

2024 — Couloirs aériens

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Jean-Luc and Takako Richard present the second solo exhibition in France by the Belgian painter Marc Renard, entitled *Couloirs aériens*, from 29 June to 27 July 2024. Marc Renard's abstract paintings are distinguished by the replacement of the cotton painter's canvas with partially translucent polyester and by the practice of painting front and back, which opens the painting onto spaces in depth. His works are also notable for the use of fluorescent colours, which, through their saturation, combine perfectly with polyester.

The new paintings differ from those in last year's exhibition, first of all through the addition of very fine black lines that add rhythm and finesse to the perception of his paintings. The artist thus transposes onto canvas the invisible paths of air traffic as they appear on airline maps. These fine lines, in order to express themselves within the space of the painting, require larger white surfaces for maximum contrast. These "white" surfaces are in fact indeterminate three-dimensional opaque spaces of great singularity linked to the polyester. These fine lines energise and add rhythm to the compositions while also encouraging the viewer to contemplate them in greater detail.

Secondly, the new works are distinguished by the greater place given to non-fluorescent colours, soft, pastel colours, which reveal even more of the artist's very great visual sensitivity. This new colour palette and the greater space left to white induce a long and calming contemplation.

Nevertheless, the exhibition remains very balanced between paintings in flamboyant colours, including a vivid red painting energised by vertical white spaces at an angle that appear painted even though they are absences of colour. He also excels in new works that give pride of place to the cloudy white space of the polyester, which brings serenity.

The exhibition also differs from the inaugural 2023 exhibition through a smaller selection of large formats and the predominance of small and medium formats, making the exhibition more intimate.

"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 Bouterin, painter-artist).

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