

# KEVIN CASSIDY PHOTO COMPOSITIONS

## PARIS

OPENING OF *LA RIME ET LA RAISON*  
(THE RHYME AND THE REASON)  
AN EXHIBITION OF THE MENIL COLLECTION AT  
THE GRAND PALAIS  
IN APRIL 1984

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# INTRODUCTION

**The Genesis of the Exhibition: “The invitation for the show came from Mr. Lang (then French Minister of Culture Jacques Lang) who had heard about the range and significance of the de Menil art holdings from French cultural officials who had visited Houston in 1982 for the opening of a retrospective organized by Mrs. de Menil on the late French artist Yves Klein. The invitation was also prompted by French gratitude to the de Menil family for contributions to the Pompidou Center of works by important American artists”. (Grace Glueck, *New York Times*, Thursday, April 19, 1984)**



# THE GRAND PALAIS

This first series of three photos shows the Place Clemenceau entrance to the Grand Palais. The Grand Palais (Grand Palace) is a large glass exhibition hall that was built for the World Fair of 1900. The Grand Palais hosted the DATE *Salon d'Autone* (Autumn Salon). You can see two photo showing the ubiquitous *Eye* Poster for *the Rhyme and the Reason* Exhibition. It is from *Eye of a Young Woman* by Joseph Sacco (1844). The Eye Poster filled the streets of Paris. The Opening and the Exhibition were extremely well received in Paris.



Galerie Nationale du Grand Palais

La rime et la raison  
Les collections Merrill  
Houston - New York  
18 avril 30 juillet

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Salon d'été du Grand Louvre

La rime et la raison  
Les collections Méné  
Houston - New York  
18 avril - 30 juillet

# THE TEXT ON THE MARQUEE

**The Exhibition was entitled *La rime et la raison* (The rhyme and the reason). The text reads as follows:**

**La rime et la raison  
Les collections Menil  
Houston - New York  
14 avril – 30 juillet**

**On top of the Place Clemenceau entrance is Georges Recipon's marvelous sculpture of four *Galloping Horses*. A quadriga! The Charioteer appears to be holding up a victory wreath.**





# THE ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT MITTERAND'S MOTORCADE

**This series of photo compositions shows the Champs Elysees. We see traffic being cleared along the Champs Elysees for security purposes. The Grande Palais with the Petite Palais In the background is towards the left.**

**Then comes the arrival of President Mitterand's motorcade. Parked at the entrance is one of the Presidential cars. It is Springtime in Paris and the weather is wonderful.**











La rime et la raison  
Des collections Molière  
Moulin - Paris - Mars  
20 avril - 30 juillet

# THE REPUBLICAN GUARD AND THE EXIT OF PRESIDENT MITTERRAND

**This next series shows members of the Republican Guard, who represents France at important international events abroad and receives important dignitaries at home, assembling in the foyer of the Grand Palais. Then we see standing at attention with their swords drawn, awaiting the exit of then President Mitterrand and then Minister of Culture Jacques Lang. led by Irene Bizot, in the red dress, head of the French Reunion des Musees Nationaux and later founder of the so-called Bizot Group. Then follow other European Cultural officials who attended the VIP opening, Also included are photos of Adelaide de Menil Carpenter with Christophe and George de Menil arm in arm with Adelaide de Menil Carpenter holding the camera (full face not seen). Other guests, and a self portrait.**















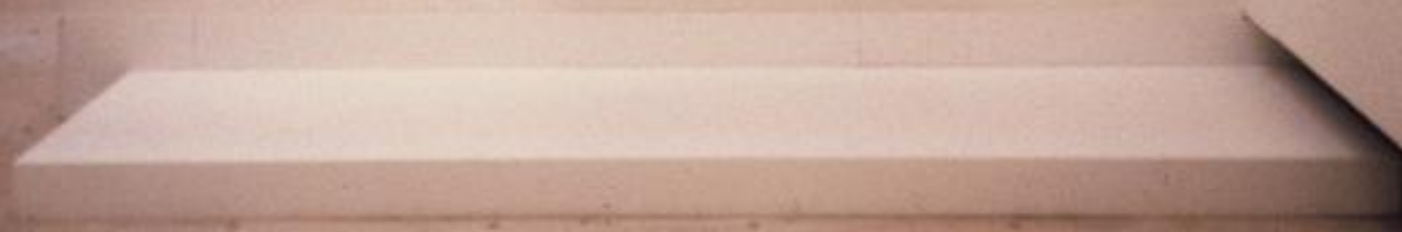


# THE FIRST FLOOR

Inside the *Rhyme and the Reason* Exhibition. We see guests enjoying each other's company and in the background, one of my favorite paintings from the exhibition, Frank Stella's *Takht-i-Sulayman I*. As we stroll through the exhibition we encounter a painting by Yves Klein, Andy Warhol's *Portraits of Jeri MacAgy* and *Lavender Disaster*. We then see photos of my old friend Miles Glaser, who survived Auschwitz and the SS, and his friends Rudi and Eva, who were married in Theresienstadt.











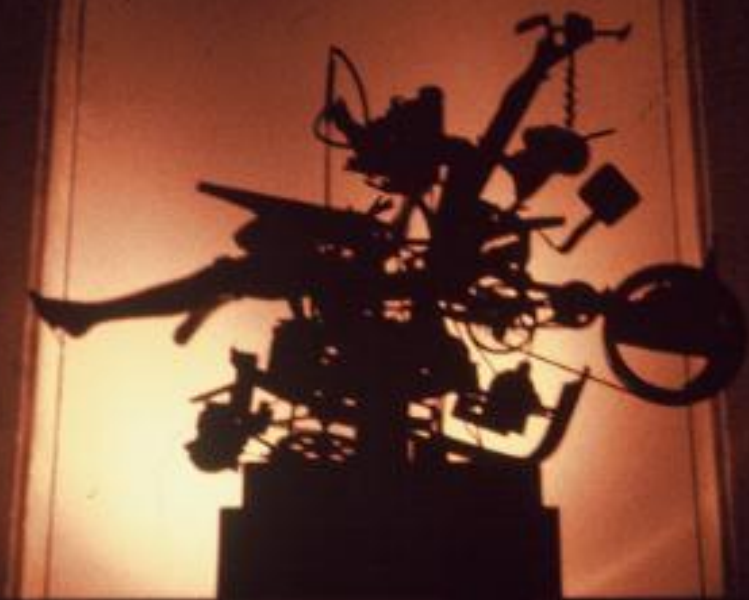


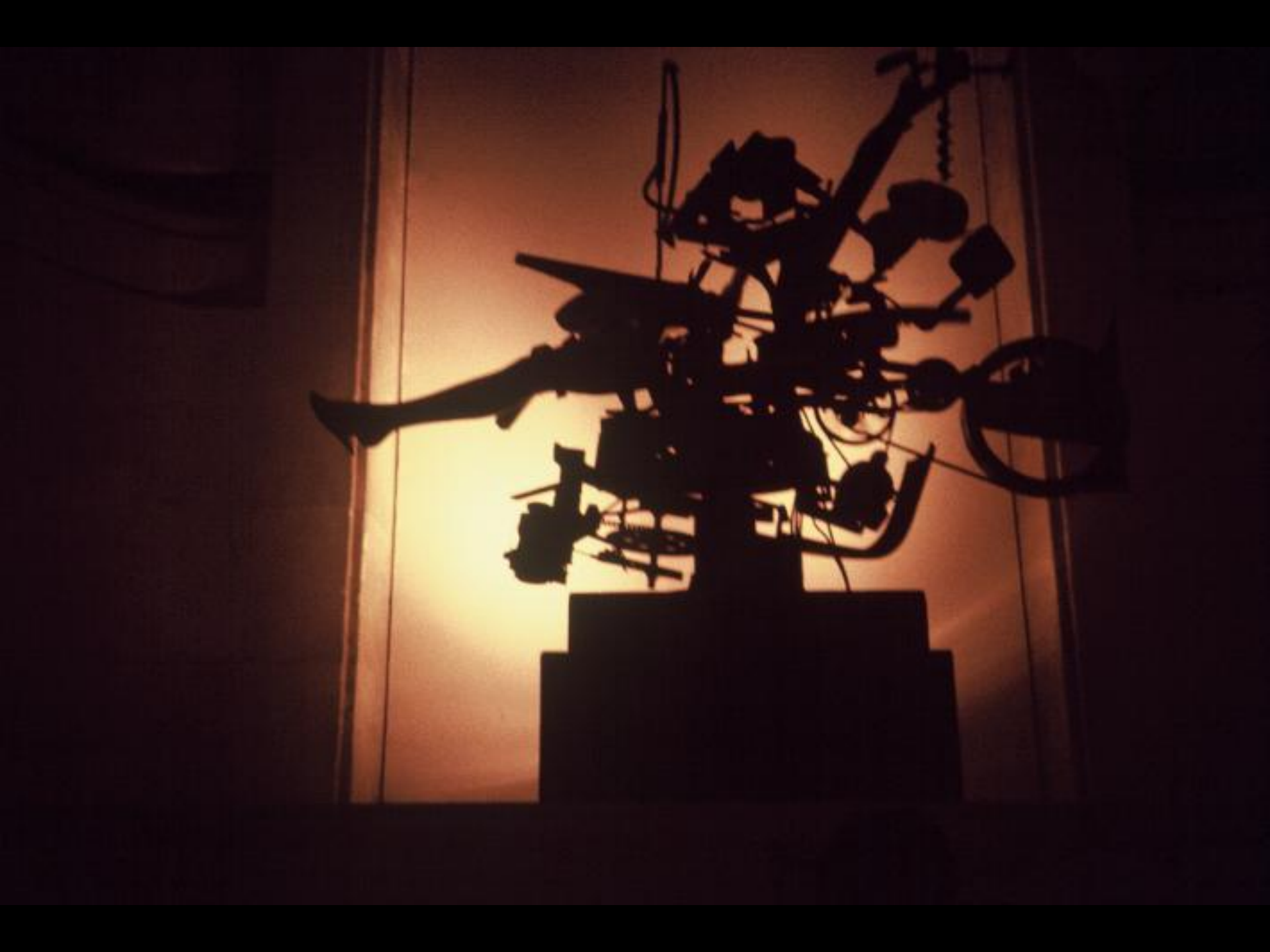




# THE SECOND FLOOR

As we move to the second floor, selections include three photos of Jean Tinguely's sculpture *Dissecting Machine* (in silhouette), Matta's *Je m'honte*. Rene Magritte's *Golconde*. Picasso's *Guitar on a Table* and *Girl With A Turban* whose colors in the photo are much darker than in the original painting. I call it *Girl In a Turban Sitting in the Rothko Chapel*. and Max Ernst's *Portrait of Dominique de Menil* . The lighting is lower as the second and third floors are lite by torchlight (not really, just no flash allowed).



















# THE THIRD FLOOR

Third floor selections include Max Ernst's *Le ciel epouse in terre (The Sky Marries the Earth)*. African art selections from the Menil Collection include a carved Bamileke *Wooden Mask* from the Cameroon, a *Serpent (Mbanchong)*, Baga, Guinea. Finally a wonderful tableau of small Cycladic figurines and other small statuettes from various locations and historical periods.













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# ALONG THE GRAND AXE

**Along the Grand Axis. The Jardin Tuileries.  
Percier and Fontaine's *Arc du Triomphe du  
Carrousel* in the Place du Carrousel. The *Graffiti  
Wall* at the Louvre and the *Eye* Poster from *The  
Rhyme and the Reason* exhibition. The Eye says  
Goodbye.**











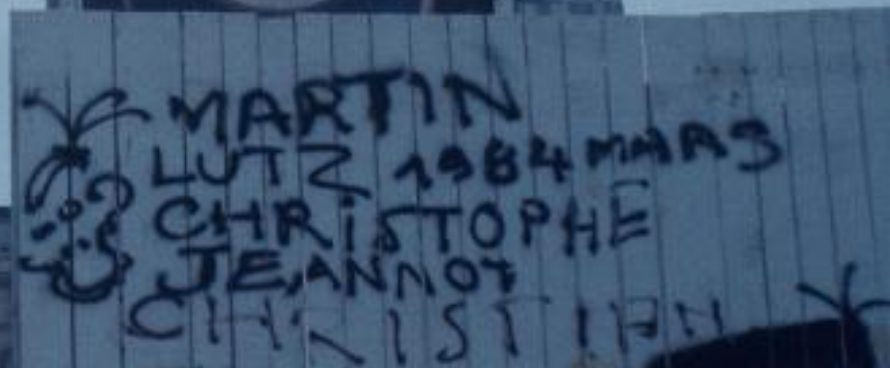












# La rime et la raison

Les collections  
Ménil  
Houston - New York



MARTIN

1984

1984

# La rime et la raison

Les collections  
Ménil  
Houston - New York



# FIN

Enjoyed sharing with you these “Look Back” selections to a wonderful time and a spectacular art opening. Dominique de Menil was great friend of mine for over a quarter of a century and it was an honor to be her guest. These photo compositions act as a humble *homage* to Jean and Dominique de Menil and to the wonderful people who were there and to all those who helped make it possible. They are a way to restore, remember, and revisit times long ago.

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