

Intensité — Poétique des formes et couleurs

Claude Lorent, La Libre Belgique, 21 May 2008

Excellent new exhibition of recent paintings by Marc Renard at Duqué & Pirson in Brussels.

Passionately, Marc Renard (1963 — lives and works in Brussels) continues his pictorial investigations, taking into account both the most contemporary techniques and the experiments carried out by artists of the second half of the twentieth century, whether in the field of constructed abstraction, questions relating to support and surface, or chromatic research.

This mixture today offers a pictorial range that acts in affinity with contemporary art and has gradually reached full maturity while never becoming fixed. Each work remains a field of exploration which, while having found its own balance and a kind of poetics of forms and colours, nourishes a general approach that is constantly prospective. This creative dynamic is very visible in this exhibition, where one moves from the surface treated in three dimensions, through planes and depth, to the notion of full spatiality in which the constituent elements articulate themselves as in a universe where structure prevails while weightlessness operates at the same time.

The most recent large canvases, as well as some excellent small formats, celebrate with as much strength as lightness, and as much rigour as material vibrations, images in which digital printing of compositions made with graphic software is combined with manual pictorial interventions.

In always very dense and carefully sought-after tonalities that constitute one of the characteristics of the work, this encounter between techniques permits singular treatments whose combination contributes to the particularity of the pictorial language. One moves from a sfumato in tender greens, intense blues or subtle mauves, gradually opening onto luminosity, to more forceful, deliberately fluorescent overprints: vivid yellows, brilliant pinks, oranges that diffuse energy, areas in which pictorial gestures are discreetly inscribed. Material contrasts, chromatic complementarities, formal interweavings, delicacies and slight glosses due to the base material, or the mattness and flat areas of certain colours, all contribute greatly to the creation of an original, attractive and convincing pictorial world, contemporary while intelligently combining the rational, the irrational and the emotional.