

Press release

MARC DESGRANDCHAMPS

22nd of March to 5th of May, 2018
Private view, 22nd of March at 8 pm.

Marc Desgrandchamps was born in Sallanches (France), and he currently lives and works in Lyon.

His work has experienced a considerable plastic evolution and today it is strong and highly personal, based on a game of contradictions, where nothing is completely pure, but rather whilst preparing a concept, its opposite invariably appears. The artist tries to represent the world, not in an objective way, but rather through his own subjectivity. His originality places him in a relevant position in French contemporary painting, a painting full of personal references, with the female figure playing a starring role in many cases; a fluid painting with fine transparent, liquid layers; compositions in which the figures appear detached from each other, an image that appears and disappears. The artist tells us: "I see my paintings rather as the scattered remains of a broken, shattered reality; a reality from which I try to collect the fragments based on what I perceive. Sometimes the figures reconstruct themselves as an image, as a representation. Other times they are broken down into shreds, rags, but there is an attempt at reconstruction, like the work of an archaeologist".

The influence of the cinema in Desgrandchamps' work is undeniable – Antonioni has been one of his best-loved sources, both in his formats, his preference for polyptychs, as if they were movie sequences, and for his slides and his profound interest in the nature of time. His great love of photographing everything that interests him, to capture the images that seduce him, makes his work, although closely linked to the cinema, simultaneously have a deeply pictorial aspect. Duality, contradiction is intrinsic in his language. But painting is born from the hands, it needs time, it imposes a slow look.

In this, his first exhibition at the gallery, we are showing nine pieces, several of them designed for the gallery, oil and gouache paintings, some of them in very large format. The characteristic blue colour that has an evanescent effect may be appreciated in them, a blue that is very commonly used by the artists that interest him: Beckmann, Poussin, Delacroix, Klein...

In the catalogue devoted to his exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art of Paris, Philippe Dagen writes: "The permanent state of fascination and the alienation due to consumption that this society establishes demand the docile imitation of the models proposed by this system and the dissolution of the individual in universal communication. Desgrandchamps's painting resists this situation, opposing the slowness instantly, the uncertainty of its figures to the perfection of the numerical images, the work towards the remembrance and the oblivion to the abolition of all personal awareness. This painting recreates a space and a time in which thought and enjoyment are possible. In spite of our world".

Amongst his many exhibitions we would like to spotlight: the Museum of Contemporary Art of Strasbourg; the Museum of Contemporary Art of Lyon (2004); Kunstmuseum of Bonn (2005); the Pompidou Centre of Paris (2006); the Museum of Modern Art of the Villa of Paris, Galerie Dialogue Espace of Beijing (2011); Zürcher Studio of New York, Eigen+ Lab of Berlin (2012); Galerie Lelong, Galerie Eigen + Art in Leipzig (2016); Musée de Beaux Arts of Caen, Musée de Beaux Arts of Rennes(2017).