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FRÉDÉRIC AGUILERA

Mayor of Vichy President of the Vichy Communauté Vice-President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

Like a muse, Vichy, the Queen of the Spa Cities, regularly gives up its primary roles by acting as a setting for many novelists and producers: from the pen of Georges Simenon who followed the cure of Inspector Maigret at Vichy, to the eye of producer Christian Dugay who restored Coco Chanel's first boutique in the Horseshoe Galleries, Vichy charms, captivates, inspires. A charm of yesteryear where art blossoms.

At this, its eleventh festival, PORTRAIT(S) will be on show in the public space, a characteristic setting for this event in the spa city between the city centre and the banks of the Allier, and this year, for the first time, will reveal its views of the whole world, its unique gaze, its atlas of the beauty of the world, its Human Comedy in the **Grand établissement thermal**, thus reconnecting itself with its heritage, part of the hot springs tradition, with a prestigious, original development connecting health and leisure in which art is an integral part of the City's character.

We invite you to come and discover the ninth photography residency which through the lens of Letizia Le Fur will honour our active seniors. Through their experience and skills, they make the local area glow with light and support our cultural, hot-springs connected heritage. This eleventh festival also has an event at the intersection of generations, the grade-one class of the Sévigné–Lafaye School, who are signing the works of the 2023 version of Portrait(s) invites itself to school.

I wish you all a delightful photographic wander!

FANY DUPÊCHEZ

Artistic director

PROGRAMME

For this year's festival, Portrait(s) is occupying the Grand Etablissement Thermal of Vichy, a magnificent building designed by architect Charles Lecoeur that opened in 1903, as well as the Hall des Sources, and is hosting a grand out of doors retrospective of the work of Dutch photographer **Erwin Olaf**.

Body mechanics are on show throughout the nine scheduled exhibitions.

When an artist like Belgian photographer **Jacques Sonck** is discovered, along with his incredible black and white street photography portraits, one has to rejoice at hosting his first exhibition in France. "What am I an original in?" could be the sub-title of his series *Archetypes*. Sonck's interest lies in extraordinary, charismatic individuals who, through their physicality, clothes or presence attract the eye in a rerun of human comedy.

The son and grandson of soldiers, **Stéphane Lavoué** went to capture faces at the military academies that showed their commitment. *Allons enfants!* takes us from life in the barracks out to the field, in the everyday lives and the battle training of these youngsters whose lives may well be overturned in an operational theatre. **Gilles Leimdorfer** went to find former Miss France winners from 1965 to 1985 and compiled a kaleidoscope of subjects of memory. With the connivance of these old beauty queens, he rebuilds what once was their notoriety, a moment in their lives that briefly but intensely was lit up. Stéphane Lavoué and Gilles Leimdorfer are both photographers in the nation-wide command "Radioscopie de la France: regards sur un pays traversé par la crise sanitaire" funded by the Ministry of Culture and managed by the French National Library.

This year, pictorial professions are also being honoured. In the wings, they work on lighting and take part in the creative process. After a gallery, a collector and a press agency are included, two other professions are presented: the photographers' agent promoting an impressive group exhibition, and the residency organizer. What is behind a picture? The photographer's eye, to be sure, but also the shadow crafts to which two exhibitions here are paying homage: production and the agent's job.

We see a picture and it tells us a story. To define the importance of this first profession, the production of photographs, we have depended on the expertise of **Cinq Étoiles Productions**. The producer's job of is to available to the photographer the necessary elements and means that will enable him to create a picture: décor, a hairdresser team, a cosmetician, stylist, assistants, light... and so many other trades that are essential to carry out a visual project like a photograph or a film. The one who is signing the residency provided by Cinq Etoiles Productions and who is proposing a gentle, adjusted staging is photographer **Letizia Le Fur**. Using her oh so special chromie, she stages a cast of some twenty senior Vichy citizens who are still active in town.

The one that embodies the second trade, that of photographers' agent, is the story of Carole Lambert, a woman who, thirty years ago, opened her own agency, Lambert Lambert. Operating between contracts and private confessions, an agent discovers new talents, defends them, sells them in service to a mainly commercial creative process. He accompanies each of his artists in producing objects that have been ordered or that sometimes are more personal. The Agent Stars exhibition presents a multidisciplinary artistic spread through which the agency makes us discover the richness of this profession through a selection of twelve of her most creative artists – photographers, video makers and set designers, combining work for orders and personal work. These artists are Charlotte Krieger, Benni Valsson, Laura Pelissier, Eva Wang, Valentin Abad, Charles Negre, Korner Union, Sophie Van der Perre, Lilian Hardouineau, Kourtney Roy, Marine Armandin, and Vincent Fournier.

Transmission

Words to See. Neuflize OBC Enterprise Foundation is presenting Words to See, an exhibition that honours the works in its photographic and videography collection.

The works loaned to us this year are photographs by **Mathieu Pernot** from his series Les Gorgan. The pictures have been entrusted to our mediator, who has circulated them in the public sphere of the City of Vichy. The public reactions have been recorded in a sound capsule and provide a sincere, spontaneous view on understanding the picture.

The Voice of the Gaze

Analyzing a photograph through an audio and video montage. Brigitte Patient takes us on a visual journey, describing what she sees, what she imagines, what she knows about photography and her place in the history of photography. Guided by her voice, the onlooker follows her gaze in a moving image that little by little reveals itself... This year Chinese performance artist Liu Bolin is on show in the Halle des Sources.

Portrait(s) invites itself to school continues this year with a first-grade class at Sévigné Lafaye School and runs a new workshop on photographic reportage. For this year's festival, the children let digital imagery go and gave priority to a return to silver practices. This is the promise of a workshop on developing and printing on paper.

Every year, Portrait(s) pays homage to the artists and the picture-making craft, and from the onset has taken care to honour French photography.

A profound thank-you to the photographers and artists. Thank you to the Portrait(s) teams in Vichy and Paris who work hard every day to ensure that this photography festival follows its trail. Special thanks to the City of Vichy, Vichy Culture, the scenographers and the technical teams. Thank you also to our faithful and valuable partners who have stood committed beside us ever since Portrait(s) started. These are: Neuflize OBC, SNCF Stations and Connections, Cinq Étoiles Productions. And our public partners: the City of Vichy, the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Regional Cultural Directorate, and the Department of Allier Bourbonnais

ERWIN OLAF

BEAUTY IS A LURE

The pictures by Dutch photographer Erwin Olaf (born 1959) are now known around the world. Recently crowned with praise for his portraits of the Dutch royal family, Olaf has been pursuing a body of work for over forty years in which he shows an extraordinary talent for telling stories through subtle chromie pictures. In them we encounter out-of-work Hitchcock beauties, sad-eyed children, domestic worlds made of shiny paper, and decors with dawn- and dusk-like settings. Isolation is internal and external at the same time. The perfect balance of his compositions seems to heal the imbalance of lives. Along the Allier, the artist is exhibiting his most emblematic series.

Erwin Olaf is represented by the Galerie Rabouan-Moussion, Paris



Kleines Requiem. Série Dance in Close-Up, choreographer Han Van Manen, 2022 © Erwin Olaf.



Kammerballet V., Série Dance in close-up, choreographer Han Van Manen, 2022 © Erwin Olaf.

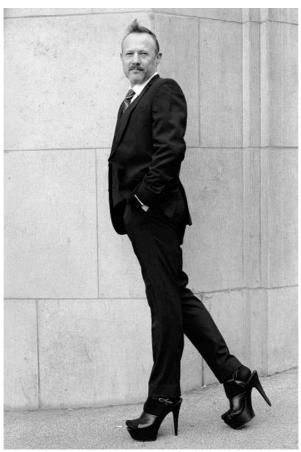
JACQUES SONCK

ARCHETYPES

Belgian photographer Jacques Sonck shoots classical analogue black-and-white street and studio portraits with an eye for the extraordinary. Across all ages, genders and races, he is attracted by individuals who stand out from the crowd, either by an anomaly in their appearance or by their extravert attitude or clothing-style. His oeuvre reads like an eccentric cross-section of Flemish society from the 1970s onwards. Seen together, his comic, tragic, melancholic and joyous portraits form an in-depth study of the human condition.

"Somehow I try to document the people living in this era and in this part of the world. It is the diversity that is interesting. Maybe through my work spectators learn to see differently, full of empathic curiosity for my subjects. That we are all different is the leitmotiv, and that we are proud of it, is the message."

Jacques Sonck is represented by Gallery FIFTY ONE, Antwerp.



Untitled, Brussels, 2016 © Jacques Sonck. Courtesy Gallery FIFTY-ONE



Untitled, Wetteren, 1991 © Jacques Sonck. Courtesy Gallery FIFTY-ONE

AGENT STARS

LAMBERT LAMBERT JOINT EXHIBITION

Orchestra conductor, bearer of business, an accomplice; this is how photographs identify their agent. Since 1991, Carole Lambert, the founder of Lambert Lambert, has run an agency for talented individuals who work in producing fixed images and films. A specialist in the sector of beauty and luxury, Lambert Lambert chooses photographers, artistic directors and set designers who represent them with prestigious clients. This joint exhibition, which reflects Carole Lambert's eclectic and sharp vision, brings together a selection of twelve artists whose world draws from contract work and more personal pictures with an almost visual artistic approach. Lambert Lambert is above all open-minded: spangles, business, fun and the spirit of rock 'n' roll.

Charlotte Krieger, Benni Valsson, Laura Pelissier, Eva Wang, Valentin Abad, Charles Negre, Korner Union, Sophie Van der Perre, Lilian Hardouineau, Kourtney Roy, Marine Armandin, Vincent Fournier.



Dalle, 2022 © Laura Pelissier



Photo for Numéro Netherlands, 2021 © Charlotte Krieger

GILLES LEIMDORFER

MISS

As part of his continual exploration of our shared imagination, he launched a project on the Miss France competition which, like the Tour de France or the Nationale 7 (the Holiday Route), is part of our people's culture. He set himself to photograph candidates from earlier competitions, whether they were prize winners or not, winners, finalists or just competitors between 1965 and 1985, a hinge-point time before televised reruns. Thus, he tells the tales of and documents women over the age of sixty, women who are now strangely invisible, have vanished from our screens and are not in the picture.

After long weeks of searching, he went to the homes of twelve old Miss France winners and to the places where they had been young. With their connivance, he went through their personal archives looking for press releases on their election, as well as childhood or teenage photographs of themselves.

Here, Miss France is an excuse that allowed him to scour the land in search of these women who not so long ago, a bit by chance, for a single evening wore a princess's costume.

These photographs were produced as part of the nation-wide command "Radioscopie de la France: regards sur un pays traversé par la crise sanitaire" funded by the Ministry of Culture and managed by the French National Library.



Scarves of Suzanne Angly, Miss France 1969 © Gilles Leimdorfer / Grande Commande Photojournalisme



Arlette Collot, Miss France 1964, press publication detail © Gilles Leimdorfer / Grande Commande Photojournalisme

LETIZIA LE FUR

QUADRILLE

Their names are Jeany, Jean-Paul, Marie-Alice, Nicole, Ginette, Titi, Bernie, Coco, Brigitte, Daniel, and Ryad. They are of the same age of the heart that is not counted in decades but in ever returning springs. They are the heroes of Letizia Le Fur, who was awarded this year's residency. Using as her background the theme of the small Vichy square, this artist, who uses her photographic pallet like a painter, combed out the city and took portraits of lively seniors. Facing her lens, they let their fantasies free, putting on the power-house coloured clothes that a virtuoso pianist or a heartbreaker would wear, a dancer or a dandy. Their eccentricity was such that they would apply the colours to the places they went to... the Opera, the public baths, the church, the cultural centre... Certain that "happiness supresses old age," as Franz Kafka said, Letizia Le Fur has redefined the outlines of a fantasy world in which, good year bad year, the lightness of living comes to life.

Residency presented by Cinq Étoiles Productions.

Production team: Carolina Anselius, Chloé Dardennes, Marjorie Donnart, Sandrine Gonzales.

With the support of Leica Camera France, RVZ and FMAlebureau / Florence Moll.

Book from Filigranes.



Quadrille. Dominique © Letizia Le Fur



Quadrille. Snack © Letizia Le Fur

STÉPHANE LAVOUÉ

ALLONS ENFANTS!

Who are the new faces of the French Army and what is the reason for this new infatuation with the career in the forces? The son and grand-son of soldiers, Stéphane Lavoué grew up surrounded by men in fatigue dress. Particularly attentive to the forces' role during the lockdown periods, to returning from the war to the doors of Europe after more than a year, and to the unexpected or predictable effects these events caused, all he could do was note the increase in the number of young people with a vocation for a military career. "This is the first time in ages that we are reaching our recruitment goals," as the headquarters of the various forces self-congratulate. The start of the war in Ukraine and the shift into a "war economy" have helped to restore the "military nation". To find answers to his questions, Stéphane Lavoué went to meet these young men at various schools and training centres – officers' academies - l'École Navale, Saint-Cyr at Coëtquidan; NCO training centres - ENSOA at Saint-Maixent – and for ordinary low-rank troops – the initial training centre at Bitche.

These photographs were produced within the framework of the nation-wide command "Radioscopie de la France: regards sur un pays traversé par la crise sanitaire" funded by the Ministry of Culture and managed by the French National Library.



Committed young man, soldier on the grounds of the Initial Training Centre for non-commissioned members (CFIM), at Bitche (Moselle) © Stéphane Lavoué / Grande Commande Photojournalisme



Training Non-Commissioned Officer on receipt of his pack at ENSOAT, Saint-Maixent, the National School for Army Non-Commissioned Officers)

© Stéphane Lavoué / Grande Commande Photojournalisme

WORDS TO SEE

MATHIEU PERNOT

PRESENTED BY THE SUPPORT OF NEUFLIZE

Neuflize OBC Enterprise Foundation is presenting Words to See, an exhibition in honour of the works in its photographic and videography collection.

Portrait(s) and the Foundation are pursuing the innovative project that was started in 2018, that of

bringing the treasures of the Neuflize OBC Enterprise Collection to the knowledge of the general public and to propose a scheme for analytic encounters about the works and thus encourage an open, ongoing dialogue between members of the public, academics, experts and artists.

This year, three works by Mathieu Pernot from the Neuflize OBC collection are being exhibited for the duration of the festival. Comments by members of the public collected by the mediator before the exhibition are being propagated in the exhibition hall.

The public reactions have been recorded in a sound capsule and provide a sincere, spontaneous view on understanding the picture.

In 1995, when he was studying at the Ecole nationale de la photographie in Arles, Mathieu Pernot got to know the Gorgans, a Roma family. From that moment on, he recorded their births and deaths, their games and small trades. He was the family's genealogist, godfather and portrait artist all at the same time, and his commitment went much farther than making a photographic chronicle. He shed light on all his research, in an approach that could be described as 'monumentary' or 'documental'.

Quotes from the text by Pauline de Laboulaye.

Mediation: Camille Carrias Sound montage: Félix Fouchet



Sivillia, Arles, 1995 © Mathieu Pernot. Neuflize OBC Enterprise Collection



Famille Gorgan, Arles, 1995 © Mathieu Pernot. Neuflize OBC Enterprise Collection



Jonathan, Arles, 1996 © Mathieu Pernot. Neuflize OBC Enterprise Collection

THE VOICE OF THE GAZE

AN AUDIO AND VISUAL CARTE BLANCHE BY BRIGITTE PATIENT

Brigitte Patient has been through the ten years of Portrait(s) exhibitions and has chosen one artist, an image of this corpus. Now she takes us on a visual journey, describing what she perceives, what she imagines, what she knows about the photographer and his place in the history of photography. Guided by her voice, the onlooker follows her gaze into a moving image that little by little reveals itself... This is how this year you will discover a photograph of Chinese performance artist **Liu Bolin**.

Brigitte Patient's singular way of speaking reveals itself in dialogue with a photograph, arousing curiosity and the desire to see.

Liu Bolin is represented by GALERIE PARIS-B

Sound montage: Félix Fouchet



Instant Noodles, Hiding in the City, 2013 © Liu Bolin. Courtesy GALERIE PARIS-B

PORTRAIT(S) INVITES ITSELF TO SCHOOL

The Portrait(s) photography festival is continuing its activities directed at school children. This initiative, Portrait(s) invites itself to school, was launched in 2017 and continues with a first-grade class at Sévigné Lafaye School and runs a new workshop on photographic reportage.

Run by Jérôme Schirtzinger, of the Exhibitions Service, and photographer Christophe Darbelet, the class worked in the many parks that surround the spa city. The children approached and then photographed walkers and models. For this year's festival, the children let digital imagery go and gave priority to a return to silver practices. This is the promise of a workshop on developing and printing on paper.

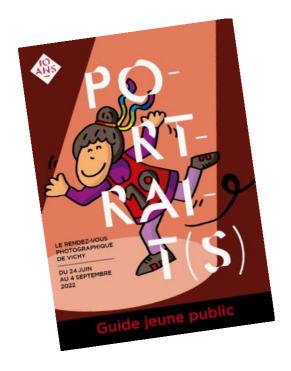
This workshop has been made possible through the joint action of Pierre Lacassagne, a teacher at Sévigné Lafaye Elementary School, and the City of Vichy.



FRIDAY 23 JUNE:

18.00 : Opening of this 11th Portrait(s) festival at the Grand Etablissement Thermal 18.45 : Stroll along the Lac d'Allier esplanade

The opening programme is being worked out.



YOUNG PUBLIC GUIDE

LEARN TO PLAY WITH PICTURES

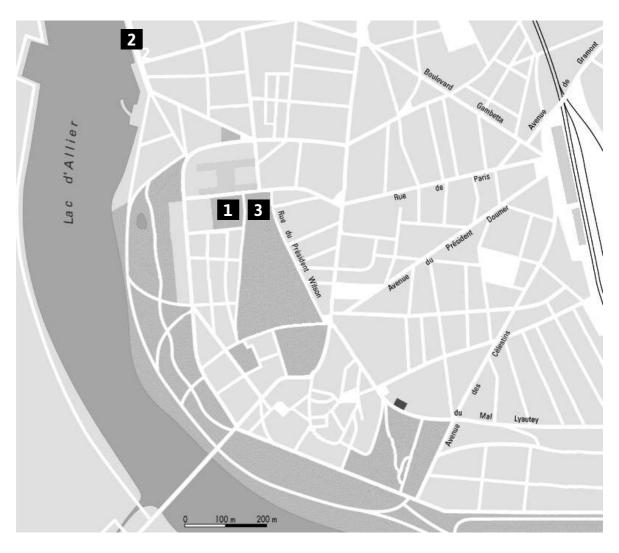
The youngest ones among us will be able to play an active part in *Portrait*(s) again.

A teaching brochure has been specially designed for children. This guide awakens young members of the public to photographic techniques so as to make them play with pictures through coloring putting things in context and heightening their observation sense. It also allows them to learn about the work of certain photographers who are being exhibited at the festival.

Brochure available after the opening of the exhibitions in the Grand Etablissement Thermal.

Portrait(s) Photography festival of the city of Vichy

JUNE 23 TO OCTOBER 1, 2023



1 GRAND ÉTABLISSEMENT THERMAL AVENUE DU GÉNÉRAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER

JACQUES SONCK

ARCHETYPES

GILLES LEIMDORFER

MISS

LETIZIA LE FUR

QUADRILLE

STÉPHANE LAVOUÉ

ALLONS ENFANTS!

ÉTOILES D'AGENT

LAMBERT LAMBERT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

WORDS TO SEE

MATHIEU PERNOT - NEUFLIZE OBC COLLECTION

ESPLANADE DU LAC D'ALLIER

BD DU MARÉCHAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY

ERWIN OLAF

BEAUTY IS A LURE

HALL DES SOURCES 3

7 AVENUE DU GÉNÉRAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER

THE VOICE OF THE GAZE

LIU BOLIN BY BRIGITTE PATIENT

NEUFLIZE OBC

By matching the Vichy Portrait(s) Photography Festival, the Neuflize OBC Bank Enterprise Foundation affirms its commitment to contemporary photography.

As the only international event to be centred exclusively on the art of portraiture, the Vichy Portrait(s) Photography Festival brings together not only a wide variety of exhibitions but also a programme of instructional activities which Neuflize OBC is delighted to support.

This year, Portrait(s) and the Foundation are pursuing the innovative project that was started in 2018, that of ringing the treasures of the Neuflize OBC Enterprise Collection to the knowledge of the general public and to propose a scheme for analytic encounters about the works and thus encourage an open, ongoing dialogue between members of the public, academics, experts and artists.

Sincere, lasting involvement

As the heir of a tradition of responsible involvement and as a pioneer in including a patronage policy at the very heart of its entrepreneurial strategy, Neuflize OBC has pursued its activity in the field of image creation for twenty years. Its sphere of involvement looks at this medium in all its forms, be it still or animated. The Bank also keeps its ears open to leading figures in the field, through its involvement supporting them for the duration (Jeu de Paume, Cinémathèque française, Maison Européenne de la Photographie).

Through its Enterprise Foundation, Neuflize OBC encourages the democratization of artistic creation by supporting teaching, research and social action programmes. In particular, it matches many instructional activities and schemes that encourage access to art for specific groups, such as the young and the disabled.

Its all-embracing, multidimensional involvement provides Neuflize OBC with the means to open eyes to the world, to refine its analysis of cyclical and technological evolution, and to act as a responsible enterprise. By standing beside visionary artists, Neuflize OBC sharpens its sense of innovation and its ability to step into the future.

In 2021, Neuflize OBC was awarded the Philanthropy Grand Prize by the Groupe Ficade at the Institut de France in recognition for its commitment to visual arts.

CINQ ÉTOILES PRODUCTIONS

Cinq Étoiles Productions has been a key partner of Portrait(s) since the beginning and is especially proud to affirm its support of the festival and of contemporary work by organizing a Vichy residency this year for Letizia Le Fur and producing the book published by Filigranes.

Our experience on the international level as a production company in the fields of photography, publishing and business brings us to meet many emerging and established photographers as can be seen in the Portrait(s) festival. The richness of the festival's programme and the energy directed to bringing this encounter into existence attract us deeply.

We feel so close to the values defended by Fany Dupêchez and the festival's teams. So, it is completely natural for us and a source of much pleasure to bring our support to this lovely photographic festival.

Charly Forin David Moreillon Lucas Lechevalier

SNCF GARES & CONNEXIONS

A partner of Vichy Portrait(s) for the seventh consecutive year, SNCF Stations and Connections renews its support for this compelling cultural event here in France.

Once more, Vichy station is going to turn itself into an extension of the festival, a prelude to the exhibition that will take place on the station square. Paris Bercy Bourgogne Pays d'Auvergne station, from where the trains depart for Vichy, will also echo the event, inviting passengers to come and discover it in its entirety on location.

Within the national collaboration between SNCF Gares & Connexions and the French National Library for the nation-wide « *Grande Commande photojournalisme* », a particular area inside Vichy railway station will be dedicated to present the works of photographers Gilles Leimdorfer and Stéphane Lavoué. This will echo to their exhibitions in this edition of Portrait(s) in Vichy.

Note

As an organization specializing in the design and operation of stations through their commercial use, SNCF Stations and Connections is a primary actor in the field of durable mobility, involved in ecological and social transition for the benefit of all parts of France. With 3,000 stations and ten million travellers and visitors per day, it is committed to the constant improvement of its quality of operation, the invention of new services and the modernization of its heritage. Its strategic ambition is to create a desire for stations through a desire for trains. As a partner of major national and local cultural institutions, it organizes over 130 art exhibitions, activities and shows each year. These cultural events are tailored for the stations individually throughout the whole of France.

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EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS:

PORTRAIT(S) INVITES ITSELF TO SCHOOL

CHRISTOPHE DARBELET AND JÉRÔME SCHIRTZINGER

WORDS TO SEE

CAMILLE CARRIAS ET FÉLIX FOUCHET

SCÉNOGRAPHY

SYLVIE MEUNIER

TECHNICAL SCÉNOGRAPHY

JEAN-MICHEL FIORI

RELATIONS PRESSE

2E BUREAU - SYLVIE GRUMBACH, MARTIAL HOBENICHE ET MARIE-LAURE GIRARDON portraits@2e-bureau.com / 01 42 33 93 18 - 06 08 82 95 33

THE PORTRAIT(S) PHOTOGAPHY FESTIVAL IS ORGANIZED BY VICHY CULTURE AND PUT FORWARD BY FANY DUPÊCHEZ

PARTENAIRES PUBLICS













PARTENAIRES PRIVÉS











PARTENAIRES MÉDIAS





