

Nicolas Primat was the only artist in the world who specialised in working with monkeys and apes. This long-standing interest has included ongoing residencies at the Primatology station, CNRS, Marseille, working with baboons (*Papio anubis*), at the Pasteur Institute, Guyana, working with squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) and at Apenheul, Holland, working with bonobos (*Pan paniscus*).

Primat started working with animals at the age of 14 as a young farm-worker. He saw his rural background and early intuitive contact with animals as integral to his work. Primat's work began with a residency at CNRS Marseilles, working with tribes of baboons. His short film *Portrait Du Famille* showed the artist being groomed by the tribe after many months of gaining acceptance. He spent long periods of times with the animals learning to communicate with them in order to be accepted. Primat's practice included video, sculpture, photography installation and performance. He exhibited internationally, most recently in the exhibition 'Neo-Futur' at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Les Abattoirs, Toulouse (2008), a major one-person show at the Chateau De Taurines, Aveyron (2007), curated by Pascal Pique, and finally in The Arts Catalyst exhibition *Interspecies*, at Cornerhouse, Manchester. He stimulated a new debate in the world of art and science about the way we humans regard our closest relatives and was an inspiration for the *Interspecies* exhibition.

Nicolas Primat died in Toulouse aged 42, in early March 2009.