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Jean-Baptiste Bernadet

Fortune

02.04 – 30.04.2011

Opening Saturday April 2, 2011

4-9pm

For his first personal exhibition in Paris, the, French artist Jean-Baptiste Bernadet, living in Brussels since ten years, has chosen to present four of his recent paintings.

Jean-Baptiste Bernadet paints abstract paintings, in very various formats, most frequently oil paintings, but he sometime also has recourse to lacquer, spray, glitter or collage. He starts to work with a vague idea – for instance landscape – but without ever aiming representation or illustration. He wants to avoid pictorial tags that would betray an identification to “abstract painting”: large expressive brushstrokes, gesture presence, virtuosity, lyricism...

He rather strives to let things happen and to let the painting manage itself the process by which it is produced : each mark, trace, color is a transitory step which leads to an other, and to an other, again.

The artist works by transfer, imprint, erasure, accumulation and exhaustion rather than by inscription, writing or composition. Thus, far from claiming the all-might of a plastic demiurgy, he instills doubt in the heart of the production system.

The main object of this work is the impossibility of painting, although combined to the necessity of doing it. This vivid tension between disillusion and hope, pessimism and belief, taste for unfinished and desire of achievement, will of clarity and attraction for opacity, construction and deconstruction, is operating in each of his gesture and visible in each of his paintings, each of his exhibitions. These contradictions taking place in his painting brings up the paradox to which are confronted the living beings face to love, death, fulfillment. The result is a polymorph and unstable work, in perpetual reinvention, to the pursuit, by all possible means, of an extreme intensity.

Jean Baptiste Bernadet describes his paintings as spoils that survive to the conviction that he won't realize a masterpiece. Their rich surface, precious and complex would definitely be sufficient.

Jean-Baptiste Bernadet is born in Paris in 1978 and has studied at l'École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Rennes and at l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Visuels - La Cambre in Bruxelles. He lives in Bruxelles since 2000.

In November and December 2010 he was an artist-in-residence at the Chinati Foundation, at Marfa, Texas and he will be in residence in Brooklyn in spring 2011.