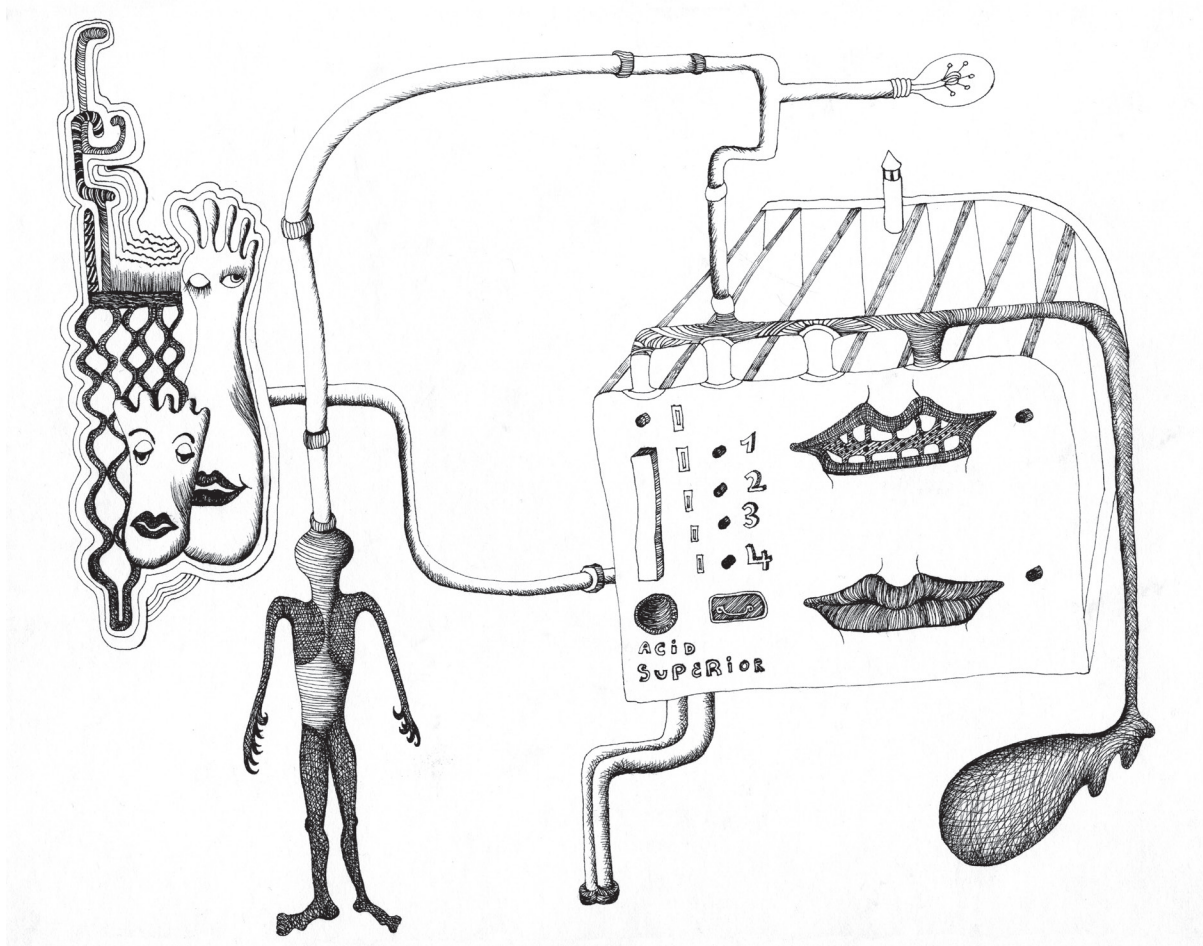
# SOPHIE PODOLSKI: THE COUNTRY WHERE EVERYTHING IS PERMITTED

**From Saturday, April 21 to Saturday, July 7, 2018**

Opening on Saturday, April 21, 3 pm to 4 pm (press visit) - 4 pm to 9 pm (public opening)

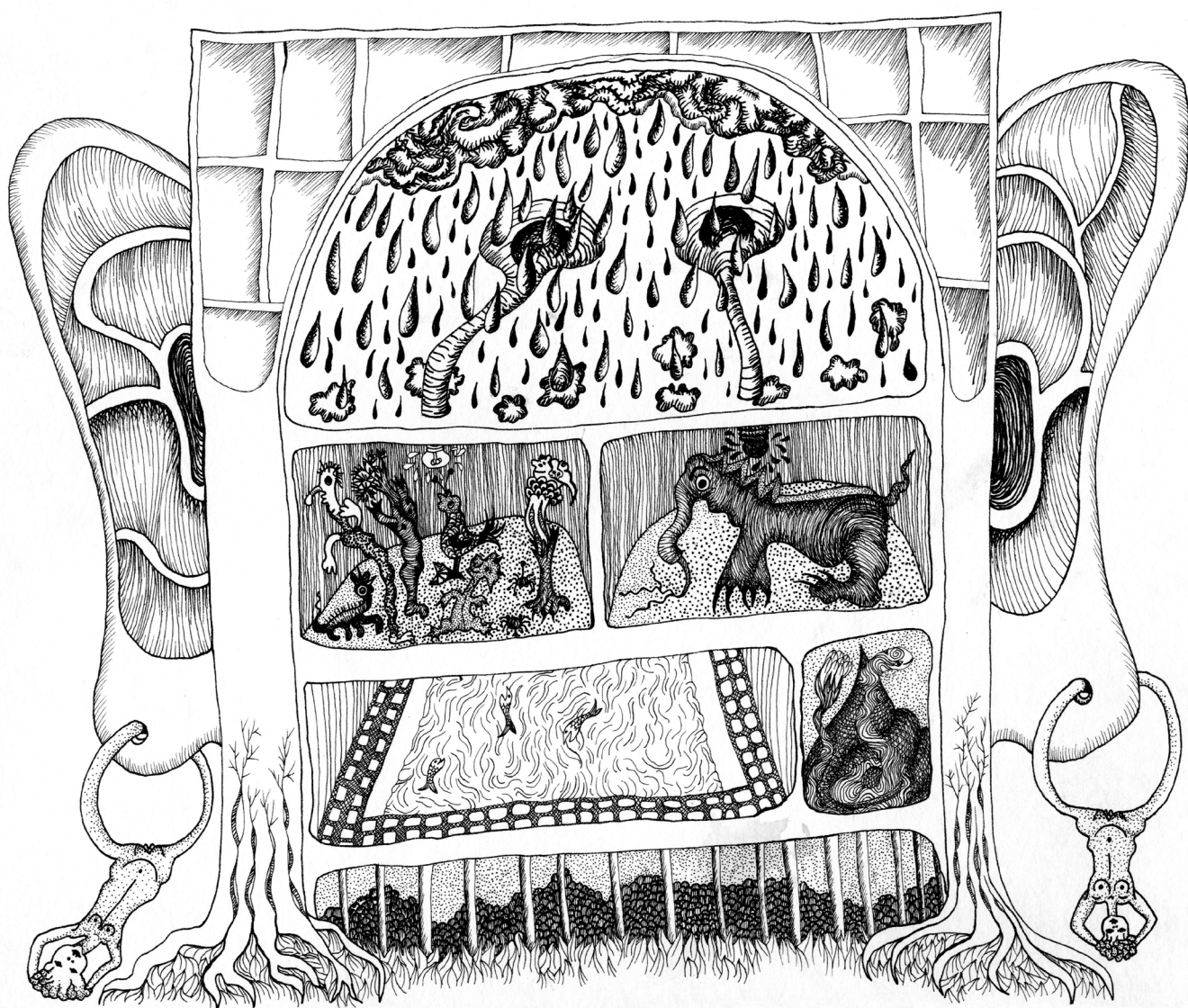
Curator: **Caroline Dumalin (WIELS)**

Exhibition produced by WIELS, Brussels, in partnership with Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research and Villa Vassilievff / Pernod Ricard Fellowship, Paris.



# SOPHIE PODOLSKI : THE COUNTRY WHERE EVERYTHING IS PERMITTED

Villa Vassilieff presents the first exhibition dedicated to the Belgian artist Sophie Podolski in Paris, following its presentation at WIELS, Brussels earlier this year. Born in 1953 in Brussels, Sophie Podolski was, during her lifetime, mostly known as a poet, gathering the interest of the Parisian literary avant-garde. Her work is emblematic of a time marked by sexual liberation, anti-psychiatry and a disenchanted youth. In just a few years (between 1968 and 1974, the date of her suicide at the age of 21), she produced a remarkable graphic work, as well as a book: *Le pays où tout est permis* (The Country Where Everything Is Permitted) in 1972. This young autodidact wrote in an expressive and provocative, unrestrained style about life, popular culture and the conformism of society.



While writing and drawing are almost inextricable for Podolski, during her lifetime she was mostly considered a poet. The exhibition focuses on her visual work and her very personal iconography to shed light on it through the presentation of works on paper, made in India ink, pastel and colored pencil, next to the pages of the original manuscript of her singular book. The exhibition also features the film *Dans la Maison (du Montfaucon Research Center)* directed by Joëlle de La Casinière, a friend of Sophie Podolski who has kept her works until today.

Sophie Podolski's brief period of activity is characterized by radical social and cultural upheavals, which culminated in various European countries, including France and Belgium in May 1968, and suddenly changed the way the youth looked at society. The title of her book implicitly refers to the emancipatory struggle of a generation in search of self-determination. With her subjective and expressive language, Podolski is the voice of a counterculture that is once again fascinated by experimentation, imagination and the exploration of consciousness.

The personal life and practice of Sophie Podolski are closely linked to France where the publication of *Le pays où tout est permis* in 1972 earned her a critical recognition from literary and artistic circles. Her work was particularly supported by the writer Philippe Sollers and the historian of the Dada movement Marc Dachy, who presented her contributions respectively in the avant-garde French magazines *Tel Quel* and *Luna-Park*.

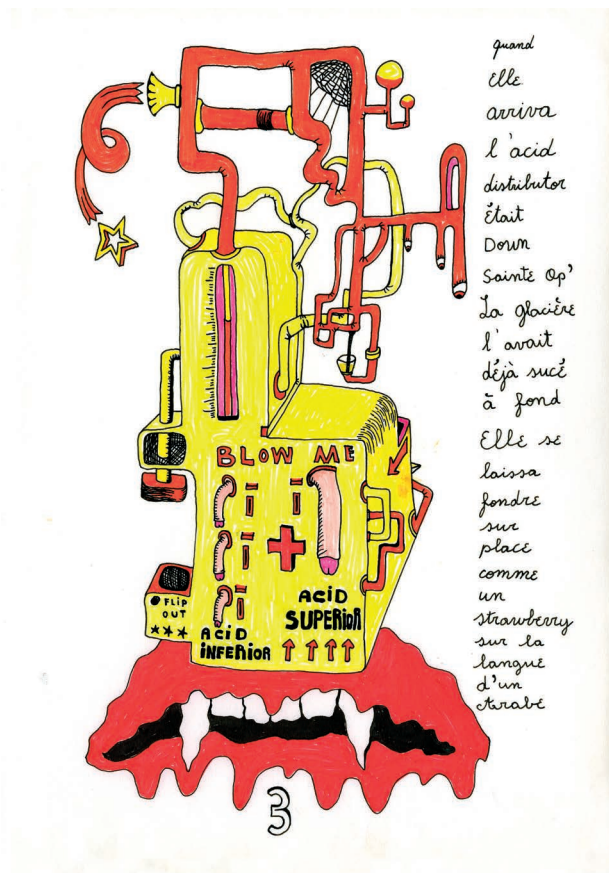
Sophie Podolski was also a regular resident of the Montfaucon Research Center, a collective led by Joëlle de La Casinière and Michel Bonnemaïson, based at 25, rue de l'Aurore. The history of this cosmopolitan artistic and intellectual community is reflected in Villa Vassilieff's past and its programming.

*Sophie Podolski: The Country Where Everything Is Permitted*, was presented at WIELS, Brussels from January 20th to April 1st, 2018. The exhibition is produced by WIELS, Brussels, in partnership with Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research and Villa Vassilieff / Pernod Ricard Fellowship, Paris.

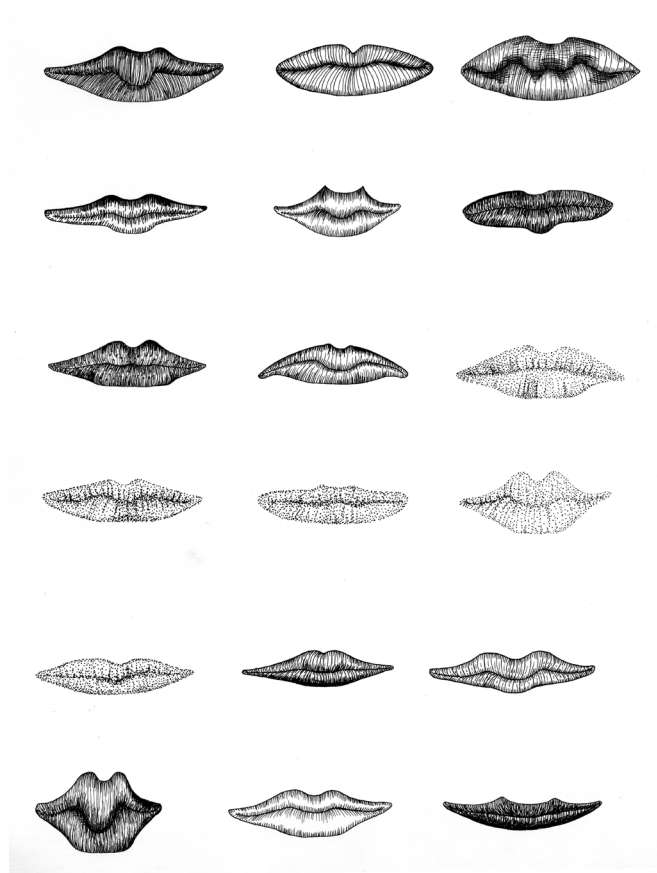
***In parallel:***

As part of the *Pernod Ricard Fellowship 2018*, Villa Vassilieff will host artists **Beto Shwafaty** (2nd to 28th March), **Nikolay Smirnov** (March 30th to May 19th), **Yto Barrada** and **Mohamed Larbi Rahhali** (June 5th to August 29th).  
For more information: <http://www.villavassilieff.net/?-Pernod-Ricard-Fellowship->

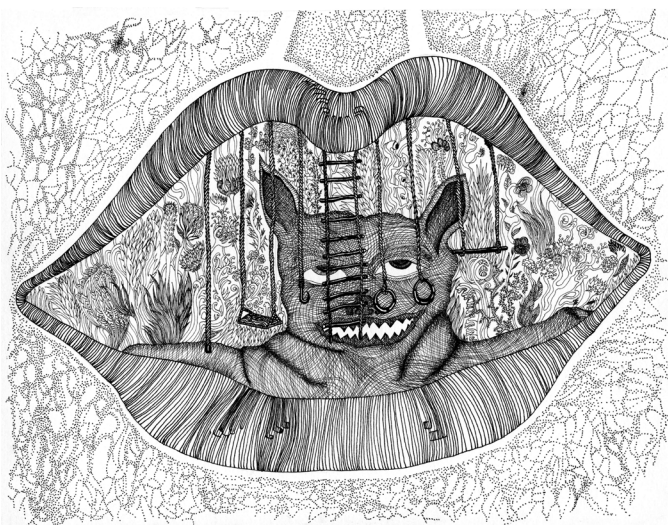
# VISUALS FOR THE PRESS



Sophie Podolski, *Lumière Verte*, ca. 1970  
Ink and felt-tip pen on paper, 29.7 x 21 cm  
Courtesy Joëlle de La Casinière



Sophie Podolski, *Untitled*, ca. 1970  
Ink on paper, 24.5 x 32 cm  
Courtesy Joëlle de La Casinière



Sophie Podolski, *Untitled*, 1970  
Ink on paper, 24.5 x 32 cm  
Courtesy Joëlle de La Casinière

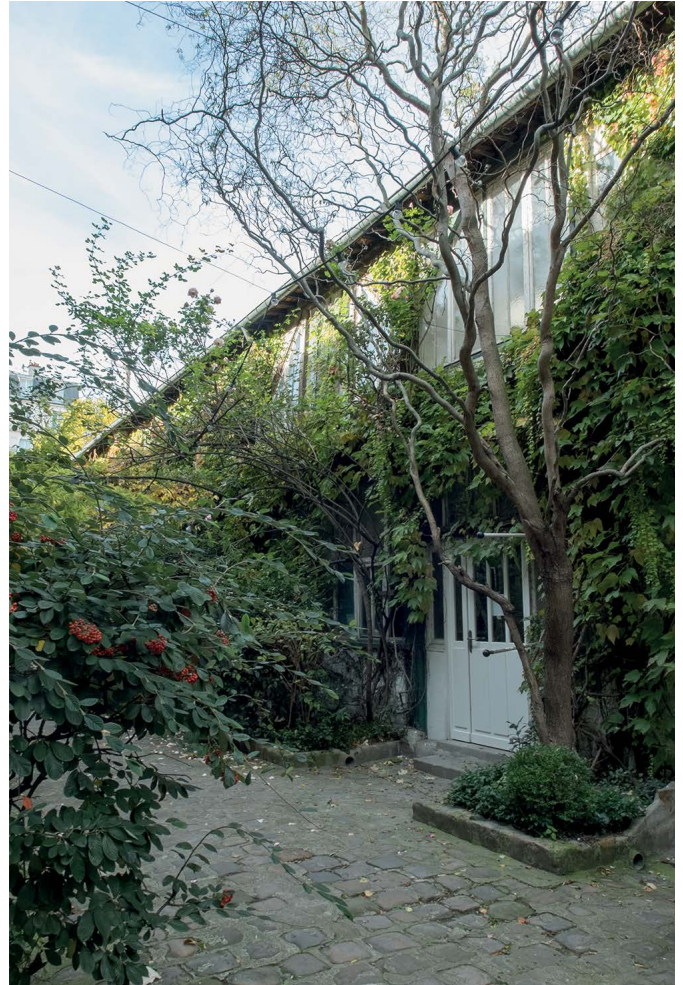


Sophie Podolski and Joëlle de La Casinière, ca. 1972

# VILLA VASSILIEFF - PERNOD RICARD FELLOWSHIP & BÉTONSALON - CENTER FOR ART AND RESEARCH

Villa Vassilieff intends to reconnect with the history of its location by inviting artists and researchers to take a contemporary look at the heritage of Montparnasse. Our exhibitions and public programs focus on exploring lesser-known resources and aim at re-writing and diversifying historical art narratives. Among many grant and residency opportunities, we joined forces with our leading sponsor Pernod Ricard to create the Pernod Ricard Fellowship, a residency program inviting four international artists, curators, or researchers every year in the Villa's studio. We collaborate closely with museums and curators to design tailor-made research projects and bring innovative perspectives, as illustrated by the ongoing Marc Vaux program jointly led by Villa Vassilieff and Centre Pompidou's Kandinsky Library.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research offers a space of collective reflection that combines both artistic and academic practices, and questions the production and dissemination of knowledge. We develop our activities in a process-based, collaborative, and discursive manner, following different time spans, in cooperation with various local, national, and international organizations. Exhibitions are enriched by different associated events (workshops, conferences, performances, round table discussions...). We organize seminars and workshops in collaboration with faculty members from the Paris Diderot University. We lead off-site research projects in partnership with other institutions, and offer residency programs for researchers, artists, and curators.



Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is a non-profit organization established in Paris in 2003. Since 2007, Bétonsalon has been located on the campus of the Paris Diderot University. In 2016, we launched the Académie Vivante (Living Academy) program, an experimental research laboratory within the Epigenetics and Cell Fate unit (CNRS / Université Paris Diderot) that invites artists in residency. This same year, we launched Villa Vassillieff, our second site of activities, in the former studio of artist Marie Vassilieff, located in the heart of the Montparnasse neighborhood. Until 2013, this location was the Museum of Montparnasse. Villa Vassilieff is a cultural establishment of the City of Paris.

# ABOUT

## Curator

Caroline Dumalin (WIELS, Brussels)

## TEAM

Mélanie Bouteloup, director  
Pierre Vialle, assistant director, administrator

## Villa Vassilieff

Virginie Bobin, head of programs  
Camille Chenais, project coordinator  
Constance Gayet, coordinator assistant  
Alice Ongaro, coordinator assistant  
Alice Rivoire, coordinator assistant

## Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research

Mathilde Assier, project coordinator  
Boris Atrux-Tallau, project coordinator  
Lucas Morin, project coordinator  
Alice Truc, coordinator assistant

## FINDING US

Villa Vassilieff  
21 avenue du Maine  
75015 Paris

Métro 4, 6, 12, 13,  
stop Montparnasse-Bienvenüe  
(exit 2 - Place Bienvenüe)  
Bus 58, 91, 92, 94, 95,  
stop Gare Montparnasse  
Bus 28, 82, 89, 92, 96,  
stop Place du 18 juin 1940 - Rue de l'Arrivée  
Bus 89, stop Maine-Vaugirard

## FREE OF CHARGE

Tuesday to Saturday / 11 am - 7 pm

## ADVISORY BOARD

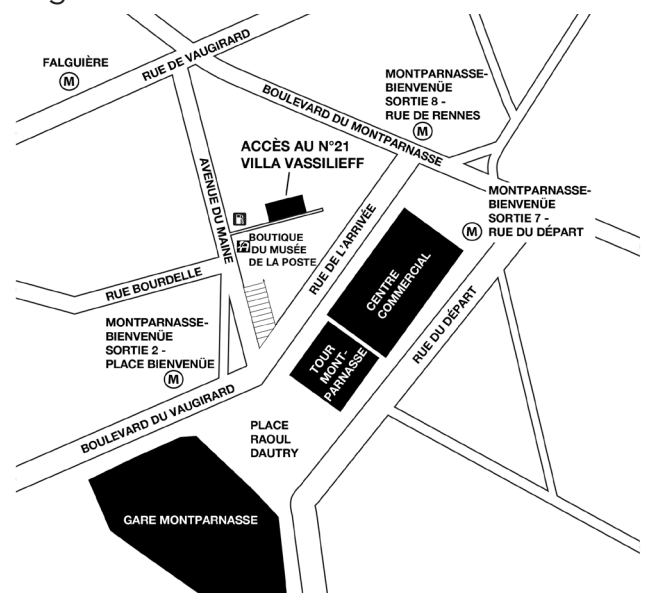
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Nicole da Costa, Director of Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Culture and Communication

## CONTACT

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## PRESS CONTACT

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# PARTNERS

*Sophie Podolski: The Country Where Everything Is Permitted*, was presented at WIELS, Brussels from January 20th to April 1st, 2018. The exhibition is produced by WIELS, Brussels, in partnership with Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research and Villa Vassilieff / Pernod Ricard Fellowship, Paris.

# WIELS

**Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research** is supported by the City of Paris, the Paris Diderot University - Paris 7, the Île-de-France Regional Board of Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Île-de-France Region and Leroy Merlin - Quai d'Ivry.

The Académie vivante is supported by the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso.

Bétonsalon - Center for Art and Research is a member of Tram, réseau art contemporain Paris / Île-de-France and of d.c.a / association française de développement des centres d'art.

**Villa Vassilieff** receives support from public and private partners first and foremost from the City of Paris, the Île-de-France Region and Pernod Ricard, its lead sponsor. Villa Vassilieff also develops partnerships with the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Société des Auteurs dans les Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, the Collège d'études mondiales of the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme, and the Goethe Institut.

