
A day with
Jean-Robert Ipoustéquy
sculptor and painter
Dun-sur-Meuse / Doulcon



Park your car at the

Centre Culturel du Val Dunois /
Office de Tourisme in Doulcon
3 bis place de la Gare, 55 110
DOULCON

Opening hours: All days
10.00 – 12.30 hrs and 13.30 –
18.00 hrs
(In wintertime closed
weekends)

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An Edition of

Moulin le Cygne

Résidence Touristique

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- Visit the permanent exposition known as the 'Gallery Ipoustéquy' and the temporary exhibitions in the other rooms.

"The Ipoustéguy Gallery: a shock for whoever ventures into it for the first time, a bright space, the focal of the Dunois Valley Cultural Center, an ideal place to discover one of the major sculptors of the XXth century. Since 2001, the visitor has been able to appreciate forty of the most important works of the artist and to experience their expressive power: monumental bronzes, 'intimist' marbles or refined graphic works.

Ipoustéquy was born in 1920 in Dun-sur-Meuse. During his life his works could be found amongst the most eminent public collections in the world.: Tate Gallery, Gruggenheim, Berliner Kunsthalle, Centre Pompidou ...and his monumental sculptures were installed in the great artistic capitals: Tokyo, Washington, Paris, Berlin.

Attached to his birthplace, Ipoustéquy, at the end of his life, chose to return to where he had spent his childhood years. The local authorities – among which the 'Comunauté de Communed de Valdunois' and the 'Conceil General de department de la Meuse' – set themselves a formidable challenge: to create an Art Center in the very heart of a rural zone; it was to become the 'Ipoustéquy Cultural Center'.

The artist, unwilling to be the only shining star there, managed to have the exhibition rooms opened to other arts and artists.

From the Gallery, one can continue to the 'Dun Haut' church: in this XIVth century shrine, two mystical bronzes and marble sculptures



stand, in luminous silence; a very moving climax for the casual visitor as much as for the ardent admirer of Ipoustéquy."

- Before leaving, ask at the tourist office (same building) the keys to the church Notre-Dame de Bonne-garde in Dun-Haut.
- Leave the cultural center and turn right. Just over the bridge of the lock, turn left and take the rue de la Meuse, which runs parallel to the canal de l'Est. At the end of the bridge turn right through the rue des Clouyères. At the end, turn right again and you are in the main street (rue Sainte-Marguerite).

At number 26 rue Sainte-Marguerite is the birthhouse of Ipoustéquy. The house was hit hard during the First World War. The facade has been renewed, the window openings have remained.

- After 180 m take the small street to the left (rue de Mil Mont) and climb up to Dun-Haut while enjoying the view.

The high city is a former gallant oppidium and a holy forest of the Celts. In the Middle Ages, the upper city was strengthened. The Gothic church was built in the 14th century. There are still beautiful walls, ramparts and towers. The view over the Meuse and surrounding fields is overwhelming.

- Visit the church Notre-Dame de Bonne Garde

Dun is located in the Valley Dunois and is dominated by the fortified church of the Notre Dame. From. The church is the only remaining building of the high city that was destroyed in



the 1914-18 war. The castle was abolished in 1642 on behalf of Louis XIII. Only Dun-sur-Meuse remained.

The church dedicated to the Notre Dame de Bonne Garde was built around 1350, thanks to the generosity of Geoffroy d'Aprémond, Seigneur de Dun, and his wife Marguerite de Sully. The church received its current name in 1552 when the civilians of Dun asked the Virgin for help in the defense of the city. The image of the Notre-Dame de Bonne Garde was destroyed, if so many possessions of the church were destroyed in the revolution. After the revolution, the image has been restored. The church is rich in marble and sculptures.



Inside the church the works of Ipoustéguy: the 'Mort de l'Evêque Neumann' (1976) and the 'Christ' (1992). see also Jean-Robert Ipoustéguy.

An ancient cemetery surrounding the church and from the front area, one has a majestic view over the valley of Dun.

- Citadelle médiévale Dun-Haut, les remparts. a walk along old fortress walls with beautiful views over the valley. Follow the signs of the Remparts circuit.

During the Middle Ages, the fortress of Dun-Haut, situated on the old borders between the Holy Roman empire and the royal empire Lorraine, was densely populated.

The ducal fortress was built in 1053 and was successively owned by the Duc of Bar, the gentlemen of Apremont and the bishops of Verdun. The Old Fort dominated the Meuse. It was destroyed in 1648 but several towers and side walls are still visible. Also, the gate of the horses (la

port aux cheveux) and part of the gate of Milly. The fortress is one of the most defended citadel of Northern Lorraine.

- And through the 'porte aux chevaux' you can descend to the village below. Down turn left and right again and you will find the cultural center of Val Dunois.

DO NOT FORGET TO RETURN THE KEY.

- You can expand the visit with a walk 1.5 km. Take the path across the street: the Chemin des Prés du Gravier. Continue to the Canal de l'Est and turn left over the grass path. You return to the mainstreet.



Bakery: downtown Dun-sur-Meuse

Supermarket: Coccinelle (behind the Centre culturel)

Pick Nick tables: at the end of the rue de la Meuse, opposite the marina et lots of tables in Dun-Haut

Café – Terrace : Café de l'écluse at the lock.

Restaurants: La Sicilia, 4, ave de la Gare (closed on Wednesday)
L'Aubere du Lac, 1 rue du Chemin de Fer (closed on Sunday and Wednesday)

Internet sites:

Centre culturel du Val Dunois : <http://centreculturelipousteguy.fr/>

Moulin le Cygne : www.moulin-lecygne.com

Tourisme Moulin le Cygne : <http://en.moulinlecygne.com>

Jean-Robert Ipoustéguy (6-1-1920 Dun-sur-Meuse – 8-2-2006 Doullcon) French sculptor and painter.

Jean-Robert Ipoustéguy (January 6, 1920 – February 8, 2006), a figurative French sculptor, was born "Jean Robert" in Dun-sur-Meuse. His artwork had a distinct style, combining abstract elements with the human figure, often in the écorché style of French anatomists. The American writer John Updike once wrote that he "may be France's foremost living sculptor, but he is little known in the United States". He and other critics noted sharp contrasts between rough and smooth, abstract and realistic, tender and violent, delicate and crude, and many other paired oppositions in his artwork, and his recurrent themes of sex, birth, growth, decay, death, and resurrection.

Ipoustéguy was unafraid to depict emotional intensity in a sometimes-controversial way; several of his major commissioned works were rejected, but later installed as planned, or in other locations.

In 1920, Jean-Robert Ipoustéguy was born "Jean Robert" in Dun-sur-Meuse, in the recent aftermath of the ruinous trench warfare of World War I. Jean's father was a joiner, earning a living by producing fine woodwork, who also enjoyed painting, violin playing, and amateur theatrical productions. He also had a great love of reading, which he passed on to his son, who did very well in school.

At the age of 18, Ipoustéguy moved to Paris, where he got a job as a legal clerk and courier. On a winter afternoon in 1938, he saw a poster offering an evening art class taught by Robert Lesbounit, and signed up immediately. The teacher encouraged him to read books far beyond the level of his classmates, and introduced him to a deeper understanding of art history through visits to the Louvre and art galleries.

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