



COMMUNAUTÉ DE COMMUNES DES
TERRES d'APCHER MARGERIDE AUBRAC



©Jean-Sébastien Caron

Scenovision's English book

Foreword

The Scénovision of Saint-Alban was born in 2014 on the initiative of the elected representatives of this small village of Lozère. The main idea was to preserve the beautiful building that houses this new generation museum : the Vincens's house. The inhabitants of the village are indeed very proud of this charming farm whose first stones were laid in the 13th century.

The transmission of the rich heritage and history of the Margeride to a wide and eclectic public was the second wish. The choice of an innovative structure like the Scénovision was obvious to evoke important themes that have shaped the history of the village and its surroundings: fauna, flora, the Beast of Gévaudan, through the Resistance, the psychiatric hospital, the advent of Art Brut, Paul Eluard, the rural life of yesteryear...

SUMMARY

What a Scénovision ?	p 4
The history of Saint-Alban's Scénovision	p 5
The Bisons of Margeride.....	p 6 - 7
Saint-Alban's castle	p 8 - 9
The beast and the Gevaudan's wolves	p 10 - 11
The institutional therapy.....	p 12 - 13
L'Art Brut	p 14 - 15
The Cemetery of the fools	P 16
The hospital's chapel	P 17
La Résistance	p 18-19
The way of Santiago De Compostela	p 20
Informations and Contacts.....	p 21 -23

What a Scénovision ?

It is a joyful ALCHEMY BETWEEN THE MUSEUM AND THE CINEMA, new technologies and enchantment, history and emotion :
A DREAM RIDE.

A Scénovision is also a surprising and dynamic staging with
SUMPTUOUS DECORATIONS highlighted thanks to MULTIPLE
AUDIOVISUAL TECHNIQUES.

The Scénovision de Saint-Alban is a human-sized project created by the company specializing in this type of animation:
THE PROD IS IN THE MEADOW.



The history of Saint-Alban's Scénovision

At Scénovision de Saint-Alban, the narrator is Auguste, the village's postman. He is about to retire after many years of cycling and delivering mail to the inhabitants of the villages and hamlets of Margeride.

In a retro world, spectators follow him on his last tour where they will discover in a very PLAYFUL, INTERACTIVE, IMMERSIVE and POETIC way the history of Saint-Alban and Margeride.

Spectators will be able to marvel at the landscapes of Margeride, shudder to discover the legend of the Beast of Gévaudan, and be conquered by the little-known history of institutional psychotherapy and Art Brut. The doors of Saint-Alban Castle will open and reveal all the secrets of this place steeped in history...

A real experience where all the senses of visitors are awakened!!

Scénovision of Saint-Alban : a show route playful and historical !!



©Benoît Colomb– PACT MARGERIDE

LA MARGERIDE

At the limit of three departments (Haute-Loire, Cantal and Lozère), Margeride is a mysterious, soft and serene land whose granite reliefs were carved during the primary era. Bushy forests punctuate vast landscapes of moors, meadows and pastures that lie between 1000 and 1500 meters above sea level.

Imposing granite blocks eroded by time and deposited as if by magic, sculpt large green spaces and form here and there majestic granite chaos.

Sparsely populated, about 14 inhabitants per square kilometre, Margeride is a haven of peace where many animals and plant species flourish thanks to the invigorating air of this region.

More than 400 species of fauna and flora are protected by the Natura 2000 label in Margeride.

Let yourself be carried away by the feeling of peace of these places for a bike ride with our dear Auguste.



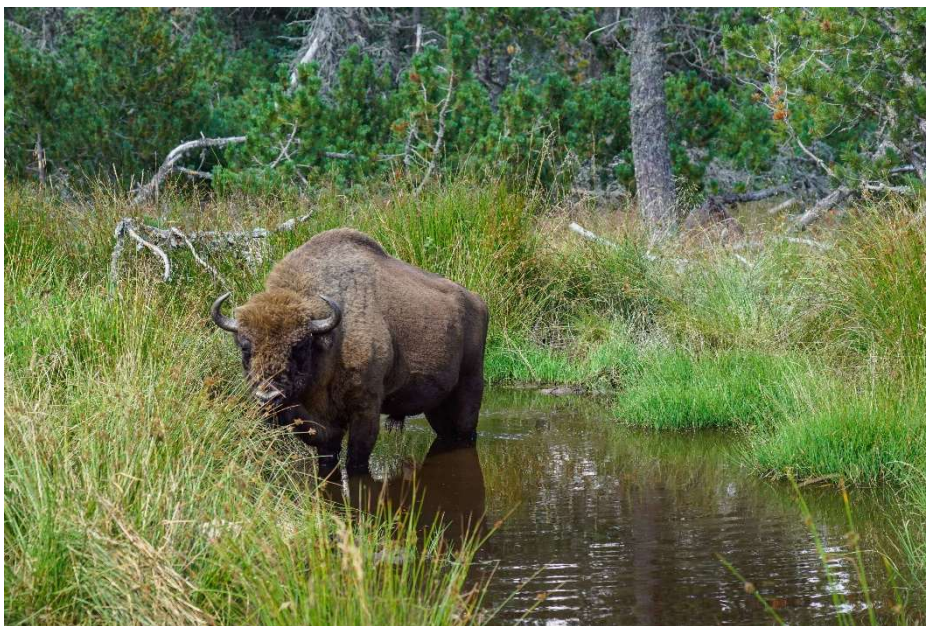
© Jean-Sébastien Caron – Baou de l'Estival

La réserve des bisons d'Europe de la Margeride : *Un endroit exceptionnel !*

After exploring Margeride with our unavoidable postman, do not hesitate to take a short trip to Sainte-Eulalie to meet the bison of Europe.

Present in the wild only in northern Europe, European bison were reintroduced in Margeride in 1991.

In the reserve, they live in semi-freedom in a park of 80 hectares.



© Jean-Sébastien Caron - Réserve des Bisons d'Europe

The guided tour by horse-drawn carriage in summer or sled in winter when there is snow, allows you to meet the largest terrestrial mammal in Europe. A museum space unveils the history of bison from prehistory to the present day.

www.bisoneurope.com

LE CHATEAU DE Saint-Alban

The Saint-Alban's castle is situated on Via Podiensis, one of the ways of Santiago de Compostela. It's mentioned from the 12th century and belonged to one of the eight baronies of Gévaudan, the Apcher's barony.

In 1764, the building was the starting point of the organized defeats to eliminate the very famous and bloodthirsty Beast of Gévaudan. Everything is supervised by the owner of the place, the Count of Morangiès.

This castle became a psychiatric hospital in 1821, with the arrival of Joseph Tissot, known as Brother Hilarion, whose vocation was to serve the insane. It was bought in 1824 by the department of Lozère following the poor management of the missionary.

The castle is classified as a historical monument since July 11, 1942.

It now hosts the Margeride en Gévaudan Tourist Office, which offers exhibitions and shows throughout the season. Visitors will be discover the magnificent «loggia Renaissance» while in pink accord and stroll in the renovated rooms housing achievements of different artists including those of patients of the Saint-Alban's psychiatric hospital.



©Jean-Sébastien Caron OT Margeride en Gévaudan

L'arkose : une pierre de caractère

The arkose or «pink rock» is a red stone made mainly of quartz and feldspars. We find this very particular rock in Saint-Alban where it has been used for millennia, as evidenced by the architecture of the castle but also the statue of the Gallo-Roman god Silvain-Sucellus on display at the archaeological museum of Javols, small village located 10 minutes from Saint-Alban.

For the record, if you read «Gargantua» by Rabelais (1534), the red color of this typical rock of the territory would be explained by the fact that our ogre preferred would have bled from the nose.



©Jean-Sébastien Caron OT Margeride en Gévaudan

LA BETE DU GEVAUDAN

In 1764, a woman was attacked near Langogne, in Gévaudan (former name of Lozère under the old regime). And this is only the first victim of a long list.

Assaults took place near Saint-Alban, the most famous is that of Jeanne Jouve. This mother fought to save her son Jean-Pierre from the clutches of the Beast. After a fierce battle, Jeanne arrived with the help of her other children to run the animal away.

Major beatings will be organized for three years, including by order of King Louis XV. Dozens of wolves were killed, but the Beast's attacks continued until 1767, killing more than 100 people.

Many hunts left the castle of Saint-Alban. On June 19^v1767, during a fight organized by the Marquis of Apcher, Jean Chastel killed a large animal look like a wolf, at the place called «Sogne d'Auvers» (currently Auvers), near the Besseyre-Saint-Mary. It was from that day that the attacks of the Beast ceased in Gévaudan.



© Jean-Sébastien Caron - Stèle d'Auvers

Les loups du Gévaudan

Discover the wolf, a mysterious animal that has captivated human for millennia. Throughout your visit to the park, you will be observe no less than 5 different species and understand their behaviors: Siberian Wolf, Mongolia, Canada, Poland and the Arctic.

In the green setting of the Margeride, you will stroll with a guide or freely on a pedestrian path connecting the different enclosures.

You can also watch the feeding of wolves: an exceptional moment!!



www.loupsdugevaudan.com

The institutional therapy

In 1936, the Lyon psychiatrist Paul Balvet arrived at the direction of the hospital of Saint-Alban. He launched reforms to humanize the asylum. Four years later, he was joined by François Tosquels (Spanish refugee) and Lucien Bonnafé.

With the help of the nurses and the nuns of Saint-Régis, these three men created «the Société du Gévaudan», whose official mission is to lay the foundations for a major advance in the humanities : institutional therapy. This method consists of treating patients as real individuals and not «crazy» people.

Caregivers will thus create in the hospital an open living space, with diversified activities, and thus restore to these people a freedom they had lost. The foundations of occupational therapy will also be laid during this period: the goal is no longer to occupy patients, but to offer them remunerative work responding to a real demand from the community.

At that time, the hospital received more than 500 patients. In 1965, the walls of the hospital are dismantled, integrating the patients and the inhabitants of the village of Saint-Alban in the same living space.

François Tosquelles : a precursor man

Catalan psychiatrist, fervent opponent of the Franco regime, François Tosquelles is sentenced to death. He then went into exile during the Retirada and found refuge in the psychiatric hospital of Saint-Alban sur Limagnole.

Humanist and committed, he participates fully in the evolution of the care techniques of the Saint-Albanian asylum. He is also involved in the Resistance of Haute-Lozère, for example by having the club of patients print so-called clandestine editions.

François Tosquelles is considered one of the inventors of institutional therapy. His theories have influenced psychiatric professionals since the middle of the 20th century.

A man of conviction who worked all his life for others and for freedom.



The boat of Auguste Forestier held by François Tosquelles

L'ART BRUT

The term Art Brut was conceptualized by artist Jean Dubuffet in 1945. The author of a work called Art Brut is a self-taught, someone who has not learned. The artist is on the fringes of the artistic system, he has the will to create but without necessarily the desire to fit into an artistic field and without the awareness of being an artist or making art.

In many psychiatric hospitals, especially that of Saint-Alban, some patients produce plastic creations obeying an inner force, their creations are preserved and this from 1914 by the director Maxime Dubuisson, grandfather of Lucien Bonnafé. These creations will interest the greatest: Jean Dubuffet, Paul Éluard, Raymond Queneau... It was first the poet Paul Éluard who discovered the works of the patients when he found asylum in the hospital of Saint-Alban, in November 1943.

Among these resident artists, there is Auguste Forestier, who makes small statues with pieces of string, wood or metal; there is also Marguerite Sirvins, Aimable Jayet or Clément Fraise. Today, the creations from the Saint-Alban's hospital are part of the world's largest collections, in Lausanne, Villeneuve d'Ascq and Bilbao.



The Beast of Gévaudan by Auguste Forestier

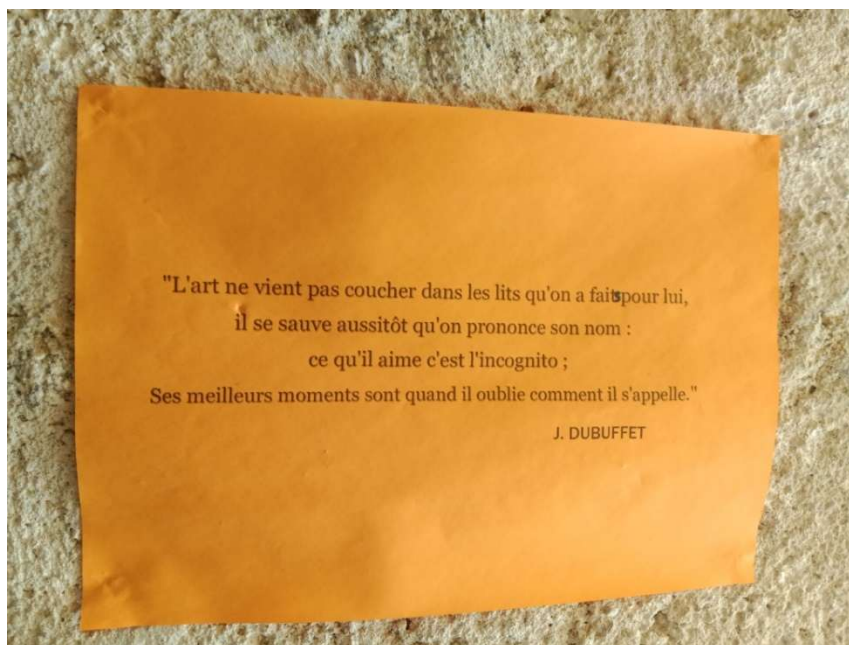
Auguste Forestier: from madness to creation

The son of a farmer fascinated by trains, Auguste Forestier ran away from home as a teenager. In 1914, he was definitively committed to the psychiatric hospital of Saint-Alban after having derailed a train by laying stones on the track. In a 1915 medical certificate, it is noted that he draws a lot and sculpts butcher bones.

Around 1930, he began making wooden toys and figurines dressed in recycled materials. He was discovered by Paul Éluard in 1943, while the latter, fleeing Paris, had taken refuge in Lozère with his wife. Back in Paris in 1944, he brought back three sculptures by Forestier and showed them to Picasso, Queneau and Dubuffet.

It was after this first contact that Dubuffet went to Saint-Alban, probably in September 1945, to learn more about Forestier's creations. Today Auguste Forestier is considered a major artist of the Art Brut movement. His works are exhibited in museums around the world.

www.outsiderartfair.com/fr/artistes/auguste-forestier



The cemetery fools

This is where the patients of the hospital were buried under a simple wooden cross, without name or date.

This cemetery inspired the poet Paul Eluard who took refuge in the castle with his wife in 1943.



© Jean-Sébastien Caron



© Jean-Sébastien Caron

Saint-Pierre's chapel

It is the old chapel of the hospital, it of contemporary style.
The stone used is granite that was extracted from a local quarry.

The hospital's caregivers and patients participated in the construction of this building, under the direction of Master Roger Marion, architect and sculptor.

Inside the building, there are works in the "art brut" style made by patients at the Saint-Alban psychiatric hospital.



© Jean-Sébastien Caron

LA RESISTANCE

During the Second World War, the nuns, the doctors, the civilian staff and the patients of the hospital of Saint-Alban will welcome, hide and treat maquisards wounded during clashes with the enemy forces. The most famous fight in Margeride took place on June 10 and 11 1944 at Mont Mouchet, 30 km from Saint-Alban.

Isolated and located far from the big cities, the village and its medical institution will shelter many clandestines fleeing the Nazi regime, intellectuals, doctors and men of letters including the poets Paul Eluard and Tristan Tzara, the philosopher Georges Canguilhem but also people of Jewish faith as the future animator Denise Glaser. It is realized during this period then a rich cultural and intellectual mix with the backdrop of the dream of Liberty.

The Société du Gévaudan created at the base for patient care techniques had unofficial missions related to the Resistance: to pass to free France books or stowaways, to print illegal leaflets, get ammunition with the ambulance...



© Jean-Sébastien Caron - Stèle du Mont Mouchet

The resistance museum of Mont Mouchet : a memory place

In the spring of 1944, Lucien and Pierrot joined one of the five great maquis of France. Their action: prevent the German army located in the south to advance towards Normandy, place of future landings. By following the story of these two cartoon characters, you will discover in a sensitive and playful way the major events that marked this memorial site.

A stone's throw from the museum, the «secrets of the forest» educational trail offers a 3 km loop through the surrounding forest to discover the fauna, flora, forest areas and the themes of water and forest evolution.

<https://gorgesallier.wixsite.com/musee-mont-mouchet>



The way of Santiago de Compostela : Via Podensis (Le Puy en Velay – Conques)

The origins of the Way of Santiago de Compostela date back to 813. According to legend, a hermit named Pelagius discovered the tomb of the apostle James.

In 834, the king of Asturias, Alfonso II, decided to trace the first path from Oviedo, so that the faithful could come to pay homage to the sacred relics of the saint.

A century later, the first French route, Puy-en-Velay, was created by Bishop Gothescalc and named Via Podiensis. It crosses our beautiful Margeride and the village of Saint-Alban-sur-Limagnole to continue to Aubrac.

Nowadays, the Via Podiensis is the busiest way in France, the walkers who take it, do not it exclusively for a religious purpose. This way way was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1998.



THE RATES

Adult entrance : 6€

Children under 12 years : 5€

Free for children under 6 years

School & Home leisure without accommodation: 4 €

Entrance « hosting customers » : 5 €

On presentation on ticket

Group entrance

(from nine people)

Adult : 5 €

Group entrance under 12 years : 4 €

Free for children under 6 years

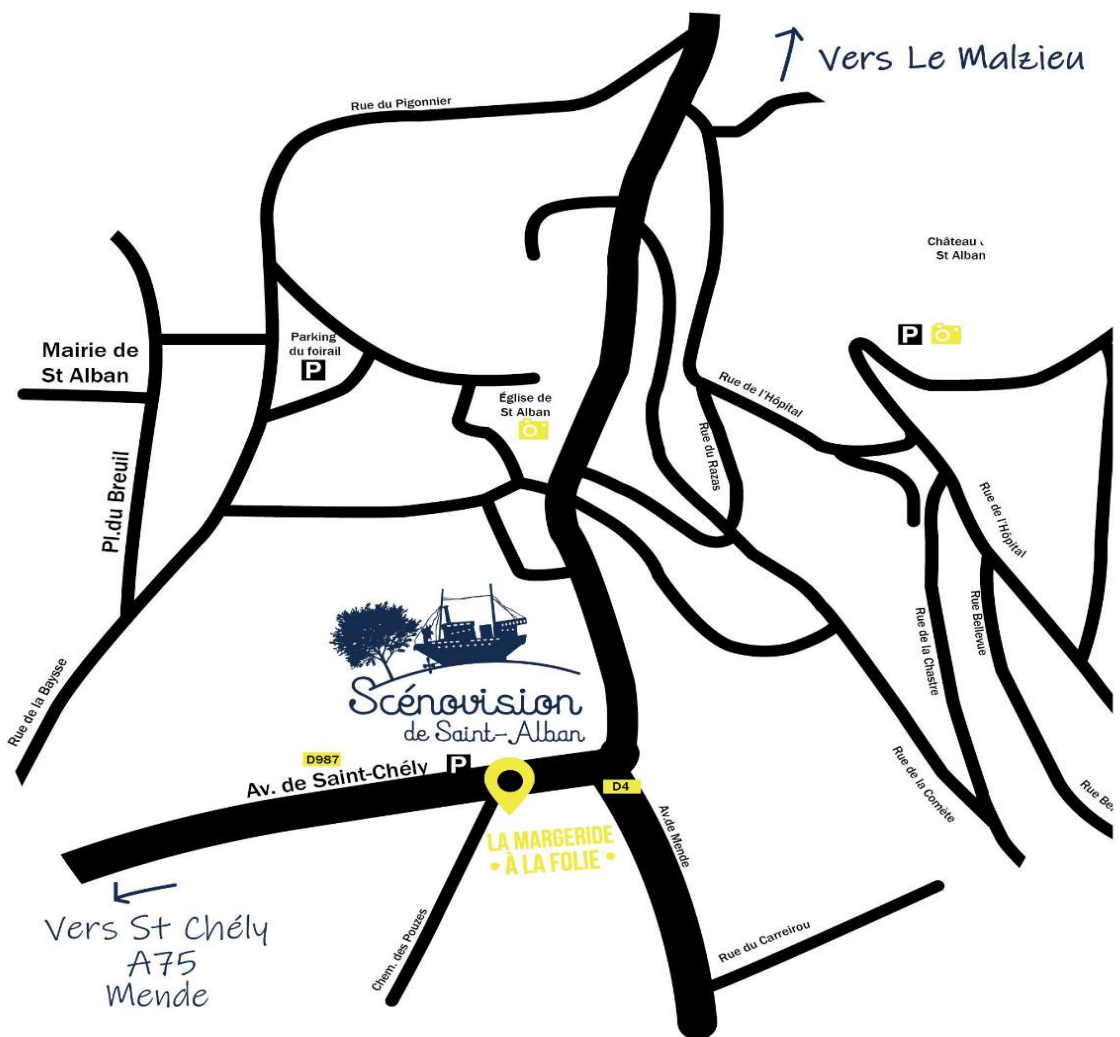
CONTACTS



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