Christian Bonnefoi

Exposition at the Galerie Poggi

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

Exposition at the Villa Emerige

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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.

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.

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 Elliott 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 Najar**, in Dubaï (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 Medicis**, in Rome (IT)
- At the **Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts of Brussels** (BE)
- At the **Fondation Deutsch, Lausanne** (CH), etc.
« 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
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
Composition 18 - Le Rayon de la Providence, 2015
Silk paper and acrylic on wall
210 x 190 cm

Christian Bonnefoi
Dos - La visite à Zalima, 2017
Acrylic and collage on panel
229 x 129 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
*Métropolite*, 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
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