

GALERIE VIEILLE DU TEMPLE
MARIE HÉLÈNE
DE LA FOREST DIVONNE

PRESS RELEASE

JÖRG LANGHANS

«*Life is a Dream*», Recent Paintings



Untitled, Oil on wood, 125 x 122cm, 2012
courtesy of Galerie Vieille du Temple

From January 23 to February 22 2014

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Untitled, oil on wood, 195 x 195 cm, 2012
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« *La vida es
sueno y los sueños
sueños son* »
Calderón

Life is a dream,
and dreams are no
more than dreams.

*Die Augen
wachsen dem Licht
entgegen
wie die Äste des
Baumes.
Entwurzelt,
zeigt uns der Baum
sein tieferes Auge,
den Schattenblick*
Jörg Langhans

*The eyes
press upwards towards
the light
like branches
of a tree.
Uprooted,
the tree shows us
it's most profound eye,
the shadow's gaze*

Marie Helène de la Forest Divonne is proud to announce the first exposition of Jörg Langhans at the Galerie Vieille du Temple, entitled: "Life is a Dream" – named after the play by Pedro Calderón. The exposition begins on January the 23rd and ends on February the 22nd 2014.

Jörg Langhans was born in Bonn, Germany in 1966. He moved to Paris in 1984 where he was overcome by the desire to paint and he enrolled at l'École des Beaux Arts de Paris.

At the end of a series of self-portraits in 1993 which concluded in a fragmented vision of the face, the eye and mouth became recurring elements in his work. "The canvas, for me, became from that moment the symbolic space of a unified dream." According to Jörg Langhans they are, "Not a description of the world, but a way to stand and face the world."

In 1998, landscape reappeared in Jörg's work, revitalizing his paintings. In an act of symbolic reunification, Jörg Langhans worked from his self-portraits, merging newfound organic and botanic elements, symbolic of the cyclical nature of the universe, with familiar elements of the human form.

The "Bark" series, which began in 2008, will be on exhibition at la Galerie Vieille du Temple. These works epitomize Jörg's metaphor of reunification. Six years ago during a walk in the forest, Jörg Langhans discovered uprooted birch trees with their bark strewn across the ground. "The whiteness of the bark was as luminous as it was desolate." Irresistibly drawn to the paradox of this skin abandoned by its body, Langhans filled his studio with these enigmatic sculptures.

The exhibited works, both mystical and violent, represent sculptures of bark, fluctuating one against the other within square compositions. These drawings, oil paintings on canvas or works on wood in a mixture of techniques, allude to the famous black square, perhaps as homage to Malevitch. The birch bark also recalls the image of bruised skin as if proof of the absence of the body that previously wore it. Langhans discusses the "horrors of war" in an indirect manner making reference to Goya, but certainly in the manner typical of this artist as he witness and paints the desolate, the forgotten, and the devastated.

The paintings also show that the canvas is only a surface which depicts the passage of the painter. Whether like a memoir the canvas stores memories long after the artist passes, or like flowers and other symbolic vanitas elements- commonly recurring elements in his work- this canvas depicts the ephemeral and serves as a reminder of a fatalistic putrefaction, this tension charges the canvas, brings it to life. The canvas is composed of dreams, of desire and yet of disillusion as well...

The bark is at once a metaphor for skin, for surface, and finally for the painter himself, as if these separate ideas were a singular entity. In this world of dreams, Jörg's mad dreams are able to materialize in this exposition.

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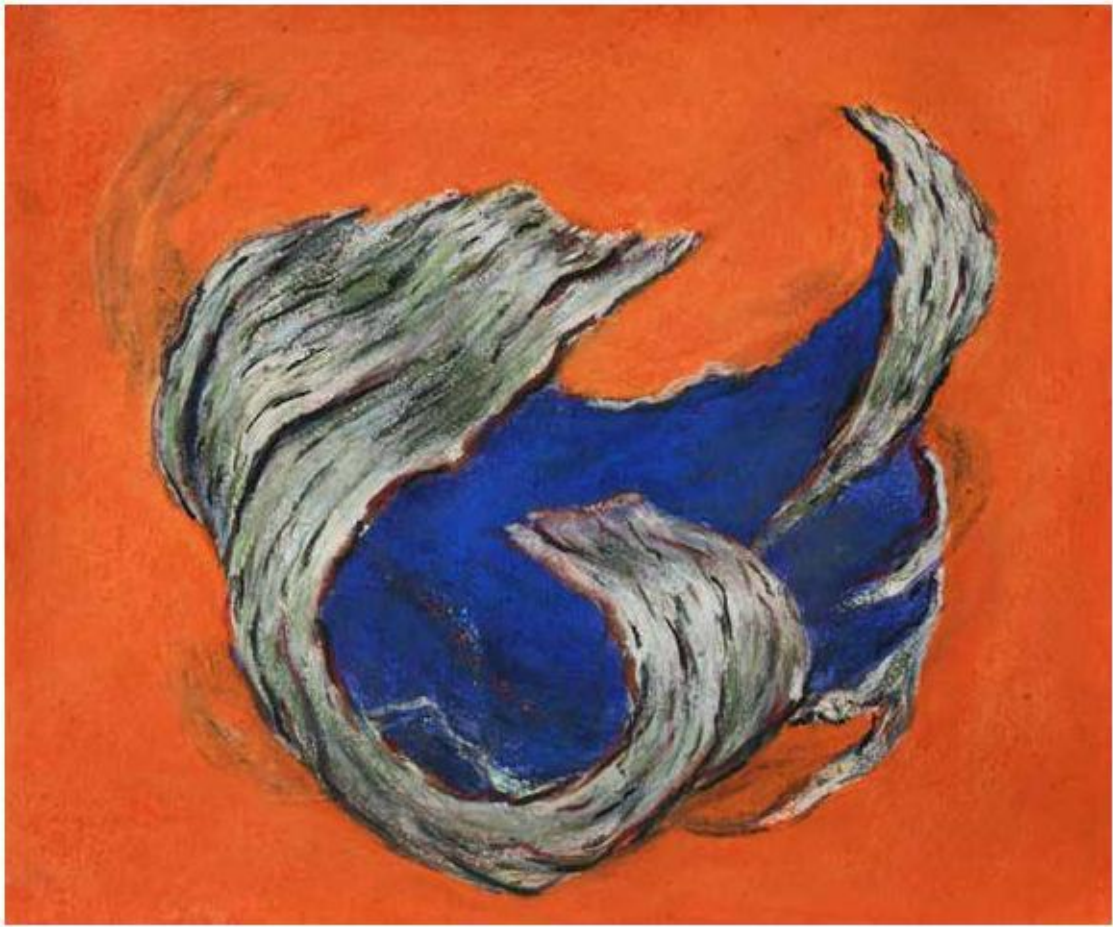
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Untitled, Oil on wood, 125 x 125 cm, 2012
courtesy of Galerie Vieille du Temple



Untitled, Oil on canvas, 195 x 195 cm, 2012
courtesy of Galerie Vieille du Temple



Untitled, Mixed Technique on Paper, 25,5 x 30,5cm, 2013 courtesy of Galerie Vieille du temple
Untitled, Mixed Technique on Paper, 50 x 65 cm, 2013 courtesy of Galerie Vieille du temple

JÖRG LANGHANS

Born in Bonn, Germany en 1966

Lives and works in Angy sur l'Oise

- 1999-2000 Member of the artistic collective Casa de Velázquez, Madrid
- 1998-1999 Grant from the city of Paris, Casa de Velázquez, Madrid
- 1991 Diploma from l'École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS :

- 2013 *Homme-Paysage*, Le Loft Sevigne, Paris
- 2011 *État des lieux (25 ans de peintures)*, Galerie Bruno Mory, Besanceuil (Saône-et-Loire)
- 2009 *Des mains pour voir*, Galerie Nathalie Gaillard, Paris*
Le voyageur immobile, Galerie Nathalie Gaillard, Paris
- 2008 *Avant-mémoires*, Galerie Bruno Mory, Besanceuil (Saône-et-Loire)
- 2007 *Le voyageur immobile*, Galerie Bruno Mory, Besanceuil (Saône et Loire)*
- 2005 ST'ART, *One-man show*, Galerie Nathalie Gaillard, Strasbourg
- 2004 ART PARIS, *One-man show*, Galerie Nathalie Gaillard
- 2003 *L'Illusion retroussée*, Galerie Nathalie Gaillard, Paris
- 2002 *Apophyse*, La ferme du Couvent, Torcy, (Seine et Marne)
- 2001 *Dermis Dom*, Galerie Bruno Mory, Besanceuil (Saône et Loire)*
- 2000 *Vanitas, Canto Liquido*, Casa de Velázquez, Madrid*
- 1996 *L'Art dans les chapelles*, Chapelle de Saint-Samson (Bretagne)*
- 1995 Galerie Gloria Cohen, Paris*
- 1991 Galerie Sabrina Grassi, Paris
Galerie Urbis, Amiens
- 1990 Galerie des Beaux-Arts, Paris

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected) :

- 2008 *Du vent dans les branches*, « Art Senat », l'Orangerie, Paris*
Art Paris, Galerie Nathalie Gaillard
- 2006 *L'Autoportrait*, Galerie Bruno Mory, Besanceuil (Saône et Loire)
- 2005 Biennale d'Issy-les-Moulineaux*
- 2004 *Un Artiste*, Un espace, Galerie Bruno Mory, Besanceuil (Saône et Loire)
Univers Partagés, Galerie Nathalie Gaillard, Paris
- 2003 *Passions*, Galerie Bruno Mory, Besanceuil (Saône et Loire)
- 2001 Villa Lemot (La Garenne-Lemot), Institut Français de Lisbonne
- 2000 X Certamen de Pintura de la UNED, Madrid, (Prix d'acquisition)*
Artistes de la Casa de Velázquez (traveling) : Casa de Velázquez, Madrid,
Institut de France, Paris
- 1999 Centro Cultural del Conde Duque, Madrid
- 1998 Le Mythe d'Icare, Espace l'Estran, Paris
Artistas Europeos con Lorca, Centro Cultural Lorca, Bruxelles
- 1996 *Propos d'Artistes II* (traveling), Fondation Coprim; Société Lefranc & Bourgeois,
Paris; Abbaye de l'Épau, Le Mans; Musée de Louviers; Palais des Congrès, Saint
Etienne*

1995 *Paysages de la Mémoire*, Fondation Coprim, Paris*
1994 *L'Autoportrait ou le Miroir Eclaté*, Fondation Coprim, Paris
1993 *Des Années 80 à nos jours*, Fondation Coprim, Paris
L'Autre Regard, Galerie de l'Assemblée Nationale, Paris
1991 Vème Edition de SAGA, Galerie Sabrina Grassi, Grand Palais, Paris
1989 *Gravures d'Atelier*, Centre Albert-Channot, Clamart

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS :

Artothèque de Caen
Artothèque de Mulhouse
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris
Casa de Velázquez, Madrid
Collection UNED, Madrid
Mairie de Valdepeñas, Jaén.

* Expositions which have become the subject of a catalog.



Sans Titre, polyptique, aquarelle, gouache et pastel sec sur papier,
50 x 65 cm chaque, 2008-2012