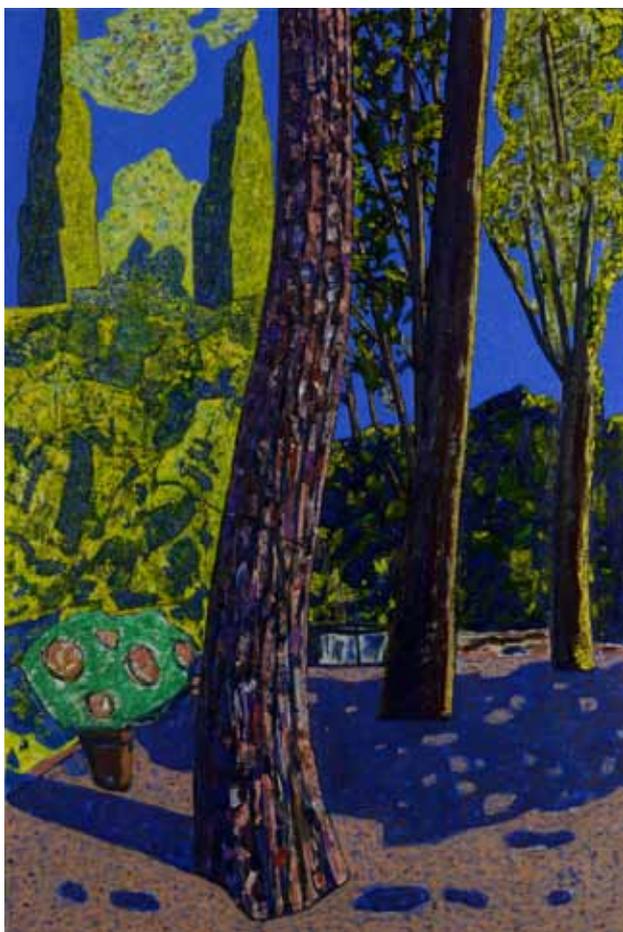


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EXHIBITION Vincent Bioulès from 24th septembre to 21st novembre 2015



Vincent Bioulès, 2015, *The Month of August*
oil on canvas, 146 x 114 cm © Pierre Schwartz

Press Release

Before his main retrospective in 2017 at the Musée Fabre of Montpellier, **Vincent Bioulès** will be exposing at **Marie Héléne de la Forest Divonne** gallery, this fall, from the 24th September until the 21st November 2015.

This will be his third collaboration with the gallery where he will be exclusively presenting his new pieces. It's also his first display in the new space of rue des Beaux-Arts that he frequently visited when Albert Loeb held the gallery: "*Knowing this space, I was comfortable enough to plan an exhibition in my mind*", he explains.

The detailed study of his house, garden and the landscape of Montpellier has resulted in ten big paintings. But there are also around twenty more current formats, a whole series of seasons "*seen from the window*" – oils, drawings and pastels: it isn't less than thirty or so paintings that will occupy the space of this much anticipated exhibition.

Vincent Bioulès's figurative painting was strongly affected by his transition from abstraction. "*It's the languedocien landscape that gave me the urge to paint*", he enjoys saying.

The artist underlines how the light is definitely "*the main subject of the painting*". We can see this beyond the hills of Aubrac, the lagoon shores by Argelès, the surroundings of Montpellier and the mountains of Céret.

The light reconstructs the simple view so as to show the spectators the power of astonishment tied to childhood impressions. And despite the exalted immobility created by the light, evoking for us adults the inevitable feeling of time standing still, we are aware its charm is eventually going to disappear. It's more than just a visual walk; the landscape draws in the spectator towards shared emotion.

Emotion is the "*majestic route to knowledge*," reminds the artist, whom used to be professor at *l'école des Beaux-Arts of Paris and Montpellier*. He wishes his work to be "*both scholar and popular*", meaning to be "*as permanent as it is accessible*". It has to show "*what is irreplaceable in a moment*".

To him, if the landscape before us represents the metaphor of the space that is found in ourselves, it also evokes the emptiness that separates us from others, making us somehow inconsolable. The contact with nature is the cause but also the "*attentive and compassionate*" answer to this sentiment of solitude.



Vincent Bioulès, 2015, *The Month of August*
oil on canvas, 146 x 114 cm © Pierre Schwartz

"There is no innocent painting", Vincent Bioulès affirms. Referring to his masters that he salutes through certain pieces – his *Fenêtres* are direct tributes to Matisse – henceforth his paintings have liberated themselves from otherwise institutionalized movements.

"The figurative painting that I create nowadays couldn't have existed without my previous experience of abstraction", he concedes. But like Bernard Ceysson (director of the Saint-Etienne museums) expressed in the introduction of the 1991 *Supports/Surfaces* exhibition catalogue: "We have to concentrate on the artworks themselves and not only interpret them according to the events of the past".

These actual artworks reveal to us "the joy of living" claimed by the painter. Their dense colors, nearly saturated, quiver like a quest for an answer, the one answer "that appears at the peak of every experience". (Jacques Lusseyran *Contre la pollution du moi*).

Marie-Laure Verroust
Marie-Hélène de La Forest Divonne

Born in 1938
Lives and works in Montpellier

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2017 -Retrospective, Musée Fabre, Montpellier
- 2015 -Galerie Marie Helene de La Forest Divonne, Paris
- 2014 -*Le débarquement à Cythère*, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen
- 2013 -Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris
- 2012 -Musée Ingres, *Chemins de Rome à Montauban*, Montauban
- Musée Fabre, Montpellier
- 2011 -*Roma*, Cabinet de dessins Jean Bonna, École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris
- 2010 -Galerie Vieille du Temple / Galerie Bernard Ceysson, Paris
- 2009 -Vincent Bioulès et la Villa Médicis, *Les dessins romains*, Hôtel Estrine, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, Chapelle des Gobelins, Paris
- 2006 -*Espace et Paysage, 1966-2006*, Musée d'Art Moderne de Céret
- 2001 -*Autour de Vincent Bioulès : Vincent Bioulès avant Supports/Surfaces, 1958-1970*, Chapelle Ursulines, Quimperlé
- 1999 -*Vincent Bioulès, Jalons, 40 ans de peinture*, retrospective, CRAC Alsace, Altkirch
- 1995 -*Vincent Bioulès : Parcours, 1965-1995*, retrospective, Musée de Toulon ; Musée Fabre, Montpellier
- 1992 -*Nues*, Musée d'Art Moderne, Saint-Etienne
- 1990 -*Portraits, nus et paysages (œuvre graphique)*, Galerie de l'École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2014 -*Mythologies*, Curator : Caroline Joubert, Musée de Caen
- Frontalité, approches du paysage*, Centre d'art contemporain du Château de Poncé, Sarthe
- 1998-2000 - *Les Années Supports / Surfaces dans les collections du Centre Georges Pompidou* : Musée du Jeu de Paume, Paris ; Maison de la Culture, Namur, Belgique ; Musée Sztuki, Lodz, Pologne ; Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome ; Musée d'art contemporain, Tokyo, Japon ; Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brésil
- 1978 -*10 ans*, Galerie Daniel Templon, Paris

MAIN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
- CAPC, Bordeaux
- Musée Cantini, Marseille
- Musée Fabre, Montpellier
- Musée d'Art Moderne, Céret
- Musée d'Art Moderne, Saint Etienne
- Musée de Toulon
- MAMAC, Nice
- Musée Picasso, Antibes
- Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg
- Musée des Beaux-Arts, Caen