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## The Hidden Face of the World: A Subjective Art

The Modern Art Collection at the Abbey of Beaulieu-en-Rouergue

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Author: Jérôme Delaplanche

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### **Clair Morizet, Sales Director**

"The austerity of a carefully restored Cistercian abbey is perfect setting for a unique collection of paintings, including several masterpieces from the School of Paris."

In the aftermath of World War II, husband and wife Pierre Brache and Geneviève Bonnefoi grew interested in the artistic avant-garde that developed in response to trauma, a generation that included Fautrier, Dubuffet, Soulages, Michaux, Hartung, Hantai, and Vieira da Silva. Opting largely for abstraction, these artists broke with tradition, their radicality supported by a handful of connoisseurs, including Brache and Bonnefoi.

In 1960, they acquired the ruins of an abbey in Beaulieu-en-Rouergue (Tarn-et-Garonne), which they turned into a center for art and bequeathed to France's Center for National Monuments. Recently restored, the site is home to an exceptional collection.

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