

The Armory Show 2025

VINCENT BIOULÈS

Since 1973

With the insight of Didier Ottinger

ADDRESS

Javits Center
429 11th Ave, New York, NY 10001, US

BOOTH

Stand 438

VIP PREVIEW

Thursday 4 September, 5-9pm

PUBLIC DAYS

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 September



Vincent Bioulès, *L'Étang de l'Or*, Oil on canvas, 51.18 x 63.78 in, 2023 © Pierre Schwartz

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Vincent Bioulès, *Les Salins*, Oil on canvas, 44.88 x 57.48 in, 2025 © Pierre Schwartz

PRESS RELEASE

For Armory Show 2025, La Forest Divonne brings together a historical solo show of iconic French painter Vincent Bioulès, with the insight of Didier Ottinger, General Curator and deputy Director of Centre Pompidou.

Born in 1938, Vincent Bioulès has been a major figure in French art scene since the 1960s and 1970s. Founder of the avant-garde abstract movement « Support / Surface » in the 1970s, Bioulès left the group to chart his own course. He then became one of the main actors in the return to figuration in France, through both his works and his teachings at the Beaux-Arts School in Paris, where he marked generations of young artists.

His bold decision to move away from abstraction and reclaim the freedom to paint and feel led to difficult years of misunderstanding in the 1980s and 1990s. Gradually, however, perspectives on his work changed, until many prominent art historians and critics recognized him as a pioneer of the return to figuration, which is evident everywhere today. Beyond this trend, he is seen as a true master of painting, and a visionary of contemporary art: the free expression of subjectivity, independent of any academicism. The installation in 2022 of one of his monumental paintings, 'Les Barricades mystérieuses' (1983), at the entrance to the permanent collections of the Centre Pompidou, attests to this official recognition, which has joined the enduring interest of numerous private collectors in his unclassifiable body of work.

By refusing to be confined to a style or school, Bioulès reminds us that art is above all a quest for meaning and freedom. He asserts the right to experiment and question. His works are living testimonies of his artistic commitment, of his life and sensitivity.

We hope this show will touch your emotions and spark your curiosity. Whether you knew his work already or discover it now, let yourself be carried away by the universe of Vincent Bioulès, by his colours, his textures and his lines, and discover, through his paintings, a different way of seeing and feeling.

Jean de Malherbe
Director - Galerie La Forest Divonne

"At MoMA in New York, Bioulès had been deeply moved by Matisse's paintings. He grasped the impact that View of Notre-Dame had on American painting—a discovery that had led him toward abstraction. 'The presence of such a painting in the United States explains better than anything else the evolution of American non-figurative painting: through its complete freedom, the magnificent casualness of its execution combined with the preciousness of its color, it forms a strange foreshadowing.' The Matisse paintings from the 1910s held in New York were a major source for this 'color field' painting, from which Bioulès borrowed the principles of his abstraction.

If Matisse's lessons had led a generation of painters toward abstraction, they were to bring Bioulès back to figuration."

Didier Ottinger, Vincent Bioulès, Ethic of Imperfection, 2025

VINCENT BIOULÈS



Vincent Bioulès, © Guy Lochar

Born in 1938, Vincent Bioulès has been a major figure in French painting since the 1960s. His works can be found in all the major French public collections.

Alongside artists such as Jean-Pierre Pincemin and Claude Viallat, Vincent Bioulès was one of the founding members of the Support/Surface group—one of the last major movements of the French avant-garde, active in the early 1970s. During this period, he explored color through vertical bands applied with adhesive tape, creating works that broke free from all narrative content. His canvases reflect a strict compositional rigor and a materiality that alternates between smooth, airy surfaces and thick, textured brushwork.

The mid-1970s marked a turning point in Bioulès' career, as he moved away from abstraction toward figuration. Far from being a rupture, this shift was an evolution—a transposition of abstract lessons into representational motifs. He soon became a leading figure in the return to figuration in France, both through his body of work and his teaching at the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he influenced generations of young artists.

The panoramas he depicts are based on mnemonic images—glimpsed at different times of day and from multiple viewpoints—later reassembled in the studio. He explores color and light through frontal compositions and cut-out, synthetic forms, inventing a new kind of complexity. His paintings reflect “what is irreplaceable in the moment,” shaped by his earlier experience with abstraction: “What I do today could not exist without the experience of abstraction.”

The major retrospective dedicated to his work at the Musée Fabre in 2019—featuring nearly 200 paintings—demonstrated the scale of his artistic output, from the radical abstractions of the 1960s to his most recent canvases, expressions of unbounded painterly joy and fulfillment. Critics have often described him as a kind of French David Hockney, celebrated for his color, inventiveness, and hedonism. In 2022, in the newly rehung contemporary art collections of the Centre Pompidou, visitors were welcomed by a monumental painting by Vincent Bioulès—an homage from the museum to the artist's importance on the contemporary scene.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
CAPC, Bordeaux
Centre National des Arts Plastiques
Cour des Comptes, Dépôt du Mobilier National, Paris
Ministère des Affaires Étrangères
Musée Cantini, Marseille
Musée Regard de Provence, Marseille
[mac] Musée d'Art contemporain, Marseille
Musée Fabre, Montpellier
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen
Musée d'Art Moderne, Céret
Musée d'Art Moderne, Saint Etienne
Musée de Toulon
MAMAC, Nice
Musée Picasso, Antibes
Musée Paul Valéry, Sète
Musée Picasso, Antibes
Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Strasbourg

SOLO SHOWS

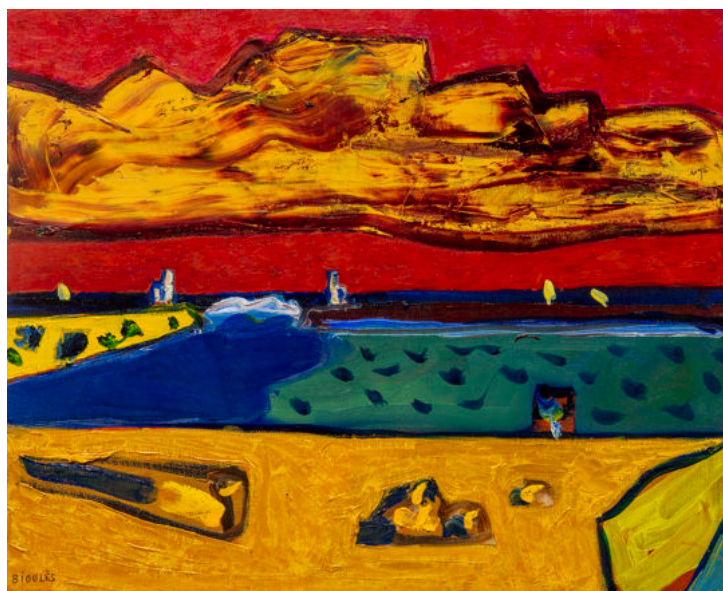
2025 *Evasion*, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris
2024 *Allegro*, Galerie La Forest Divonne Bruxelles
Vincent Bioulès, Paysages, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire
2023 *Vincent Bioulès, Peintures de 1970 à 2023*
Commissariat de Catherine Millet, Art Paris 2023, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
2022 *Au bord de l'eau par Vincent Bioulès*, Musée Regards de Provence, Marseille
Mes lieux de mémoire, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
2021 *Jardin(s)*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles
2020 *Les douze mois de l'année*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
2019 *Rétrospective*, Musée Fabre, Montpellier
2018 *Au dedans/Au dehors*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
2016 *La lumière et le motif*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles
2015 *Peintures et dessins*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
Vincent Bioulès en vacances, la Lozère aux sources de l'inspiration, Maison Consulaire, Mende
2014 *David et Vincent Bioulès*, Commissaire : Régine de Boussac, Château de Jau, Cases de Penes, Pyrénées Orientales
Le débarquement à Cythère, Musée des beaux-arts de Caen Auditorium Angèle et Roger Tribouilloy, Bondy
2013 Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris.
2012 *Maguelone*, Galerie Hélène Trintignan
Chemins de Rome à Montauban, Musée Ingres, 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
- 2009 *Face Nord*, Galerie Alain Paire, Aix-en-Provence
Vincent Bioulès et la Villa Médicis, Les dessins romains, Hôtel Estrine, Saint-Rémy- de-Provence
 Chapelle des Gobelins, Paris
- 2008 *Choses vues*, Galerie Hélène Trintignan, Montpellier
- 2006 *D'Orcival à Aigues-Mortes*, Galerie Vidal-Saint Phalle, Paris
Espace et Paysage, 1966-2006, Musée d'Art Moderne de Céret
L'Atelier gris, Musée des Tapisseries, Aix-en-Provence
Pas à pas à travers l'Atelier Gris, Galerie Alain Paire, Aix-en-Provence
- 2005 *Figures*, Galerie Athanor, Marseille
- 2004 *Approche d'Aigues-Mortes*, Chapelle des Capucins, Aigues-Mortes
Le Voyage à Aigues-Mortes, Galerie Hélène Trintignan, Montpellier
- 2003 *Le Pic Saint-Loup, l'autre montagne*, Galerie Alain Paire, Atelier Cézanne, Aix-en-Provence
Le Pic Saint-Loup, Galerie Hélène Trintignan, Montpellier
- 2002 *A l'intérieur des terres*, Galerie Hélène Trintignan, Montpellier ; Galerie Vidal-Saint Phalle, Paris
Un autre Bioulès, Château Borély, Marseille
Nus, paysages et mythologies, Villa Tamaris, La Seyne-sur-Mer
- 2001 *Autour de Vincent Bioulès : Vincent Bioulès avant Supports / Surfaces, 1958-1970*, Chapelle Ursulines, Quimperlé
Œuvres graphiques, parcours, 1955-2000, Galerie Tal-Coat, Hennebont
Le paysage à Marseille dans les années 1990, Ecole Supérieure d'Art, Lorient
Portraits, nus, paysages et mythologies, Musée d'Art Roger-Quilliot, Clermont-Ferrand
- 2000 *Mythologies*, Galerie Vidal-Saint Phalles, Paris
Nus, paysages et mythologies, Espace Ecureuil, Toulouse
Au fil de l'eau, Les Fontaines d'Aix, Musée des Tapisseries, Aix-en-Provence
- 1999 *Landscapes, Seaside Views*, Thibault et Mariana de Saint Phalle, Alliance rançaise de Naples, Floride, Etats-Unis
Vincent Bioulès, Jalons, 40 ans de peinture, rétrospective, CRAC Alsace, Altkirch
- 1998 *Dessins sur le temps liturgique, L'Avant et Noël, Pâques, Pentecôte et la Toussaint*, Galerie Saint-Séverin, Paris
- 1997 *Sur le motif II*, Galerie Hélène Trintignan, Montpellier
- 1996 *La Mer*, Vacances bleues, Marseille
Sur le motif, Galerie Vidal-Saint Phalle, Paris
Peintures et dessins, 1966-1995, Institut d'Arts et Techniques de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest
- 1995 *Le paysage à Marseille dans les années 1990*, Galerie Athanor, Marseille
Vincent Bioulès : Parcours, 1965-1995, rétrospective, Musée de Toulon ; Pavillon du Musée Fabre, Montpellier
La peinture en vacances, Galerie Hélène Trintignan, Montpellier
- 1994 *Dessins – Peintures*, Ecole Régionale des Beaux Arts, Valence
1993 Nues, Galerie Vidal-Saint-Phalle, Paris
Espaces et figures, Galerie L'Oeil écoute, Lyon
- 1992 *Nues*, Musée d'Art Moderne, Saint-Etienne
- 1991 *Peintures, 1958-1991 – Le tableau, la fenêtre...*, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Saint-Priest Musée Picasso, Antibes
- 1990 *Vincent Bioulès, rétrospective de l'œuvre graphique, 1957-1990*, Musée de L'Abbaye Sainte- Croix, Les Sables d'Olonnes
Portraits, nus et paysages (œuvre graphique), Galerie de l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris

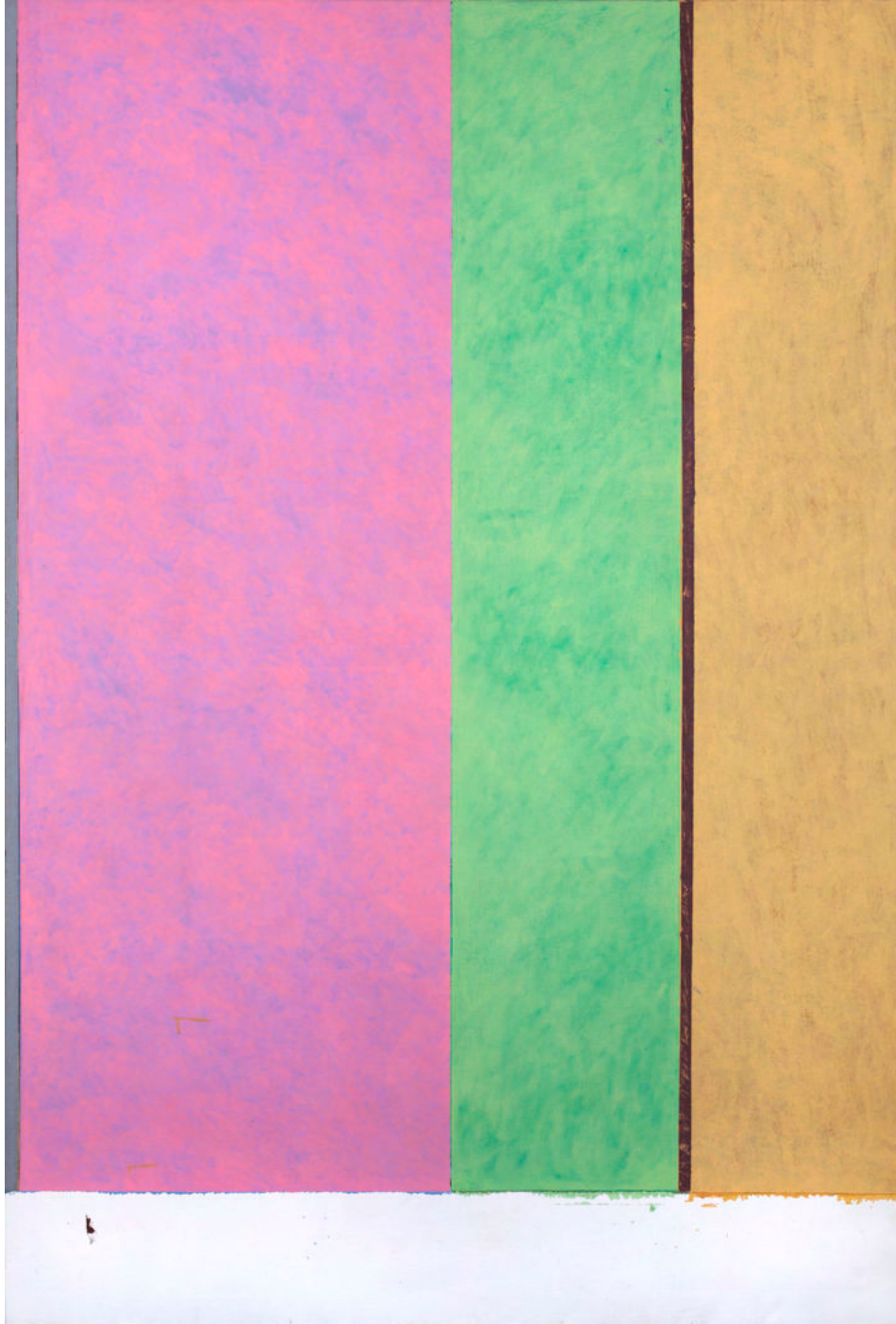
GROUP SHOWS (selected)

- 2025 *Luxe, calme et volupté*, Centre d'Art Contemporain de La Malmaison, Cannes
Echos de Cézanne, Hôtel de Gallifet, Aix-en-Provence

- Le temps du Printemps*, Centre d'art contemporain de Meymac
 Art Paris, Parcours BNP Paribas, « Un regard sur la peinture figurative française », Galerie La Forest Divonne
- 2024 EXPO CHICAGO, Chicago, Etats-Unis, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
 ART PARIS, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
- 2022 BRAFA, Bruxelles, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
 EXPO CHICAGO, Chicago, Etats-Unis, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
 ART PARIS, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
- 2020 *Ensemble – Ailleurs*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles
- 2019 *Chemin faisant*, Maison des Consuls, les Matilles
Marseille à nouveau, Galerie BEABA, Marseille
- 2018 ART PARIS ART FAIR, Grand Palais, Paris, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
- 2017 *Tout balayer, tout assimiler / Autour de Supports/Surfaces*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
The painter's house, Galerie Bernard Chauchet, Londres
Exposition de groupe, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris
 ART PARIS ART FAIR, Grand Palais, Paris, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
1 an déjà!, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles
 Biennale d'Issy Les Moulineaux
- 2016 *Passion Partagée*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles
 ART PARIS ART FAIR, Grand Palais, Paris, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
- 2015 *Sicily*, Galerie Bernard Chauchet, Londres
- 2014 *Mythologies*, Commissaire : Caroline Joubert, Musée de Caen, Caen
Frontalité, approches du paysage (suite), Centre d'art du Château de Ponce, Ponce sur le loir
 ART PARIS ART FAIR, Grand Palais, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris
- 2013 *Frontalité, approches du paysage*, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris
 ART PARIS ART FAIR, Grand Palais, Paris, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels
- 2011 Salon du Dessin Contemporain, Carrousel du Louvre, Galerie Vieille du Temple
Papier!, Galerie Vieille du Temple
- 2010 FIAC, Galerie Bernard Ceysson
- 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



Vincent Bioulès, *Un soir à Carnon*, Oil on canvas, 14.96 x 18.11 in, 2025 © Pierre Schwartz



Vincent Bioulès, *Untitled (Supports-Surfaces)*, Oil on canvas, 76.77 x 51.18 in, 1973 © Pierre Schwartz

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Vincent Bioulès, *Le pré à Laubert*, Oil on canvas, 44.88 x 57.48 in, 2025 © Pierre Schwartz