

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE
"Rythmes et matières"
Jean Boghossian

Exhibition from December 18, 2018 to January 15, 2019
Opening in the presence of the artist on Wednesday 19 December
from 5pm to 8 pm



© Jean Boghossian - Untitled , 2018 (détail)
Acrylic, paper and ashes on burnt canvas - 125 x 200cm

La Patinoire Royale / Galerie Valérie Bach is pleased to present at the gallery the first solo exhibition of Jean Boghossian that will gather a selection of recent artworks conceived with the flame.

After participating in the 57th Venice Biennale last year as a representative of the Armenian National Pavilion, Jean Boghossian continues his work with fire in a series entitled "Rhythms", presented for the first time in September in Beirut during an exhibition curated by Italian art critic Bruno Corà entitled "Building with Fire".

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Based on the idea of building through the destruction caused by fire, and thus to overcome the negative connotation generally associated with this medium, the artist proposes a series of collages of coloured papers chiselled by the flame of the torch worked in alignments on monochrome backgrounds. The rhythm emerges from the graphic composition that emanates from the burning process and from the particular vibration of the paper which detaches itself in places. The paper and canvas is then mixed with the ash to draw reliefs and depths that can evoke alternately cracks, labyrinths, abstract writing, or the movement of water.

Through this exhibition, the artist wishes to explore the beauty that lies in the interval preceding the total destruction of the matter which constitutes the artwork, thus posing a reflection on the preservation of what is destined to disappear and on the vulnerability of the existence. Besides, this reflection is not unrelated to his personal history and to the Middle East's which has seen in recent decades, over the course of wars, gradually disappearing a part of its heritage and its memory.

Biography of the artist

Jean Boghossian is an abstract multidisciplinary artist whose artworks all bear, at different degrees, traces of burn degradation. Through the process of wilful damage and the use of a blowtorch instead of a paintbrush, Boghossian raises the questions of what it means to create inextinguishable art with an invasive and violent, yet poetic method that intends to combine media by creating a construction through the deconstruction of flames.

Born in Aleppo in 1949, Boghossian stems from a family of jewellers for whom he worked while studying Economics and Sociology at University of Saint-Joseph in Beirut. In 1975, the Lebanese Civil War forced Boghossian to leave the country and settle in Belgium where he resides today. Over three decades ago, Boghossian decided to enroll in the Academy of Fine Arts in Boitsfort, Brussels, while continuing to oversee the family business. In 1992, he created the Boghossian Foundation with the support of his brother and father.

Jean Boghossian has participated in recent solo and group exhibitions at Galerie Pièce Unique, Paris (2018), German Bundestag, Berlin (2018), Cardi Gallery, London (2018), Museum Ground, Korea (2018), L'Orient Le Jour building, Beirut (2018), the National Gallery of Armenia (2018), Frieze New York, Cardi Gallery (2018), Art Monte-Carlo, Cardi Gallery (2018), Ayyam Gallery, Dubai (2018), Armenian Center of Contemporary Experimental Art, Yerevan (2017), 57th Venice Biennale (2017), Musée d'Ixelles, Brussels (2017), Beirut Exhibition Center (2015, 2011), Fondazione Palazzo Albizzini Collection Burri, Città di Castello (2015), Museo Archeologico di Atina e della Valle di Comino, Atina (2015), Villa Empain - Boghossian Foundation, Brussels (2014), Art Abu Dhabi (2013), Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art, South Korea (2012), Galerie Guy Ledune, Brussels (2012, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007), and Armenian Center of Contemporary Experimental Art, Yerevan (2007).

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Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm.

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