

GALERIE ■

NSULA

24 rue des Grands Augustins
75006 PARIS
+33 (0)1 71 97 69 57
contact@galerie-insula.com
www.galerie-insula.com
mercredi - samedi 14h-19h30



L'île 1, pastel, 30 x 40 cm, 2021

Press Release

BÉRENGÈRE HUMARAU

My landscape chronicles

13 april / 06 may 2023

Opening Thursday 13 april at 18h30

"I am writing to you from far away"

Entering the work of Bérengère Humarau is to be drawn into her explorations of the deepest landscape and the secret harmonies of color. Tirelessly, in multiple forms, she tracks down the sensation to touch the quintessence of the emotion. The three recent series brought together in the exhibition constitute many different approaches to the same sensitive quest that updates the subject of landscape.

In her work in pastel, muffled vibrations and acidulous flashes compete for the motif of the rock or the island, each time metamorphosed by her gaze according to the light she recreates, sometimes raw, sometimes stormy, sometimes diffuse and tenuous, sometimes to the point of erasure.

It is this same process of demultiplication of the glance which takes part of the intention of her Quadrettaturas, of large formats constituted of a grid of vignettes. The objective is to paint on a large scale in order to see as closely as possible, to embrace both the totality of the landscape and the infinity of the variations and moments that constitute it. "I stretch a sky over two, three vignettes in a row, before it fades away and starts again, according to other hours, other seasons..." **Neither completely whole, nor completely multiple, the landscape that appears on the canvas offers a space of freedom where the gaze travels according to the windows that open successively to it as if to decline a suspended moment, an unexpected lighting, along the reliefs and weather conditions, the colors of the day stolen from the night " They are so many memories and offerings that the observer could choose for himself, as on a postcard holder."**

The latest paintings created using this process are closer to non-figuration. We detach ourselves from the landscape to explore the backgrounds of water gardens: the shadowy areas of the marsh or the pond with its murky waters and floating grasses, where the tenuous and conciliatory light radiates the syrupy greens.

Each vignette becomes a fragment of sensation to explore. In the manner of a dive in the heart of the vegetal and in the green liquidity as a natural extension of the Jungles that the artist realized some time before, series already immersive by excellence. Bérengère Humarau painted the humid forest on large pieces of paper. Very transparent washes inherited from her practice of Japanese sumi-é see a luxuriant vegetation of philodendrons, monstera, ferns, lianas, gnarled trees, tender grasses and mosses unfold. The palette is fresh, bright and acidic. The painting also expands in a joy of color and form.

From pochades in postcards and giant kakemonos, from impenetrable primary forests to unfathomable swamps, Bérengère Humarau traces a singular artistic itinerary where the gaze is as focused on the distant horizon as on the infinitely close in a gesture that leads inevitably to the contemplation and the emotion of the sensitive.

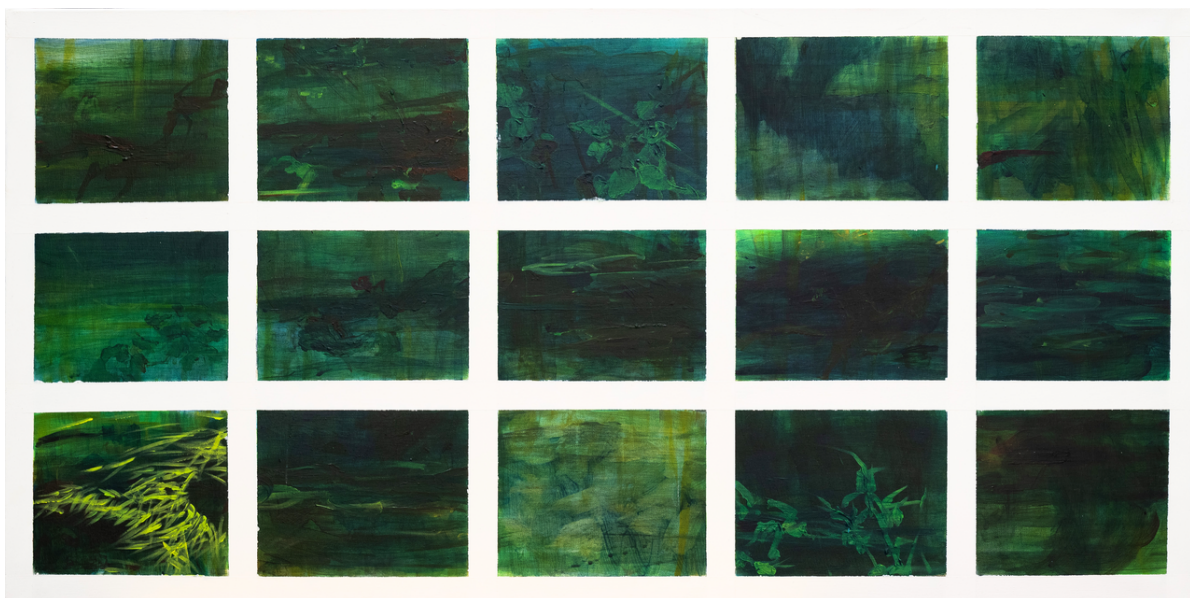
Véronique Cochois, January 2023



Le rocher 5, Pastel, 40 x 30 cm, 2021



Jungle 2, acrylic on paper, 200 x 100 cm, 2021



Quadrettatura 3, acrylic on canvas, 50 x 100 cm, 2022

Career

Bérengère Humarau was born in Angoulême in 1975. After studying Art History in Poitiers and Paris IV Sorbonne and a few trips to Asia, she began her career as a fashion decorator in the UK and France in 2003. Bérengère has always drawn and painted in a self-taught way until 2007 in Buenos Aires where she immersed herself in drawing, painting and sculpture in academic institutions and private workshops. Back in Paris in 2008, she continued her apprenticeship with a Japanese sumi-é master and then left the fashion industry to pursue an intense artistic curriculum. Since 2020, Bérengère focuses on her practice. Color and gesture are her paths of experimentation and abundance, around the landscape, the plant, and moments of everyday life. Her works have been exhibited since 2021.





Galerie INSULA

Created in 2008 by Véronique Cochois, the Galerie Insula is a unique place to encounter contemporary art. An innovative and acute artistic selection, but without a priori for a multidisciplinary programme - painting, photography, sculpture, engraving and drawing - where the quality of the works and the sensitivity that they reveal, beyond their belonging to various current trends, somewhere between poetic figuration and abstraction, take precedence. The Galerie Insula invites you to discover emerging and promising talents as well as established artists whom it accompanies in their projects.

Located in Paris in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés since 2011, the gallery organizes six to eight exhibitions per year within its space. The gallery regularly participates in various art fairs and events: Photo Saint-Germain, Art Madrid, Art Elysées, Ddessin and ArtParis ...