

Hervé Brunon

A historian of gardens and landscape, Hervé Brunon is Senior Researcher (*directeur de recherche*) at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS).

He has been the Deputy Director of the Centre André Chastel – Laboratoire de recherche en histoire de l'art in Paris from 2010 to 2013, and from 2014 the person in charge of its sixth team, about epistemological, hermeneutical and anthropological questions on images, devices and places.

Born in 1971, he came top in the competitive exam to enter the École Normale Supérieure of Paris in 1991. Here he first studied sciences (botany and ecology) and later humanities (art history, philosophy and literature). His decision to specialize in the history of gardens reflects the impact on him of Monique Mosser at the École Nationale Supérieure du Paysage in Versailles in 1993. In 2001 he was awarded a PhD in art history by the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, with a thesis supervised by Daniel Rabreau on *Pratolino: art des jardins et imaginaire de la nature dans l'Italie de la seconde moitié du XVI^e siècle* (published in 2008). He lived in Italy from 1998 to 2003, first as a *pensionnaire* at the dell'Académie de France in Rome (Villa Medici), and then as a fellow at the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies (Villa I Tatti, Florence). He holds a Habilitation to Supervise Researches (*HDR*), discussed in 2014 with a thesis on *De l'imaginaire de la nature à la poétique des lieux: histoire holistique des jardins et archéologie de la relation paysagère en Occident*.

He is a member of the International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes (International Council on Monuments and Sites / International Federation of Landscape Architects), of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche (Treviso, Italy), of the Commission nationale des monuments historiques (France) and of the Editorial Board of the journal *Les Carnets du paysage*. He teaches at the École nationale supérieure d'architecture (Versailles) and the École nationale supérieure de la nature et du paysage (Blois), and has given lessons and led seminars for a number of institutions in France, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, the United States, etc. He has been in 2015 Visiting Professor at the Renmin University of China, French-Chinese Institute in Suzhou.

Since 2007 he has coordinated the international conference series entitled “Histoire et cultures des jardins” at the Auditorium du Louvre. He has worked with landscape architect Pascal Cribier from 2007 to his death in 2015.

His research work focuses mainly on the cultural history of gardens and landscape and is centred on the imaginary of nature and the poetics of places. Aiming at contributing to the ambition of environmental humanities, his transdisciplinary approach is motivated by a philosophical reflection on the main issues of the contemporary world and elaborates a dialogue with literature and anthropology to operate a synthesis of the multiple dimensions of gardens and landscapes, such complex and hybrid objects, ontologically situated beyond nature and culture.

His recent books concerned the poetic concept of the grotto in European gardens and the connections between gardens and *sagesse* in the history of the western world. His current work are building a landscape history of plants, questioning the establishment of the pictorial paradigm in social representations of landscape from the Renaissance on, and founding an archaeology of relationships in landscapes and more specifically in gardens between humans and non-humans, in Western and Chinese cultures, in a perspective of historical anthropology and with the double orientation of symbolic ecology and environmental ethics.

He has authored more than two hundreds scientific publications, including 12 books, among which: *Le Jardin comme labyrinthe du monde. Métamorphoses d'un imaginaire de la Renaissance à nos jours* (editor, Presses de l'Université Paris-Sorbonne/Musée du Louvre, Paris 2008); *Le Jardin contemporain. Renouveau, expériences et enjeux* (with Monique Mosser, updated edition, Nouvelles Éditions Scala, Paris 2011); *L'Art du jardin du début du XX^e siècle à nos jours* (with Monique Mosser, Centre national de la documentation pédagogique, Paris 2011); *Jardins de sagesse en Occident* (Seuil, 2014); *L'Imaginaire des grottes dans les jardins européens* (with Monique Mosser, Hazan, 2014, winner of four prizes, including a Grand Prix de l'Académie française); *De la peinture au jardin* (editor with Denis Ribouillault, Olschki, 2015).

He is also a gardener.