



Fromanger, Colour Rises to the Sky

EXPOSITION-TRIBUTE

The final works, from October 15th to 24th, 2021, in Paris

The Post-War & Contemporary Art department at Artcurial will present from October 15th to 24th the exhibition *Fromanger, Colour Rises to the Sky*, as a tribute to the artist Gérard Fromanger who passed away on June 18th. A selection of about 15 of his most beautiful works retracing his last years of research will be presented in the Hôtel Dassault's salons in collaboration with Caroline Smulders.

« *I am colour.* »

For over five years, Gérard Fromanger has painted canvases entitled *Le Coeur fait ce qu'il veut* (*The Heart Does What It Wants*).

His own heart did not contradict him and it gave out on June 18th. He wished to be present in Paris this autumn, but his work came to an abrupt halt.

Since 2002, Artcurial has highlighted the members of the *Figuration Narrative* movement, and went so far as to organize conferences and meetings around the group.

In collaboration with Caroline Smulders, an exhibition of the artist's last works was an obvious choice.

« *Artcurial is proud and honored to be able to pay this beautiful tribute to a major artist on the French scene.* »

- Martin Guesnet,
Associate Director, Artcurial

« *The Heart Does What It Wants, yours will always keep beating in your works, Gérard.* »

- Caroline Smulders,
Curator, Paris



Gérard Fromanger
Yves, 2018
Pastel on paper (80x60 cm)
© Grégory Copitet



Gérard Fromanger in front of
Le soleil inonde ma toile (1966)
 © Serge July, 2021

Gérard Fromanger (1939–2021)

Gérard Fromanger was born in 1939 in Pontchartrain (78). While he was still a student, Fromanger was spotted by César who lent him his studio and followed his work. Gérard Fromanger was very young when he became one of the major figures of the Parisian artistic scene in the 1960s, by taking part in the adventure of the Figuration Narrative.

In May 1968, he cofounded the Atelier des Beaux-Arts to produce thousands of posters, which then allowed him to shoot the “film-tracts” with Jean-Luc Godard. Gérard Fromanger used the photographic camera to create images without any deliberate viewpoint or any preferred framing, “images taken like a film from the anonymous movement of what happens” (Michel Foucault).

His work was presented in numerous exhibitions in France and abroad: Centre Pompidou in Paris, Musée national d’Histoire et d’Art du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, National Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes of Havana, MAMCO in Geneva, MAM in Rio de Janeiro. In 2012 Gérard Fromanger inaugurated the Fonds Hélène & Edouard Leclerc pour la Culture à Landerneau with an important retrospective of his works. Some one hundred works entered public collections, museums and foundations.

Gérard Fromanger passed away on June 18th, 2021 in Paris, at 81 years old.

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Some fifteen works retracing the artist’s last years of research will be presented : oils and acrylics on canvas, works on paper and limited editions.

A copy of the series *Peinture-Monde* faces the artist’s last three paintings, entitled *Peinture-Univers*.

In both series, the artist’s vocabulary is expressed in “these large circles of colour, like so many questions, hopes, interrogations, bubbles to be filled for a new world. *Peinture-Monde* is not the painting of horrors and dramas in the world’s actuality, it is the colourful vibration of the world: the confrontation-world, the world-question. It is the world painted in the colours of the ideas which give ‘reality’ to the world. It is painting against the actuality of the world and the always possible, always utopian actualisation of the world” .

In his last paintings, the artist chose a white background and the world became the universe. He questioned his own technique, all the while using the same ingredients: everything is light, vibration, hope for a better world, the awakening energy of life.

His last works are the promise of an artist who is not done dealing with painting.

Works on paper, portraits of the artist’s dear friends, made of interlacing lines in vigorous colours are part of the selection.

A spectacular lithograph printed in 50 copies represents the 25 square metres of the Bouffes du Nord ceiling entitled, *Peinture-Monde, sens dessus dessous* (2020).

This was the artist’s last commission, made before and during the lockdown, and inaugurated on his 81st birthday.

* Olivier ZAHM, Gérard Fromanger : la « Peinture-Monde », exhibition catalogue *Gérard Fromanger*, Centre Pompidou, February 16 - May 16, 2016.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Opening
Thursday October 14, 2021, from 6 to 9 PM

Exhibition
From Friday October 15 to Sunday October
24, from 10 AM to 7 PM.

A selection of excerpts from interviews
with the artist will be broadcasted in the
exhibition, on Sunday October 24, from 4
to 6 PM.

7 Rond-Point
des Champs-Élysées
75008 Paris

PRESS MATERIAL

HR visuals available upon request

RECENTS EXHIBITIONS

"Splendour of Gérard Fromanger," major
exhibition of the France-Portugal Season,
Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon, February
2022

"Le Printemps de septembre" festival,
Toulouse, September 17 - October 17, 2021

"Narrative Figuration 60s-70s", Richard
Taittinger Gallery, New York, March 13 -
May 16, 2021

"Impression, Soleil levant", Bund One Art
Museum, Shanghai, September 17, 2020 -
January 3, 2021

PRESS CONTACTS

ARTCURIAL
Aurélia Adloff
+33 (0)1 42 99 20 76
aadloff@artcurial.com

Caroline Smulders
+33 (0)6 09 02 66 31
contact@csmulders.com



About Artcurial

Founded in 2002, multidisciplinary Paris based auction house Artcurial confirmed its leading position on the international art market scene in 2020. With three sale venues in Paris, Monaco and Marrakech, the auction house achieved an overall sales total of 149,2 million euros in 2020.

Artcurial covers all the major specialist fields including Fine Arts, Decorative Arts, Collectors' Cars, Jewellery, Watches, Fine Wines and Spirits...

With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Brussels, Milan, Monte-Carlo, Munich, Vienna and Spain.

In October 2015, Artcurial held its first sale in Hong Kong and Morocco.

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