

MICHEL REIN BRUSSELS

Sébastien Bonin

*Nyctéméral*

10.01-23.02.19

*« The most important is not where you take things from but where you bring them. » (Jean-Luc Godard)*

Sébastien Bonin's painting is all about references, encounters and plays with various media. Mid-way between abstraction and figuration, the artist's latest works revisit pieces by famous painters in a desire to "paint what painters see". Alluding to the natural cycle of days and nights, the Nyctéméral series is exhibited at the Michel Rein gallery of Brussels from January 10 to February 23, 2019.

The texture of his large formats is made of primer (the first layer applied on a canvas) mixed with water. His loose gesture points to abstract expressionism while recalling the esthetics of whitened shop windows. In the middle of a ghostly trace that blends in the gallery wall, a rectangle of paint stands out structuring the canvas surface and opens on a familiar landscape. A veduta - the large vistas we see in some Renaissance paintings- comes to interfere with the abstract part of the painting and proposes a figurative escape. In these postcard inserts - also exhibited per se in the show-, Bonin reproduces landscapes by impressionist or post-impressionist painters he found in art books. The artist selected the reproductions by contrast, in that, although he chose major painters, he immediately crossed out overtly famous pieces and gave preference to minor works.

Bonin deleted all traces of mankind from these "second degree reproductions" (characters, homes, objects etc.) and left landscapes only. In a similar spirit of humility and anonymity, he used the same art books to randomly pick titles for his paintings, making them interchangeable and thus questioning the original nature of the artwork.

Bonin's painting somehow resists viewers who are required to alternate between close view and distant perspective on the work (for lack of being able to do both at the same time) and move around it in a way that challenges the usual appreciation of these large scale works. The minute gesture of the small figurative paintings catches our attention and creates a dialogue with the abstract part of the canvas, although they cannot be simultaneously appreciated. In the end, Nyctéméral is the rhythm that paces the (alternate) movement of the painter.

*Barbara Cuglietta (December 2018)*

Sébastien Bonin (lives and works in Brussels) will have a solo show at Le Botanique, Brussels in 2020. He exhibited in Montecristo, Sardinia, the Museum of Ixelles, Island, Brussels, the Palace of Fine Arts, Brussels, at the WIELS Contemporary Art Center, Brussels, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, De Warande & Venetiaanse gaanderijen, Turnhout & Oostend.

For further information, please contact: Patrick Vanbellinghen, Director  
contact.brussels@michelrein.com  
Opening hours of the gallery: Wednesday - Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm and by appointment

## Sébastien Bonin

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Born in 1977, Brussels, Belgium.

Live and work in Brussels.

### EDUCATION, AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2004

Master of screen printing and digital printing, Ensav La Cambre, Brussels, Belgium

### SOLO SHOWS

2020

*Sébastien Bonin*, le Botanique, Brussels, Belgium

2019

*Nycthémera*, Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium

2018

*A l'arrière plan, le nouveau pont*, Montecristo, Sardinia, Italy

2017

*Focus*, Musée d'Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium

*Le désespoir des singes*, Island, Brussels, Belgium

2016

*Kledze Hatal*, D+T Project, Brussels, Belgium

2014

*Salon indien*, Island, Brussels, Belgium

*Vue d'un aigle par un hibou*, Le Cabanon, Astene, Belgium

2013

*Suzy cream cheese*, c-l-e-a-r-i-n-g, Brussels, Belgium

2012

*El Mirage Lake*, Island, Brussels, Belgium

### GROUP SHOWS

2018

18x13 cm, Cdt +, Liege, Belgium

*Rhaspodies*, commissariat d'Alix Janta-Polczynski, Brussels, Belgium

2017

*Dalonaz II*, Royal, Brussels, Belgium

*Rotonde*, La Rotonde, Brussels, Belgium

*The Wild West From Buffalo Bill to Bobbejaan*, De Warande & Venetiaanse gaanderijen, Turnhout & Oostende, Belgium

*Dalonaz*, Royal, Brussels, Belgium

2016

*Stephan BALLEUX, Sébastien Bonin, Léa Belousovitch, Hannu Prinz*, D+T Project Brussels, Belgium

*Point of view*, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark.

2015

*Friendly Faces*, Johannes Vogt, New York, USA

*186 Louise*, 186 Louise, Brussels, Belgium

*Un-scene III*, WIELS Contemporary Art Center, Brussels, Belgium

*Cirque Mafate*, duo show, Super Dakota, Brussels, Belgium

*Lens na Spinoza*, Croxhapox, Gent, Belgium

2014

*20.000 Leghe Sotto I Mari*, Le Bal, Paris, France

*The Belgian Six*, Palais-des-Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium

*Light / Object / Color*, Super Dakota, Brussels, Belgium

*Cosmos*, book launch, Théophile's Papers, Arles, France

*Nabla*, Abilene Gallery, Poppositions, Brussels, Belgium

2013

*Violins without violins*, Island, Bruxelles, Belgique.

*Martine à la plage*, MNAC, Bucharest, Romania

2012

*A Romantic measure*, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2011

*Oh My Book*, Les rencontres d'Arles, Arles, France

*Cube*, Cube, Beijing, China

## CURATORIAL ACTIVITIES

2014

*Des chevaux*, Island, Brussels, Belgium

*Houston*, Island, Brussels, Belgium

2013

*Violins without violins*, Island, Brussels, Belgium

## PUBLICATIONS

*Dialog/Dialogue*, Vue d'un aigle par un hibou, Ed. Tim Onderberke, 2016

*Le Morning*, Novembre, Ed. Herman Byrd, 2015

*Cirque Mafate*, Ed. Théophile's papers, 2015

*20.000 Leghe Sotto I Mari*, Ed. Théophil's papers, 2014

*Unphotographable*, Ed. La Manière Noire, 2011