

Manifesto

Honouring the Multifaceted Sense of Smell

Annick Le Gu er



Photo courtesy of Annick Le Guérer

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Dr Annick Le Guérer is an anthropologist and philosopher as well as a specialist of the sense of smell, odours, and perfume. She is also an associate member of the University of Burgundy, France, and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Osmothèque, France. Through her books and exhibitions, she has sought to restore the sense of smell and perfume to their rightful place.

Through my books and exhibitions, I have tried to honour the position of smell and perfume: by analysing the reasons for the discrediting of olfaction for centuries by a vast majority of philosophers, psychoanalysts, and scientists; by showing the complexity of perfume and its high cultural status, and by removing it from its supposed sole seductive function. Today perfume has become part of artistic activities and, after a long eclipse, in medical care. As for the sense of smell, it is now completely rehabilitated and we are increasingly attentive to olfactory heritage as long as we open the doors to history.