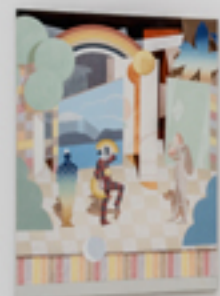


MICHEL REIN PARIS

CHRISTIAN HIDAKA

The Fool

April 11 - May 30, 2015

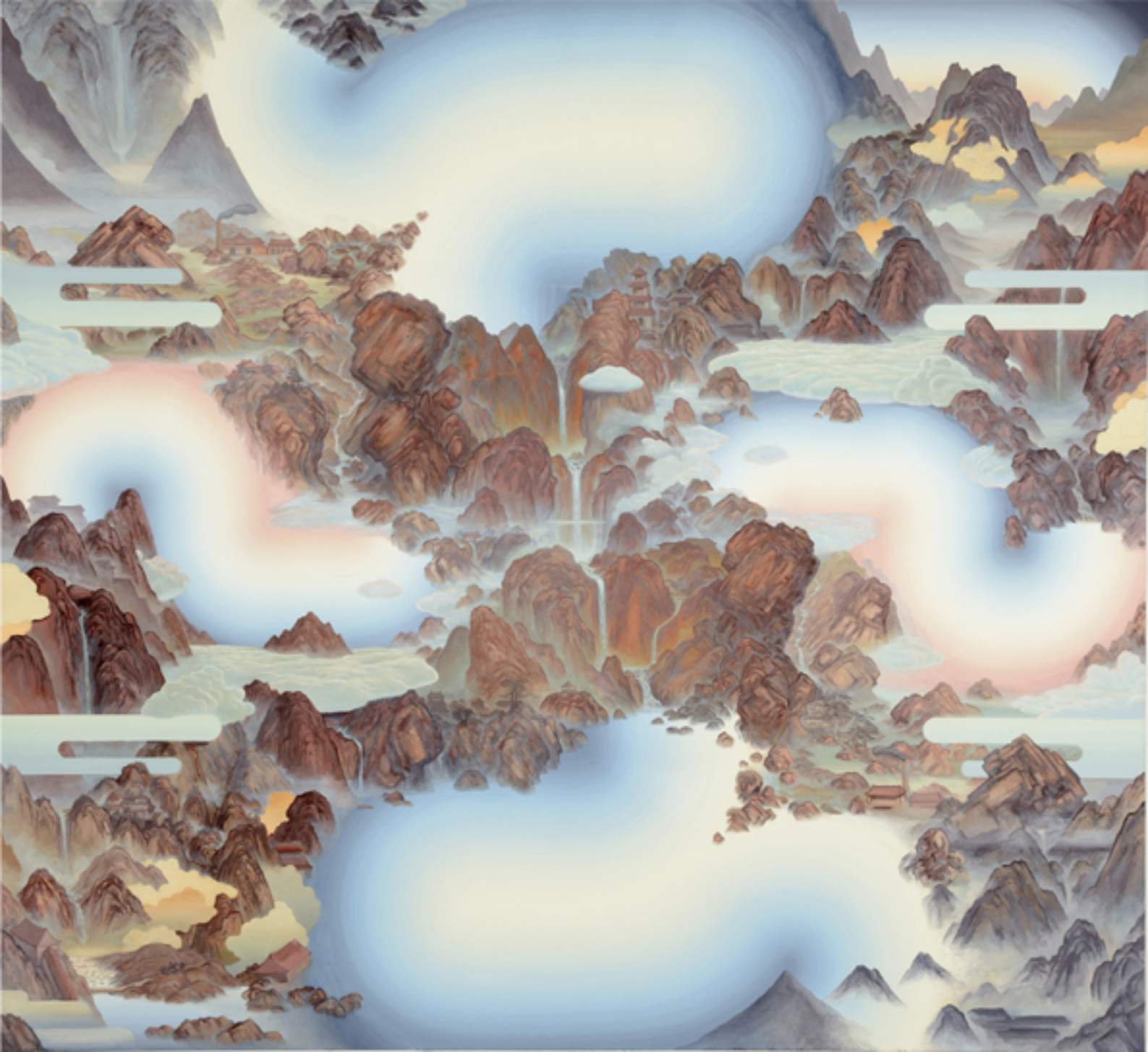










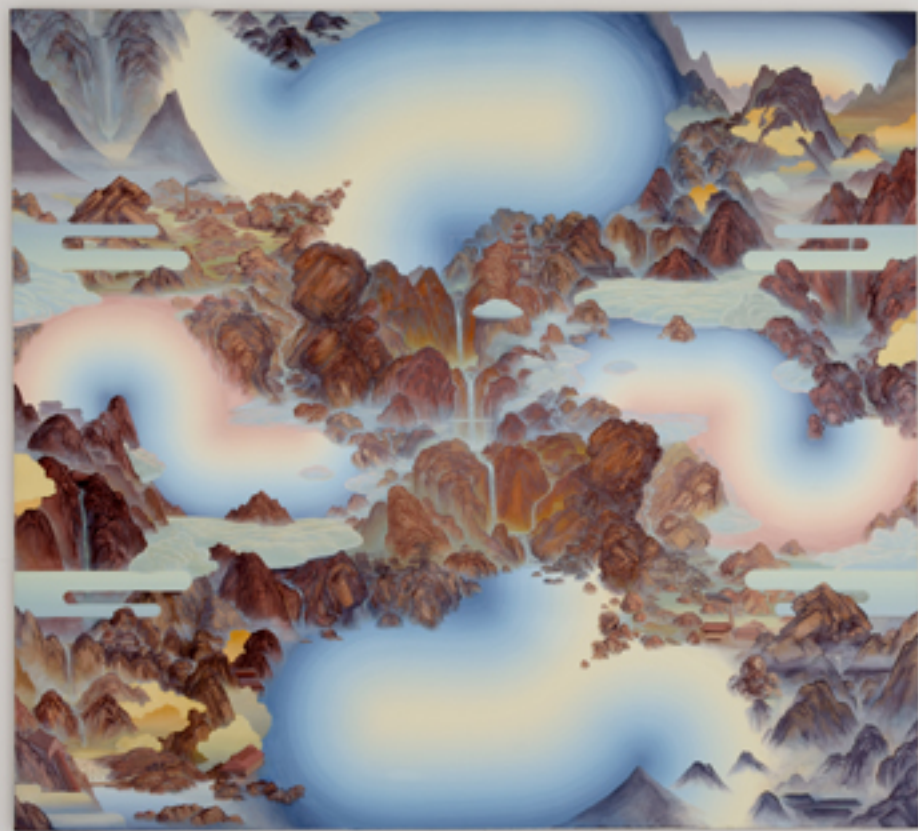














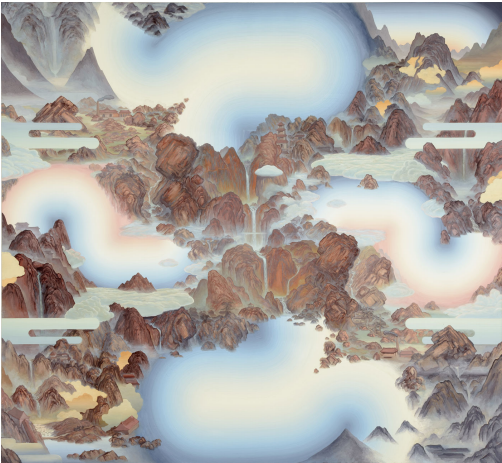


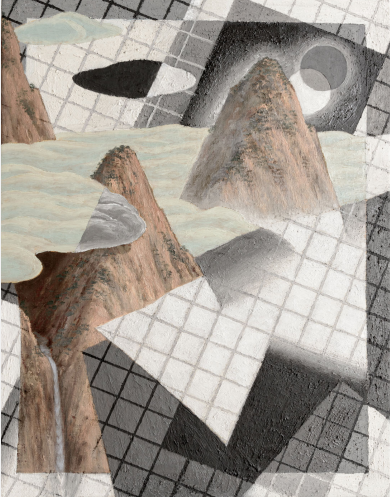




ARTWORK LIST

| INV Nbr | PICTURE | TITLE |
|-----------|---|--|
| HIDA15155 |  | Christian Hidaka <i>Blue House</i> , 2015 oil tempera on linen 200 x 300 cm Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels |
| HIDA14131 |  | Christian Hidaka <i>Cloisters</i> , 2014 oil tempera on linen 73 x 100 cm Unique artwork Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels |
| HIDA15153 |  | Christian Hidaka <i>Desert Stage</i> , 2015 oil tempera on linen 190 x 150 cm Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels |
| HIDA14130 |  | Christian Hidaka <i>Drummer Girl</i> , 2014 oil tempera on linen 56 x 80 cm Unique artwork Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels |

ARTWORK LIST

| INV Nbr | PICTURE | TITLE |
|-----------|---|---|
| HIDA15157 |  | Christian Hidaka <i>Mountain Factories</i> , 2015 oil on linen 230 x 250 cm Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels |
| HIDA15149 |  | Christian Hidaka <i>The fool</i> , 2015 oil tempera on paper, collage, wooden frame, plexiglas 38,8 x 26 cm Frame: 44,5 x 32 cm Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels |
| HIDA15154 |  | Christian Hidaka <i>Tricorn</i> , 2015 oil tempera on linen 150 x 230 cm Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels |
| HIDA15156 |  | Christian Hidaka <i>Untitled (Net)</i> , 2015 oil tempera on linen 53,5 x 41 cm Unique artwork Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels |

Christian Hidaka

The Fool

April 11 - May 30, 2015

Gallery Michel Rein is pleased to present Christian Hidaka's fourth solo exhibition after *Souvenir* (2012), *Red Desert* (2011), *Balanced Rock* (2010).

An ethical vanishing point

You will walk in the folds of the mountains and the altitude will drive you mad. Mad about the colours, mad about the lights, mad about the shapes. You will want to take all of it away with you, for passionate reconsideration, like a lover at the point of no return.

The artist mixes his fantasies with reality, his mimetic desire makes an imitator of him, who ends up finding his own language. As general as it may be, this state of being applies particularly well to the work and character of Christian Hidaka. This biographic scheme, inherited from the Renaissance, seems important in order to introduce an exhibition conceived around Picasso's legacy to generations of painters; a legacy, seen as cumbersome by artists who often don't really know what to do with it. Picasso would certainly have transmitted a personal, exclusive and unforgeable mythology, had it not been based on a triumphant plurality that the heterogeneity of his work bears witness to.

Today this abundance of identities is more essential than ever for the reinvention of a vision as for the reinvention of oneself. Hidaka's paintings shed light on the perception that we have of ourselves, when that perception has trouble understanding our emotions. His works bring us closer to dreams and make us receptive to strange latent tensions. In this way, it is hardly surprising that amongst the characters, creatures and polymorphs that populate the spaces created by Hidaka, we find the Harlequin, the famous figure from the Commedia dell'Arte, who fascinated Picasso throughout his life.

This iconography is most obviously imposed in *Desert Stage* (2015), which, to me, is the key painting in the exhibition, for which the title could be interpreted as "theatrical scene in the desert" (unless one is supposed to understand "A theatrical setting, evoking the desert"). The harlequin in the painting evokes the famous stage curtain *Parade* painted by Picasso in 1917. When one takes a closer look, other details confirm this relationship, like the column resting on the chequered pavement or the fragment of landscape delimited by a bevelled signpost; the mountains and blue sky are echoed, being cut-off between the sides of a final red velvet curtain and the ruins of a romantic landscape in Picasso's painting. On the other hand, the acrobat, the winged horse and the bucolic landscape have all disappeared. The table and the guests have all vanished leaving the Harlequin in a tête-à-tête with a young nubile girl, taken from a painting by Balthus (*Nu devant le miroir/ Naked before the mirror*, 1955)

This curious association seems to be brought to life by a game of comparability between the Harlequin's versatility and the adolescent, who has no definitive plans and shows it by her attitude (she calmly fans herself, her neck freed from the opulent weight of her hair), as the Harlequin runs the risk of dancing the refined and slightly ridiculous dance of the bird, exposing his feathers to the female during the mating ritual. These two figures could be the perfect metaphor for the elusive identity seen through lover's eyes (as a possibility to approach the other without freezing his or her image) and the affirmation of many distinct styles.

Certain painters surround themselves by photographs, but Christian Hidaka would much rather avoid them, preferring scenery and a theatricalized reality, similar to Alain Resnais' style (in *Aimer, boire et chanter* ("Love, drink and sing" (2014) for example). In the French director's work, a real ethical code exists, in every sense of the term, which consists of accentuating the value of the characteristics and the rhythm of each member of a group of individuals, living in an enclosed system. No image ever contains them all. This is, without a doubt, the reason why the exposition consists of isolated portraits, presenting themselves to the world before retreating to these spaces of cohabitation, which have been tailor made for them.

Cécilia Becanovic
March 2015

Cécilia Becanovic is a art critic, an independant curator and the co-director of the gallery Marcelle Alix. She lives and works in Paris.

Christian Hidaka (b.Noda, Japan 1977, lives and works in London) studied at Winchester School of Art and the Royal Academy, London. Selected exhibitions include a solo show at Synagogue de Delme, France, in 2012, *Walking Through...*, MUDAM (Luxembourg) and *Polemically Small*, Torrance Art Museum, USA in 2011, *Elements of Nature*, The Weisman Art Museum, USA and *Eat Me-Drink Me*, The Goss-Michael Foundation Dallas, USA (2009), *The Future Lasts a Long Time*, Le Consortium (Dijon, France) and *Ideal Worlds*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany (2005). Christian Hidaka participated in the symposium 'Revoir Picasso' at the Musée Picasso, Paris, in March.

www.christianhidaka.com

PRESENTATION

Christian Hidaka (Noda, Japan 1977) studied Fine Art at Winchester School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools, London. He lives and works in London. Christian Hidaka's paintings use landscape to create an imaginary world. This imaginary world is not of our world but is perhaps the representation of another non-existent world. Rather than idealising it, nature in Hidaka's work is depicted as limitless and unfolding. There is a focus on three types of space- deserts, mountains and caves. In the deserts can be found sites activated by actions, narratives and signs. In the mountains the viewer's eye bounces and reverberates across the picture plane, between mountain peaks, multiple horizons, waterfalls and mist. The cave entrances can be found in the mountains and deserts leading to uninhabited spaces. Hidaka's images alienate themselves from traditional modes of landscape depiction: without a homely place of reference the viewer is left to wander in an alien world to explore possibility rather than impossibility.

Selected exhibitions include a solo show at Synagogue de Delme, France, in 2012, *Walking Through...*, MUDAM (Luxembourg) and *Polemically Small*, Torrance Art Museum (USA) in 2011, *Elements of Nature*, The Weisman Art Museum (California, USA) and *Eat Me-Drink Me*, The Goss-Michael Foundation (Dallas, Texas, USA) in 2009, *The Future Lasts a Long Time*, Le Consortium (Dijon, France) and *Ideal Worlds*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt (Germany) in 2005.

Christian Hidaka

www.christianhidaka.com

Born in 1977 in Noda, Japan
Lives and works in London, UK

COLLECTIONS

Centre National d'Art Plastique, France
FRAC Corsica, France
MUDAM Collection, Luxembourg
Zoe and Joel Dictrow Collection
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
The Frederick R. Weisman Collection, Los Angeles, USA
The Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Simmons and Simmons, London, UK
Scorpio Trust, Geneva, Switzerland
Cranford Collection, London, UK
Zabludowicz Trust, London, UK
UBS Collection, London, UK
Collection Honart Museum, Tehran, Iran
Goss Michael Foundation Collection, USA
Sigg Collection, Switzerland

EDUCATION

1999 - 2002
Royal Academy Schools, London, UK

1996 -1999
BA of Fine arts, Winchester School of Arts, Winchester, UK
Undergraduate Fine arts, Parsons School of Art and Design, New York, USA

AWARDS & GRANTS

2003
The Lexmark European Art Prize, UK

2002
St. James' Fellowship, Royal Academy Schools, London, UK

SOLO SHOWS

2015
Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France (upcoming)

2013
Meeting House, Centre d'art contemporain - la Synagogue de Delme, Delme, France

2012
Souvenir, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France

2011
Red Desert, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France
Waterfall At The Top Of The River, Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK

2010
Galerie Michel Rein, Paris, France

2008
Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK

2007
Patricia Low Contemporary, Gstaad, Switzerland

2005
Black sun, Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK

2003
Inside the Island, MWprojects, London, UK

1999
Pilgrimage, The Small Mansion, London, UK

GROUP SHOWS

2014
Landscapes, Galerie Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium

2013
Salient, (cur. Gabor Gyory & Nick Jensen), Dye House, London, UK
The Stairs (cur. Sebastian Black & Mathew Cerletty), Albus Greenspon Gallery, New York, USA

2012
On the Beach, Galerie Commune, Tourcoing, France
BY_ME_BY_YOU_BY_WE, Twelve Around One, London, UK

2011
In the Gardens, Utopian Slumps, Melbourne, Australia
Polemically Small, [Touring Exhibition], Charlie Smith, London, UK
Walking Through... MUDAM, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg
Polemically Small, Torrance Art Museum, California, USA
Galerie Michel Rein at Florent Tosin, Berlin, Germany

2010
La gamme Pérouse, MOHLL148, Aubervilliers, France
John Moores Contemporary Painting Prize, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK
Summertime Love, Michel Rein, Paris, France
Panorama, Michel Rein, Paris, France
The Library of Babel- In and Out of Place, 176 Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK
5th Anniversary Exhibition, Patricia Low, Switzerland

2009
Eat Me-Drink Me, The Goss-Michael Foundation, Dallas, Texas, USA
Elements of Nature, The Weisman Art Museum, California, USA

2008
Park Avenue, Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton, UK
Imaginary Realities, Max Wigram Gallery, London, UK
INSIDEOUT, Gallery Moriarty, Madrid, Spain
UK Pavilion, 2008 Beijing Biennale, Beijing, China
Art and Illusion: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Roseville Arts!, Roseville, California, USA
Reflections from the Artist's Eye: Contemporary Art from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, USA

2007
Off the Wall, Rental Gallery, New York, USA
The Eclectic Eye: Selections of Fantasy and Illusion from the Frederick R Weisman Art Foundation, Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, USA
The Eclectic Eye: Pop and Illusion, Taylor Museum, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs, Fine Arts Center, USA

2006
Récurrences Dérobées, Bétonsalon, Paris, France

2005
Art and Illusion: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Carnegie Art Museum, Oxnard, California, USA
Fuckin' brilliant!! Maji-yabai!, Tokyo Wonder Site Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan
The Tower of Babel, Limehouse Arts Foundation, London, UK
The Future Lasts a Long Time, Le Consortium, Dijon, France
Curvaceous, Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, USA
Future Primitive, One in the Other, London, UK
Faux Realism, Rockwell Gallery, London, UK
Ideal Worlds, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany (cat.)
Faltering Flames, Graves Gallery, Sheffield, UK (cat.)
Yabadabadoo, Cell Project, London, UK

2004
Expander, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK (cat.)
Secrets - The Spectacle Within, Queens Gallery, New Delhi, India
The New Romantics, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York, USA
WORLD.B, Flaca gallery, London, UK

2003
Three London Painters, millefioriartspace, Athens, Greece
Selected Paintings, MWprojects, London, UK
The Boiler room, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Rockwell Project, Rockwell Gallery, London, UK
Good Bad Taste, Keith talent Gallery, London, UK
Friction, London Print studio, London, UK
Otaku, Michael Goedhuis, London, UK