

What is the Ferme du Vinatier?

- The Ferme du Vinatier is the cultural service of the hospital complex Le Vinatier, which is the second largest psychiatric hospital in France, located in Bron (next to Lyon). Since 1997, the Ferme du Vinatier conceives and implements the cultural policies of the Vinatier hospital.
- It is located in an old restored farm, now including a theater, workshops and a showroom, which explain its name “The Vinatier Farm”.
- It is situated in the hospital but open to the city, dedicated to creation, mediation, training and cultural distribution.
- It’s an innovative place that is associated with the “Culture and Health” program, known and supported by the state, territorial communities and mobilizing an important network of cultural and scientific partnerships.

What are its objectives?

1. The first objective of the Ferme du Vinatier is to fight prejudices on mental disease, psychiatry, and psychiatric hospitals, by consecrating time and promoting qualified public spaces favorable to dialogue and meetings, in turn leading to a better comprehension of the world, especially by giving patients and health care professionals the possibility to express their views.
2. It offers the patients the possibility to engage in creative endeavors that stimulate their potential, and wherein they can develop complementary human and social relationships to the great satisfaction of all involved.
3. It promotes the connection between the psychiatric hospital and its urban environment by developing and assisting with the collaborations put in place with the city’s cultural and academic figures.
4. It tracks the evolution of professional culture as well as the real and symbolic role of the hospital in regards to the population’s cultural and sociological changes.

What are the missions of the Ferme du Vinatier?

What are its areas of specialty?

The Ferme du Vinatier develops multiple missions of mediation, creation, distribution, and cultural ingenuity.

1. It develops artistic activities designed in conjunction with the area’s cultural partners, and actively involving the hospital patients, such as: workshops, artist residencies, training sessions, and cultural programming in connection with the city’s schedule of activities.

2. It supports healthcare services by organizing projects under the name “Eclats d’ Art” Vinatier’s network of artistic projects,” and explores new modes of cultural cooperation at the hospital.
3. It programs expositions and scientific presentations in a multi-disciplinary approach to the theme of mental health.
4. It assists with institutional projects.

1. Artistic creation, performance, and distribution

1.1 Workshops

The Ferme du Vinatier proposes to patients to participate to workshops in several kinds of art. These workshops are led by professional artistic teams or companies. They associate patients to take part to creations, which realizations are presented into the hospital and into the partner’s cultural structures.

1.2 Service residencies and interventions

The Ferme du Vinatier brings in professional artists who engage in the creation of their work while meeting with the hospital’s patients and healthcare workers, sharing their art in direct way through service interventions.

1.3 Training sessions

The Ferme du Vinatier provides its healthcare workers with training sessions in art appreciation and performance, led by teams of professional artists. The objective of these training sessions is to give the caretakers tools to use in the service of the patients. Another objective is to bring out the best in each person within their professional environment, by incorporating art performance into jobs that are often burdening.

1.4 Cultural programming (distribution)

The Ferme du Vinatier regularly programs artistic presentations which are open to the public (patients, personnel, and outside visitors).

The programming is also aimed at displaying the work of the partnering artists teams who have participated in leading workshops and training sessions. For example, in the month of June, the Ferme du Vinatier proposes a festival called ‘in the heart of your ears’.”

2. The “Eclats d’Art” project

The Ferme du Vinatier conceived of this project to advance the methods of service cooperation in the area of cultural action, within the context of the regional program “Culture and Health.”

With the technical and financial help of the Ferme du Vinatier, healthcare services can design their own cultural project which must follow the same policy as the Ferme du Vinatier, meaning: work with professional artists, a partnership with an outside cultural establishment, and a public presentation of the artwork created with the patients.

The Ferme du Vinatier allots 15,000 Euros of its public subsidies towards this project, and the Vinatier complex likewise allots 15,000euros.

This allows for the realization of 5 to 6 projects per year.

3. A Scientific Branch

The Ferme du Vinatier also develops a scientific branch, with a particular interest in local heritage.

3.1 Local heritage

The study of local heritage revolves around memories: an inventory of furniture and architectural sites, a collection of things from living memory, the organization and safekeeping of hospital archives, as well as the protection and preservation of the premises.

The Ferme du Vinatier also develops cultural activities from both a historical and an anthropological perspective, focused on issues of mental health in the ongoing work of preserving local history. These activities most often take the form of expositions.

3.2 Expositions

The Ferme du Vinatier regularly organizes public expositions on social themes related to mental health. These presentations increase awareness and foster greater understanding of mental illness and psychiatry.

3.3 Scientific distribution

Within the framework of these expositions, the Ferme du Vinatier has planned gatherings to address social issues with psychiatrists as well as human and social science universities. These meetings can shed perspective on memorial aspects of the hospital’s heritage, present research work on the Vinatier site, or act as a venue for dialogue regarding the exposition.

4. Assistance with institutional projects

Finally, the Ferme du Vinatier assists with transformations of the hospital. For example, there is currently a large construction zone in the hospital. Certain historical buildings are coming down, while

others are being built up. It is part of the hospital's heritage that is disappearing. The Ferme du Vinatier assists with these transformations by putting in place an exposition on the fences of the work zone, or by organizing a project to create temporary sculptures in the park for the Fête des Lumières (The Light festival in Lyon).

The Vinatier hospital is developing partnerships with hospitals abroad, such as the psychiatric hospitals of Québec and Montréal in Canada or the hospital of Bamako. The Ferme du Vinatier organized cultural activities by inviting artists from Mali, who work regularly with patients in Bamako, to come work with patients at the Vinatier. The Ferme also proposed a photographic exposition featuring two photographers from Mali and France, in a collaborative presentation.

The Ferme du Vinatier is likewise developing a large program of activities in the discipline of music, in partnership with the training center for musicians working in the public schools (*centre de formation des musiciens intervenant à l'école*), which is a department of the University Lyon 2. This partnership takes the form of:

- Artistic propositions for the patients of the hospital (concerts, workshops in the services, etc.);
- Training sessions on themes of music and mental health, for the personnel of the hospital.

How the Ferme du Vinatier's activities within the hospital are defined?

The Ferme du Vinatier embodies the cultural policies of the establishment.

The Ferme du Vinatier created a Cultural Orientation Council (COC) composed of cultural partners and representatives of the Ferme du Vinatier and other professional branches of the hospital (doctors, patient representatives, caretakers, etc.).

This council discusses and evaluates the artistic propositions of the Ferme du Vinatier. By so doing, the other branches within the hospital are included in the Ferme's programming, and do not feel excluded from the process.

Project outline

- For the participants: have confidence in yourself (to be able to participate in an artistic activity), re-examine who they are (take a different look at their own trajectory), change the way the community views them, break from isolation and think about something besides the illness, seek out gatherings and join a team, feel joy and pleasure, be proud of actively taking part in a project of quality.
- For the institution: integration and value assessment of the hospital within the agglomeration, opening of the hospital (collaboration of people from within and without the establishment, development of a network to mobilize other service individuals).

The Ferme du Vinatier team:

A team of professionals in the field of culture, ensuring a mediation between patients, caretakers, artistic and cultural figures, their works, and the entire public. The team is made up of four people (in normal times), plus the hospital's director:

- Coline ROGE, project chief
- Sylvain RIOU in charge of cultural mediation and communication
- Marie-Jo Barny de Romanet, administrative secretary
- Isabelle BUENDIA, hostess

The Ferme du Vinatier's partners are:

Financial Partners in 2012-2013 :

Ministère de la Culture – Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles Rhône-Alpes,
Ministère de la Santé – Agence Régionale de la Santé en Rhône-Alpes,
Région Rhône-Alpes,
Département du Rhône,
Ville de Bron.

Institutional and Cultural Partners in 2012-2013 :

Centre de Formation de Musiciens Intervenant à l'école – Université Lyon 2, Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Musique de Lyon, Chœurs et Solistes de Lyon-Bernard Tétu, Cinéma Les Alizés, Villa Gillet, Hôpital Louis H. Lafontaine à Montréal, Cie U Gomina, Collectif Coin, Cie Les Transformateurs, Cie Raymond et Merveilles, Cie Spang !, Théâtre Détours, Allegria Symphonique Orchestra, Fête du Livre de Bron, Office du Tourisme et des Congrès du Grand Lyon, Biennale de la Danse.

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