

Habiter le paysage

Curation of Amélie Adamo

EXHIBITION

From September 17 to October 31, 2026

OPENING

Thursday, September 17, 6-9 pm

The exhibition will be followed by the publication of a catalogue featuring a text by Amélie Adamo.

ARTISTS OF THE GALLERY

Ronan Barrot
Vincent Bioulès
Jean-Marie Bytebier
Guy de Malherbe
Alexandre Hollan
Patrice Giorda

EVENT

Late Opening « Jeudi des
Beaux- Arts »
October 1st, 6-8pm

INVITED ARTISTS

Damien Cabanes
Abel Pradalié
Gérard Traquandi

HABITER LE PAYSAGE

commissariat d'Amélie Adamo

Barrot · Bioulès · Bytebier · Malherbe · Cabanes
Hollan · Giorda · Pradalié · Traquandi

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Patrice Giorda, *Près du lac v5*, 65 x 81 cm, 2023

1. Press release

For this fall season, Galerie La Forest Divonne is organizing a landmark exhibition offering a fresh vision of landscape painting in which the body and physicality take center stage.

Presented across the gallery's two spaces : in Paris in September and in Brussels in November, the gallery has partnered with Amélie Adamo, exhibition curator and art critic, who has brought together for this occasion both gallery artists and guest artists spanning different generations.

«This exhibition is a singular journey through the history of landscape painting. It brings together painters from various generations who all share the need to **nourish their vision and practice through a direct, sensory relationship with nature.** Featuring works created outdoors or carried forward in the studio from the impulse of the plein-air experience, the exhibition offers a fresh vision of landscape in which the body and physicality take center stage, a kind of phenomenology of perception, in the sense of Merleau-Ponty, where the body of the one who sees becomes united with the visible, and where perceived reality is shaped by interiority.

How does being outdoors, being a body inhabiting a particular space and time, manifest itself in representation, in the very form of the artwork? How does the work evoke not only its subject but also the artist's body, gesture, shifting point of view, sensations, and memory? **How can movement and the dizzying complexity of reality be translated onto a small, flat, fixed surface? How can a painting be made truly alive?**

These are among the questions raised by the works exhibited here. To reinvent landscape today is to seek out something unknown that is not already there, predetermined, fixed, but that will be revealed. It is to seek to reveal a presence rather than to make an «image.» Whether turned toward earth and stone, sky and atmosphere, sea and rivers, or trees and vegetation, the landscapes on view all convey a felt presence of the elements. **They translate sensations through a kind of painting that reinvents the laws of realism, oscillating between figuration and abstraction, flatness and depth, the real and the imagined vision.** For what is seen, what is perceived, is always shaped by the imagination, just as the present within a painting exists in tension with the past. Thus, certain landscapes carry echoes of memory, memories of history and of painting itself, such as the theme of bathers and the golden age. That is the mystery of every «good» painting : to be alive. To capture time, and ways of seeing.»

Amélie Adamo

2. Biography of the Curator: Amélie Adamo



Amélie Adamo is an author, art historian, and independent curator. After teaching for several years, she shifted her focus to the contemporary art scene, supporting current artistic creation through writing and exhibitions.

Her dissertation in the history of contemporary art, on figurative art in France in the 1980s, was the subject of a book published by Klincksieck, an essay published by Galilée, and two exhibitions at the Musée des Sables d'Olonne « Passages » and « Aux sources des années 1980 » for which she served as scientific curator.

Since 2008, she has contributed to the writing of numerous exhibition catalogs and articles for specialized magazines in the national press, including *L'Œil*, *Le Journal des Arts*, *Artension*, and *Art Press*.

Committed to championing the work of emerging artists while also highlighting the work of renowned artists, she curates exhibitions both in galleries and museums that focus primarily on figurative painting, exploring themes of memory, cultural fusion, and hybridization. Since the exhibition « Immortelle » which she co-curated at the Moco in Montpellier in 2023 and later presented as part of a tour at the Art Paris fair in 2025, she has continued her commitment to the young French painting scene.

Among her areas of research is placing contemporary painting in the context of historical modernity. This has led to several exhibitions, including « Luxe, Calme et Volupté », organized for the reopening of the La Malmaison art center in Cannes in February 2025, which explored the themes of landscape and travel in the South of France. In this vein, she is currently co-curating the exhibition « Surréelles », which will take place at the Nantes Museum of Fine Arts in the fall of 2027, drawing parallels between the work of contemporary artists and that of historical figures associated with the Surrealist movement.

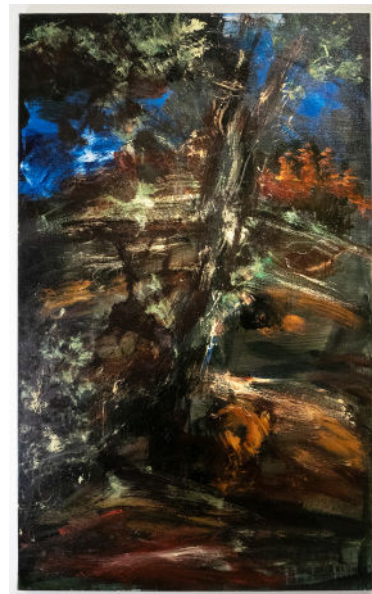
3. EXHIBITED ARTISTS

3.1 The Gallery's Artists

Ronan Barrot

Born in 1973 in Carpentras, Ronan Barrot lives and works in Paris. He graduated from the École des Beaux-Arts de Paris with highest honors in 1997. His works quickly found their way into major private collections, both in France, where he is championed by Claude Bernard, and abroad. Today, they are part of the collections of national museums such as the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Strasbourg, the Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, the FRAC Île-de-France, and the FRAC Auvergne.

Ronan Barrot claims a number of profound influences: among his masters are Goya and Courbet, from whom he draws his sense of material, light, and color reinvention, along with his taste for contrasts between shadow and light. At once a portraitist, landscape painter, and painter of vanitas, sometimes nostalgic, always visionary, occasionally illusionist, he masters every genre, boldly and brilliantly weaving them together.



Ronan Barrot, *Paysage blessé 5*, Huile sur toile, H 162 x L 97 cm, 2024

Vincent Bioulès



Vincent Bioulès, *Après l'orage*, huile sur toile, 89 x 116 cm, 2025

Born in 1938, Vincent Bioulès lives and works in Montpellier. A founding member of the avant-garde movement Support/Surface in the 1970s, Bioulès left his mark on the era alongside fellow artists such as Claude Viallat, Daniel Dezeuze, Marc Devade, and Jean-Pierre Pincemin, before leaving the group to forge his own independent and free path.

Since then, Bioulès has continued to develop a figurative body of work centered on landscape. His views of the South of France, particularly around Montpellier where he resides, convey a sensitive and luminous relationship to the land.

Jean-Marie Bytebier

Jean-Marie Bytebier (1963) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent (Belgium). He lives and works in Ghent. His painting is rooted in the tradition of the great landscape painters—particularly the Flemish, but also the Italian and British. Bytebier embraces the historical legacy of this essential subject in Western art, infusing it with a profoundly contemporary perspective through his compositions, formats, and textures, which immerse the viewer in a space that is at once familiar and mysterious, ethereal and floating.



Jean-Marie Bytebier, *Metamorphosis*, Acylique sur toile, 60 x 70 cm, 2026

Guy De Malherbe

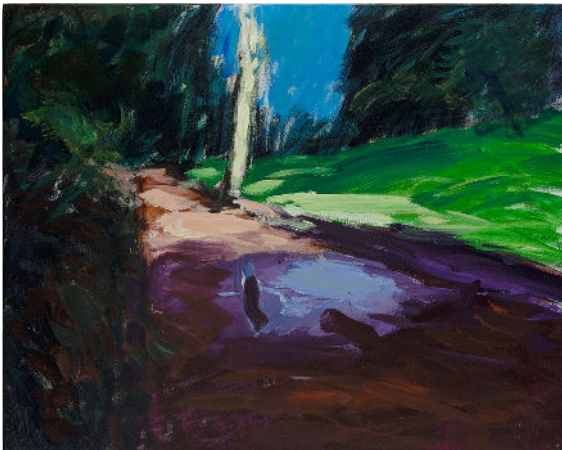
Born in 1958 to an Argentine mother and a Franco-British father, Guy de Malherbe was marked in his youth by the rocky landscapes of Cadaqués and, more recently, by the cliffs of Normandy. His works are deeply inspired by shorelines, where the ceaseless clash of the elements plays out.

The shoreline becomes the privileged site of an awareness of nature and its stakes, one that measures time and space and returns us to an awareness of finitude. This universe revealed through his painting becomes a place where the emotion of color and material mingles with the unconscious and with dreams.



Guy De Malherbe, *Marée basse I*, Huile sur toile, H 130 x L 195 cm, 2019

Patrice Giorda



Patrice Giorda, *Après la pluie v2*, 65 x 81 cm, 2023

Born in Lyon in 1952, Patrice Giorda lives and works in Lyon. In his powerful and contrast-driven painting, where golden light constructs the space of the canvas, the symbolic representation of nature or humanity goes beyond mere landscapes, scenes, portraits, or still lifes: reality is enriched by memory and by the permanence of a quest that Giorda describes as a « hollowing out of being. » He reconciles the irreconcilable: the radiant beauty of light and color, and the depth of the shadows of solitude.

Alexandre Hollan

Born in Budapest in 1933, Alexandre Hollan has been developing a body of work of rare consistency for more than seventy years. He tirelessly draws and paints trees and still lifes which he titles *Silent Lives* using both charcoal and acrylic.

His practice, both meditative and rigorous, stems from an experience of the gaze: through repetition and extreme attention to variations in light and presence, Hollan seeks to capture the invisible vibration of the world.



Alexandre Hollan, *Le Chêne dansant*, Acrylique sur papier, H 70 x L 92 cm, 2024

3.2 The Guest Artists

Damien Cabanes

Damien Cabanes is a French painter born in 1959 and a leading figure in contemporary French figurative painting, he lives and works in Paris.

He paints from life, outdoors, with a deliberate economy of means. His colors, devoid of any artificial brilliance, lend his landscapes a unique sense of truth and presence.

He is less interested in the spectacular beauty of the landscape than in its poetic ordinariness : a field, the edge of a forest, an ordinary sky. There is a humility in his work toward his subject matter that is reminiscent of Corot or Cézanne.



Damien Cabanes, *Dune*, gouache sur papier, 113,5 x 24,5, 2022

Abel Pradalié

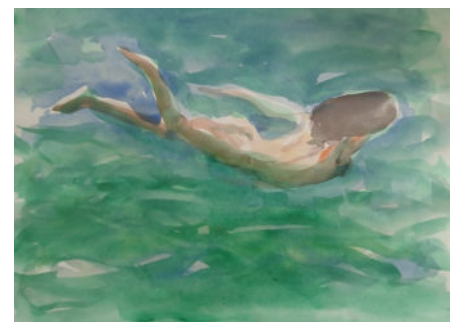


Abel Pradalié, *Salagou IV*, huile sur toile, 73x50cm, 2020

Born in Montpellier in 1970, Abel Pradalié lives and works in Paris. Without waiting for the return to figurative art that has been flourishing for several years on the French art scene, Abel Pradalié, who trained at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in the studios of Vincent Bioulès and Jean-Michel Alberola, has, from the very beginning of his career, embraced this approach to painting. For nearly thirty years, he has been developing a body of work rooted in a masterful, and often subverted, classicism. Abel Pradalié continually revisits the subjects of classical painting, particularly landscapes and female nudes.

Gérard Traquandi

Born in 1952, Gérard Traquandi studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Marseille, his hometown. He graduated in 1975 and went on to teach there until the mid-1990s. A leading figure in non-figurative art, he sketches from life and insists that he paints only what he sees. His meditative paintings are rich with references to art history, which he embraces with fervor. His small-format works on paper and his monumental canvases share the same intimacy, striking a balance between delicacy and harshness.



Gérard Traquandi, *Baigneuse*, aquarelle sur papier, 30x42cm, 2023

4. THE EXHIBITION CATALOG

Published on the occasion of the exhibition *Habiter le paysage*, this catalogue extends the project presented successively at our galleries in Paris and Brussels in the fall of 2026.

Conceived as an extension of the exhibition, it brings together the works on display and offers an overview of the various approaches to landscape developed by the artists participating in this project.

Designed and produced by the galleries, in collaboration with Laura Fernandez Onorato and Carole Joyau, this book reflects a commitment to fostering dialogue among artistic practices and showcasing the richness of contemporary painting.

The catalog is available for purchase at our two galleries, in Paris and Brussels.



5. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

EXHIBITION

September 17 through October 31, 2026

OPENING

Thursday September 17, 2026, 6-9pm

GALERIE LA FOREST DIVONNE - PARIS

12, rue des Beaux-arts
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Guy de Malherbe, *Falaises*, huile sur toile, 30x30cm, 2025