

Dragan LEKIC
Photographe - France
Portable : +33 (0)6 11 82 08 38
d.lekic@free.fr
<https://www.draganlekic.com>

Time traveller...

As a child he was nicknamed 'Chopin' by his friends, today this has been shortened to 'Chop'. Born in 1947 in Paris 'Chop' is an artist renowned for wearing eighteenth century costume. At the age of 12 the completion of his first fresco on the walls of his grandmother's house earned him a severe scolding. Shortly afterwards he left to study painting in Holland before returning to Paris.

In 1970 he settled in Auvergne and has since then been working with the idea of time. His house/studio/museum is a spectacle in itself with dreamlike furniture, unusual photographs, bizarre creations and huge figurative paintings both on the inside and out. Roughly 3000 visitors each year from all over the world are greeted by Chop and guided around his home.

Every season Chop redecorates his bedroom. At the moment it is spring, to evoke the croaking heard at night Chop has covered his bed with plastic frogs. During the day Chop's double (a mannequin salvaged from a shop window) lies amongst the frogs. His explanation for this eccentricity is quite simple: Chop's star sign is Gemini...

Chop explains that he dresses in 18th century clothes not because he is nostalgic for a time gone by but simply because he finds them 'the most beautiful'. He himself buys the materials for his outfits and has them made up by a friend who is careful to stick to the cuts of the time. Besides from his dress Chop lives very much in the modern world, listening to Chopin on his hi-fi and using his mobile phone. However his preferred mode of transport continues to be his bicycle on which he has got around for the last 32 years.

For every painting he has done Chop has used a new palette so that when the time comes that he must be separated from his work of art he will forever be in possession of a reminder. Crazy about history and poetry he reads many books and listens to all types of music, even techno, although more often than not he will go for that of the 14th century.