

2023 — Recto-verso

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Jean-Luc and Takako Richard are delighted to present the first solo exhibition in France by the Belgian painter Marc Renard, entitled Recto-verso, from 28 October to 9 December. Marc Renard's abstract paintings are distinguished by their vivid colours, often primary colours on a white background, by the dynamism of the forms and by the juxtaposition of layers of paint in flat areas on tracing paper. Marc Renard brings real pleasure to painting in the digital age.

"Marc Renard's paintings should be considered as the unveiling of the painter's gestures in the digital age. Linear and nervous movements are mechanically scraped onto opalescent surfaces, concealed and then revealed by adhesive strips; they compose the painting with a detestable tempo of formidable efficiency. Each movement then comes with its negative and is even contaminated by it" (Jérôme Boutterin, painter-artist).

His paintings are rhythmically structured; the colours are precisely cut out and arranged across white spaces. In some paintings, the dynamic coloured forms seem merely to be the means of making the visual language of this background appear, with the background becoming the subject.

Some, moreover, have variations on bands of horizontal colours that may suggest musical scores.

This is also a painting that, in many cases, possesses a subtle three-dimensional dimension. He can cut his canvas to make the wall appear, add painted or unpainted sheets that can cover other painted areas.

It is a painting that speaks to the body, encouraging one to move laterally and frontally. We are in a painting in motion, a Baroque painting. Yet it is far removed from the theatrical gesturalism of lyrical abstraction. It is a controlled, cut, precise and accurate painting. Marc Renard finds the balance between spontaneous gesture and a composition of great rigour.

Born in 1963 in Brussels, Marc Renard lives and works in Brussels. Since 2015 his works have regularly been presented at Galerie Marc Minjauw in Brussels. In 2020 his paintings were exhibited at the Mark Rothko Art Center in Daugavpils, Latvia.

His paintings are held in the collections of Musée L in Leuven, the Ixelles Museum, the Veranneman Foundation, the Ministry of the French Community, the AXA Group, the University of Antwerp, the Province of Brabant...

Jean-Luc Richard