

2020 — La couleur toujours

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Date: 27 February 2020

Source: MU in the City

Source language: French

Marc Renard, Colour Always

Marc Renard is exhibiting in Brussels at MM Gallery to support a subscription campaign for a monograph intended to open a few doors for him abroad.

One would be reluctant to call it a retrospective. Even though Marc Renard's exhibition at MM Gallery covers more than 20 years of his career, the canvases on display represent only the froth of the approximately 400 paintings from this period that he has accumulated in his studio. Represented by the Veranneman Foundation at the end of the 1990s, Marc Renard had a promising start to his career. His ordered and organic abstract canvases appealed to many collectors and to several museum institutions in Belgium. But he continues to paint, and to search. The canvases exhibited today in Brussels offer a glimpse of this curiosity and his desire for change. The hanging has something surprising about it. There are formats of very different sizes. Canvases positioned next to one another, some leaning against the wall, others simply pinned up. Some canvases are painted front and back or placed directly on the floor. Marc Renard's approach is characterised by a mixture of techniques: brush, frottage, stamping, gridding and collage. He likes to play with superimposed layers that disturb perception between foreground and background.

A MORE INSTINCTIVE AND GESTURAL APPROACH

From the meditative and ordered compositions of the 2000s to the more recent works that flash like the passage of a metro train in an explosion of colours, he constantly questions his craft. His pictorial language draws on structures and repetition crossed by more lyrical gestures. Very early on, he made use of tape and its masking power, a preferred tool for making forms appear that rhythm his compositions.

The desire to use fluorescent colours, which had been tempting him for a long time, pushed him towards acrylic, a less lively material that he has nevertheless managed to tame to his advantage. Fascinated by very large formats, he recently acquired access to a space suitable for working on canvases measuring up to 3.4 m by 6 m, where he can let himself go into more instinctive and gestural work.

Now represented by gallerist Marc Minjauw, Marc Renard has decided to tackle the foreign market through an original initiative. A book, somewhere between a promotional publication and a limited-edition catalogue, was produced through subscriptions from collectors. This beautifully printed object, carefully made to do justice to the intensity of the fluorescent colours, will be sent to some of the world's major museums. In the meantime, the artist's name is already displayed in Cyrillic characters on the façade of the Mark Rothko

Art Center in Daugavpils, Latvia, where an exhibition of around ten recent large canvases is devoted to him until 12 April. For a major retrospective, there is no hurry.

Marc Renard — MM Gallery, 68 Place du Jeu de Balle, 1000 Brussels. Until 8 March.
Wednesday to Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.mmgallery.be