

Baronian

Press release

Jean-François Lacalmontie Peintures

2 rue Isidore Verheyden
1050 Bruxelles

12.01 - 4.03.2023

Opening

Thursday 12.01.2023
6-9pm

Jean-François Lacalmontie Peintures

Gallery Baronian is delighted to host the first solo exhibition of works by Jean-François Lacalmontie in Brussels. After having presented paintings at the last edition of Art Brussels, the artist will now reveal a recent series of large-scale formats.

In his works, Lacalmontie shows us large white backgrounds bordered by a black frame in which black drawings are entangled. Collages are integrated arbitrarily along with finer signs, a coloured bird in origami, a blue sky, a cloud, and “scratches”.

A series of landscape photographs entitled *Prière de ne pas toucher* are like backgrounds that the paint touches and smears, transforming them into unique objects and disrupting the reading. They thus join the shifts operated in the paintings, on the perspectives, the forms, the meetings of objects, the supports.

The painter is also a colourist; the colours he produces are subtle, inventive and add a different dimension to the black and white compositions. All his “objects”, as he calls them, seem to float freely on the pale background that gathers them together. This dispersion is like a freeze frame, a point at which the artist suddenly stopped mid-process, thus creating balanced compositions in spite of himself.

His creative process is methodical. He works with notebooks in which he gives free rein to his imagination. It is as though he enters a semi-hypnotic state and lets his mind wander, drawing spontaneously different sorts of figures, lines, symbols, signs, “formes-informes”, all springing from his “inner world”. This state of reverie then shifts into a conscious selection of certain “objects”, which are cut out, enlarged, projected and finally transposed onto the canvas. After the exuberant freedom from structure comes the more rigorous and objective stage of technique.

Jean-François Lacalmontie is a painter of intransquillity, of vibration, void of any hint of pathos or immediacy. His works are ideas that he grabs, that offer us the chance to plunge inside his mind. Each painting is of a finely mastered elegance that confuses us and at the same time generates a certain vigilance¹.

¹*Les Aguets*, Jean-François Lacalmontie, Olivier Kaepelin, Ed. Baronian, 2022.

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Jean-François Lacalmontie (born 1947) lives and works between Paris and Vitry aux Loges. Since the mid-1970s, the artist has been painting canvases that combine collage, drawing and photography in a single movement. Among his numerous exhibitions, he has had a major retrospective at the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Nantes (1992), group exhibitions at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris (1997) and at the International Art Festival in Dashanzi, Beijing (2004). After a period of retreat, he returned to the art scene with monographic exhibitions at the Matmut Contemporary Art Centre, Seine-Maritime, France (2018), at the Les Tanneries Contemporary Art Centre, Amilly, France (2018) or at the Art Brussels Fair, Baronian (2022).