

# Michaux



Like a profile spotted in the clouds or in the traces left by woodworms, Michaux was not created so much as it was discovered. Selected out of thousands of computer-generated signs, this typeface not only proposes a radical process and a stand on the role of the designer, it offers a visual system that is as wild as it is coherent.

Accidentally reminiscent of dynamic handwritten styles, Michaux decisively leaves all preconceived rules behind. Instead, it presents itself as a balancing act of freedom and stability, abstraction and legibility, that makes for an expressive and ever-surprising typeface, yielding an impressive spirit and somewhat dramatic charm that only chaos is capable of. Michaux could not have been designed, but it feels like it was always there, patiently waiting to be found.

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**Design**

Benjamin Dumond

**Styles**

3

**Team**

Lucas Descroix

**Release date**

2024

**Glyph count**

ca. 560 glyphs

**Coverage**

Latin Extended (incl. Vietnamese)

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Supported languages (219) → Abenaki, Afaan Oromo, Afar, Afrikaans, Albanian, Alsatian, Amis, Anuta, Aragonese, Aranese, Aromanian, Arrernte, Arvanitic, Asturian, Atayal, Aymara, Azerbaijani, Bashkir, Basque, Belarusian, Bemba, Bikol, Bislama, Bosnian, Breton, Bulgarian Romanization, Cape Verdean, Catalan, Cebuano, Chamorro, Chavacano, Chichewa, Chickasaw, Cimbrian, Cofan, Cornish, Corsican, Creek, Crimean Tatar, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dawan, Delaware, Dholuo, Drehu, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Estonian, Faroese, Fijian, Filipino, Finnish, Folkspraak, French, Frisian, Friulian, Gagauz, Galician, Ganda, Genoese, German, Gikuyu, Gooniyandi, Greenlandic, Greenlandic Old Orthography, Guadeloupean, Gwichin, Haitian Creole, Han, Hawaiian, Hiligaynon, Hopi, Hotcak, Hungarian, Icelandic, Ido, Igbo, Ilocano, Indonesian, Interglossa, Interlingua, Irish, Istroromanian, Italian, Jamaican, Javanese, Jerriais, Kaingang, Kala Lagaw Ya, Kapampangan, Kaqchikel, Karakalpak, Karelian, Kashubian, Kikongo, Kinyarwanda, Kiribati, Kirundi, Klingon, Kurdish, Ladin, Latin, Latino Sine, Latvian, Lithuanian, Lojban, Lombard, Low Saxon, Luxembourgish, Maasai, Makhuwa, Malay, Maltese, Manx, Maori, Marquesan, Meglenoromanian, Meriam Mir, Mirandese, Mohawk, Moldovan, Montagnais, Montenegrin, Murrinhpatha, Nagamese Creole, Nahuatl, Ndebele, Neapolitan, Ngiyambaa, Niuean, Noongar, Norwegian, Novial, Occidental, Occitan, Oshiwambo, Ossetian, Palauan, Papiamentu, Piedmontese, Polish, Portuguese, Potawatomi, Qeqchi, Quechua, Rarotongan, Romanian, Romansh, Rotokas, Sami Inari, Sami Lule, Sami Northern, Sami Southern, Samoan, Sango, Saramaccan, Sardinian, Scottish Gaelic, Serbian, Seri, Seychellois, Shawnee, Shona, Sicilian, Silesian, Slovak, Slovenian, Slovio, Somali, Sorbian Lower, Sorbian Upper, Sotho Northern, Sotho Southern, Spanish, Sranan, Sundanese, Swahili, Swazi, Swedish, Tagalog, Tahitian, Tetum, Tok Pisin, Tokelauan, Tongan, Tshiluba, Tsonga, Tswana, Tumbuka, Turkish, Turkmen, Tuvaluan, Tzotzil, Ukrainian, Uzbek, Venetian, Vepsian, Vietnamese, Volapuk, Voro, Wallisian, Walloon, Waraywaray, Warlpiri, Wayuu, Welsh, Wikmungkan, Wiradjuri, Wolof, Xavante, Xhosa, Yapese, Yindjibarndi, Zapotec, Zazaki, Zulu, Zuni

Michaux Light

Michaux Regular

Michaux Bold

Chances?  
Suprealist

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INK GAMES!  
[Space]

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In the fold  
moments.

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**BROKEN:  
EXPERIENS**

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**MÄDCHEN ES  
CIRCULAR**

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**PROPERTIES  
NIGHTS**

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Extending his hands from his bed, Plume was astonished not to feel the wall: "Well," he concluded, "the ants must have eaten it away." And he went back to sleep. Shortly thereafter, his wife shook him awake: "Take a good look, lazybones! While you were so busy sleeping, someone went and stole our house!" And indeed, stretching out on every side there

NATURAL  
→ LEAVING?

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PAUL KISS  
Displaced

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STEAL NAPA  
DARKNESS

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Skin storm  
gathering

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Distances  
voyage

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(Tropical)  
400 men

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Among silent breakers,  
the tremors of the shimmering  
surface, in the swift flux  
and reflux paralyzing  
the patches of light, in  
the windings of luminous  
loops and arcs, and lines,  
in the occultations and  
reappearances of dancing  
bursts of light being  
decomposed, recombined,  
contracted, spread out,  
only to be re-distributed  
once more before us, with  
us, within us, drowned, and  
unavoidably buffeted, by

40000 times  
Surprises

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RKFTKTS  
Dust winds

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Text posts  
FAITHS

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W/HAQ (4927)  
S Low down

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STRUCKS  
& Misperies

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IPROSTINGST  
MIN I KINL.

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Writing can harness  
this process to magnify  
the impressions left by  
(disconcerting) images.  
This is another reason why  
word associations are hard  
to dispel; in "Dangerous  
Associations" the pairing  
of 'baby' and 'knife' was  
disturbing because the  
mind connected the two  
words via cutting, but also  
because the image stuck  
and telling yourself not  
to think about applying  
'knife' to 'baby' may have



OFF

ON

Oldstyle figures [onum]

Ca. 1992

Ca. 1992

Superscript [sup]

30.373

30.37<sup>3</sup>

Subscript [sub]

Str<sub>2</sub>Str<sub>2</sub>

Fractions [frac]

1/3 chance

1/3 chance

Ordinals [ordn]

N<sup>o</sup>.10N<sub>o</sub>.10

WORLDWIDE

**Plain Form**

[www.plain-form.com](http://www.plain-form.com)

Plain Form is an independent typographic practice, focusing on expressive letterforms, meant to be seen as much as to be read.

**Benjamin Dumond**

[www.grifi.fr](http://www.grifi.fr)

Benjamin Dumond is a graphic designer and founder of grifi.fr, which explores textual potentials through essays, fictions, tools, thought experiments and typefaces.

**Lucas Descroix**

[www.lucasdescroix.fr](http://www.lucasdescroix.fr)

Lucas Descroix likes to draw shapes and to build systems. You can also find him experimenting alternative tools and organizing workshops with Bonjour Monde.