

Christian Bonnefoi

Exposition at the Galerie Poggi

Friday, March 22nd — Saturday, April 27th, 2024

Exposition at the Villa Emerige

Friday, March 22nd — Saturday, April 13th, 2024

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The Galerie Poggi is pleased to present Christian Bonnefoi's first solo exhibition in its new space from March 22nd to April 27th 2024. T

The Villa Emerige presents a panel of works from the collection of Laurent Dumas, with a set of *Dos* and *Compositions*, augmented by the historic *Eurêka* series and recent small-format works from the *Haranguée* series.

Following the opening of its new address, the gallery is expanding its artistic program by strengthening its support for the French art scene (Djamel Tatah, Sophie Ristelhueber, Georges Tony-Stoll, Kapwani Kiwanga, Josèfa Ntjam...) and for a generation of historical artists who have left their mark on the art history over the past fifty years.

The exhibition at the gallery features a selection of Bonnefoi's recent works, illustrating the progression of his plastic language and visual experimentation over time. Elements of several emblematic series is presented, including *PL*, *Compositions* and *Dos*, alongside two masterpieces by Henri Matisse, a primary inspiration for Christian Bonnefoi.

Bonnefoi's artworks will exceptionally be put in dialogue with two Henri Matisse still life drawings, dated 1935 and 1944, *Nature Morte au Bouquet d'Anémones*, and *Dans l'atelier de l'artiste, table avec nature morte et modèle*.

A major source of inspiration for Bonnefoi, whose discovery of the *Dos* at the Grand Palais in 1974 was the pivotal event that drove him to become an artist, these two drawings will be displayed alongside Bonnefoi's *Fioretti* series, which especially incorporates the colors and geometric compositions characteristic of Henri Matisse's work.

Biography





Painter and theorist, Christian Bonnefoi has held numerous solo exhibitions since 1977 in cities such as Paris, Cologne, New York, Berlin, London, Tokyo, and others. Holding a doctorate in art history from the Sorbonne, he is also the author of articles and writings on art that have marked his career for over fifty years.

A singular figure on the contemporary French scene since the 1970s, Christian Bonnefoi's practice is built upon a radical approach of disarticulation and re-articulation of the components of painting, particularly through the technique of collage.

Focusing particularly on the materiality of painting and the geometry of forms, Bonnefoi's work oscillates between abstraction and figuration while engaging in numerous dialogues with 20th-century masters and avant-gardes (such as Matisse, Picasso, geometric abstraction, minimalism, Support/Surface, etc.). The author of numerous articles and works, including "Writings on Art 1974-1981" (1999) and "Treatise on Painting, 2 vol." (2023), published by La Part de l'Oeil, Bonnefoi currently serves as the director of the "L'Éclectique" collection at Eliott Editions, which releases 4 to 5 volumes annually on art, psychoanalysis, philosophy, and theology.

The **Musée National d'Art Moderne - Centre Pompidou** dedicated his first retrospective in 2008.

Over the past fifty years, Christian Bonnefoi has made a fundamental contribution to the debate on painting and its constitutive structure, considering it as an object in its own right.

Bonnefoi traces the origin of his artistic approach to the discovery of Matisse's « Dos » presented in 1970 at the Grand Palais in Paris during the Henri Matisse centenary exhibition, from which his first *Dos* emerged four years later. This theme has punctuated his work ever since.

Student of Hubert Damisch and Jean-Louis Schefer, Bonnefoi worked closely with Yve-Alain Bois and Jean Clay on the *Macula* journal in the mid-1970s. His work was later contextualized within revised discussions on American and French perspectives of painting, being part of the seminal exhibition « As Painting » at the **Wexner Center for the Arts** in 2001, alongside artists such as Agnes Martin, Gerhard Richter, and Robert Ryman. The exhibition demonstrated Bonnefoi's continued influence on subsequent generations.





The work of Christian Bonnefoi has been showcased in numerous museums and exhibitions in France and internationally, including:

- At the **Villa Emerige, Paris (FR)**
- At the **Musée national d'art moderne - Centre Pompidou in Paris**, which held his first **retrospective in 2008**
- At the **Musée Matisse, Cateau-Cambrésis**, in Nice (FR)
- At the **Fondation Jean-Paul Najjar**, in Dubai (SA)
- At the **Fondation Hermès, Le Forum**, in Tokyo (JAP)
- At the **Fondation Hermès, La Verrière**, in Brussels (BE)
- At the **MoMA PS1**, New York (USA)
- At the **Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (FR)**
- At the **FNAC, Fond National d'Art Contemporain**, Paris (FR)
- At the **Musée d'Art Moderne of Céret (FR)**
- At the **Musée des Beaux-Arts of Liège (FR)**
- At the **Musée d'art contemporain of Nice (FR)**
- At the **Centre d'Art Les Tanneries, Amilly (FR)**
- At the **Villa Medici**, in Rome (IT)
- At the **Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts of Brussels (BE)**
- At the **Fondation Deutsch, Lausanne (CH)**, etc.

The background is an abstract composition of thick, expressive brushstrokes in various shades of blue, from light sky blue to deep navy, and some brownish-orange tones. The strokes are layered and textured, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is reminiscent of a modernist or expressionist painting.

**« MY WORK DEVELOPS MORE IN THE
FORM OF A CONSTELLATION THAN
IN A LINEAR FORM. IT IS WORK
THAT IS NEVER FINISHED, BUT
ALWAYS OPEN. »**

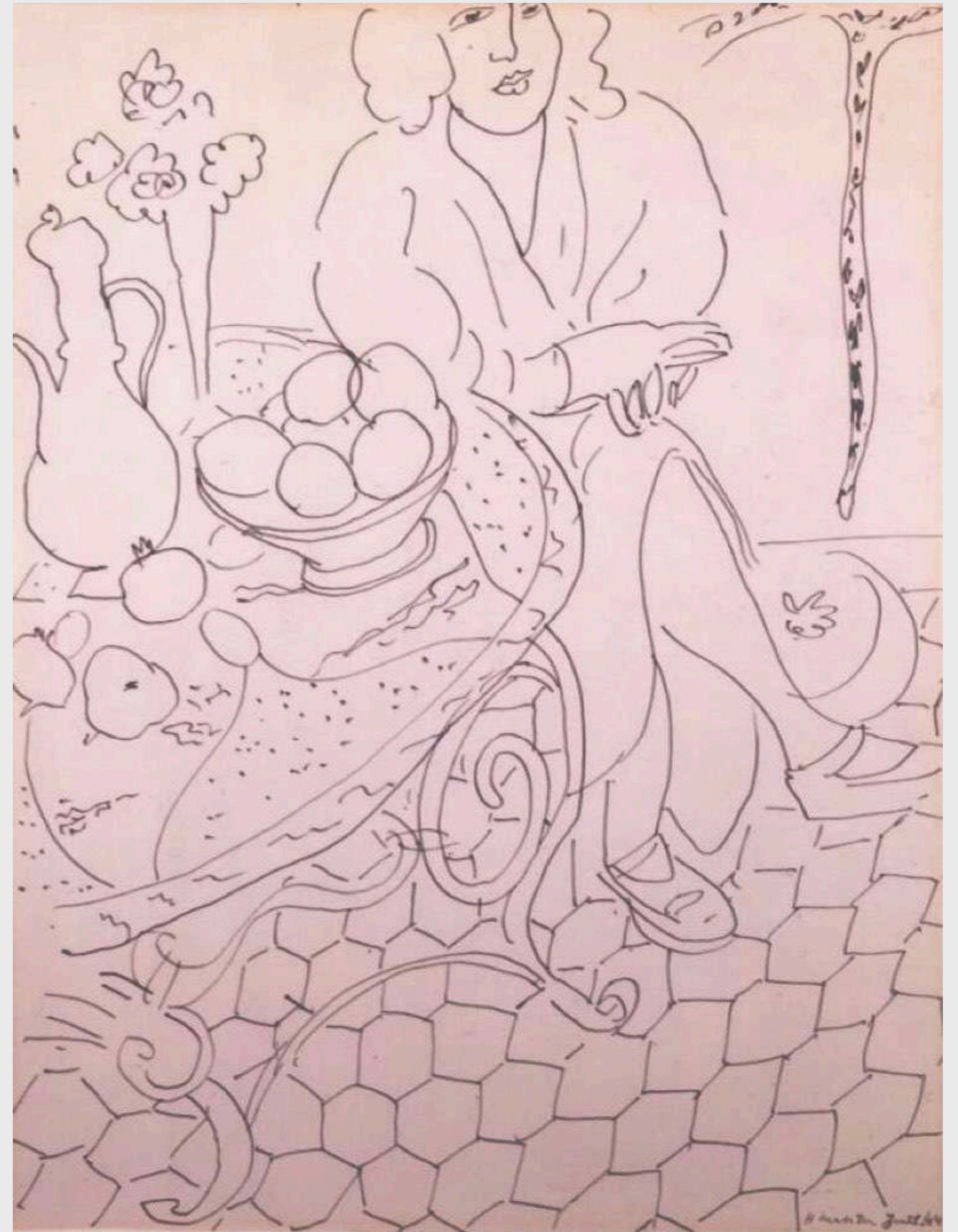
Christian Bonnefoi

Exhibited Artworks
Galerie Poggi
Project Room : Henri Matisse
Selection



Henri Matisse
*Dans l'atelier de l'artiste,
table avec nature morte et
modèle, 1944*

Ink on paper
52 x 40 cm



Henri Matisse
*Nature morte au bouquet
d'anémones,
1935*

Charcoal on paper
73 x 63 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Fioretti V, 1992-1993

Graphite and pastel on canvas
61 x 50 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Fioretti V, 1992-1993

Graphite and pastel on canvas
61 x 50 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Fioretti V, 1992-1993

Pastel, graphite, and acrylic on canvas
61 x 50 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Fioretti V, 1992-1993

Graphite and pastel on canvas
61 x 50 cm

Exhibited Artworks

Galerie Poggi

Selection



Christian Bonnefoi
Dos - La visite à Zulma, 2017

Acrylic and collage on panel
229 x 129 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Composition 18 - Le Rayon de la Providence, 2015

Silk paper and acrylic on wall
210 x 190 cm





Christian Bonnefoi
Dos - Ainsi soit-il, 2009 - 2023

Mixed media on panel
220 x 140 cm

Christian Bonnefoi
Dos - Jambes d'or, 2009 - 2023

Mixed media on panel
220 x 140 cm





Christian Bonnefoi
P.L. IV - 10, 2023

Acrylic on canvas
146 x 114 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
P.L. IV - 5, 2023

Acrylic on canvas
130 x 130 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
P.L. IV - 18, 2023

Acrylic on canvas
80 x 80 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
P.L. IV - 21, 2023

Acrylic on canvas
80 x 80 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
P.L. IV - 22, 2023

Acrylic on canvas
80 x 80 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
P.L. IV - 17, 2023

Acrylic on canvas
80 x 80 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
P.L. II, 1988-1990

Acrylic on canvas
180 x 160 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
P.L. II, 1988-90

Acrylic on canvas
190 x 130 cm

Exhibited Artworks

Villa Emerige

Selection



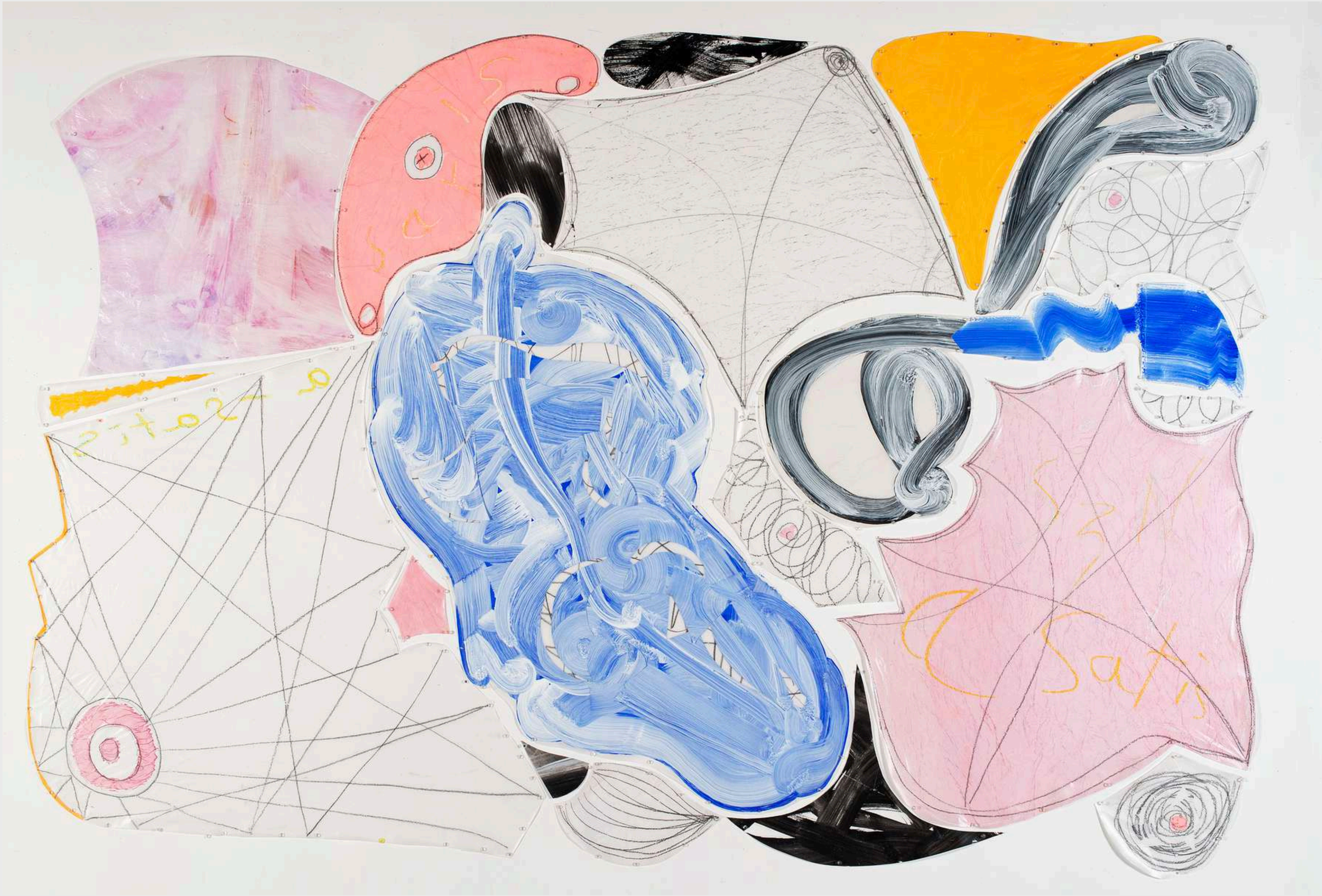
Christian Bonnefoi
Métropolitaine, 2022 - 2023

Acrylic and collage on panel
260 x 195 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Dos - Rondanini
2022 - 2023

Acrylic and collage on panel
260 x 195 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Composition 20 - Composition Marin,
2015

Silk paper and acrylic on wall
170 x 250 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Dos - Bleu, 2011 - 2012

Acrylic and collage on silk paper
230 x 165 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Dos - Rouge, 2011 - 2012

Acrylic and collage on silk paper
230 x 165 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Eurêka VIII, 2012

Acrylic on polyacetate
250 x 200 cm



Christian Bonnefoi
Eurêka VIII, 2012

Acrylic on polyacetate
250 x 200 cm

CONTACTS

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VISIT INFORMATION

Galerie Poggi

135 rue Saint-Martin, 75004
Tuesday - Saturday
11h to 19h

Villa Emerige

7 rue Robert Turquan, 75016
Until April 13th
Thursday - Saturday
12h to 18h

Exceptional opening during Art Paris,
Wednesday 3rd to Sunday, 7th, April 2024
From 10h to 18h

And by appointment

ONLINE VIEWING ROOMS

Viewing Room Galerie Poggi
[Click Here](#)

Viewing Room Villa Emerige
[Click Here](#)

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