

# GALERIE MITTERRAND

**VACLAV POZAREK**

*NON OISEAU*

05 SEPTEMBER > 07 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING 05 SEPTEMBER

Galerie Mitterrand is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition of Vaclav Pozarek in France. Entitled *NON OISEAU*, it will take place from September 5<sup>th</sup> to November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and features a selection of unique pieces, realized between 1988 and 2019, as well as an ensemble of works on paper.

Vaclav Pozarek is a Czech artist who has been living in Switzerland since the late 1960s. His work finds its origin in concrete and minimalist art, two movements that developed as a counter-response to the lyricism of abstract art, calling for a purely plastic construction (form, surface, and colour) of the work with a great economy of means. His production is highly varied, as can be seen in the choice of media used: primarily sculpture and drawing, but also collage, photography, exhibition scenography and book design. His research focuses on a unique synthesis of the principles of constructivism, concrete art and minimalism.

In his plastic work and installations, Pozarek seeks the interfaces between art and objects from everyday life, constantly questioning the forms of presenting art. If his vocabulary seems to belong to that of minimal sculpture, mainly through its rejection of the pedestal and the refusal of a simple imitation of the real, Vaclav Pozarek stands out however, for his frequent use of artisanal techniques in the realization of his works, as well as through their vernacular (*Swiss-Made*, 2019) and historical references. We can sense the presence of Marcel Duchamp and Bernini in the piece *Wall Cut-Out*, 1988, as well as André Malraux and his notion of the imaginary museum with the sculpture *Four-D*, 2015.

For his exhibition at the Galerie Mitterrand, Vaclav Pozarek presents a selection of six sculptures in wood, his preferred material. These sculptures are autonomous and without any real function, although they suggest the opposite at first glance. The two mural works *Untitled*, 2020 and *Half-Open*, 2002, can in fact be situated at this crossroads between abstract sculpture and functional object. *Very Open with Neon*, 2015, is also the fruit of this formal and functional analysis of everyday objects, between artisanal and industrial fabrication, which the artist has developed over the years. Vaclav Pozarek, a former student of cinema, considers his works as actors in need of direction and guidance: they find their function when they come together.

His graphic works, such as the ensemble *Untitled, figures with pipes*, 1995-2008, underline his interest in typography and architecture, evoking blueprints and ornamental features found on facades. They are conceived as series of plans and pure geometric forms.

Vaclav Pozarek was born in 1940 in Budweis, in the Czech Republic (former Czechoslovakia). He now lives and works in Bern, Switzerland. In 2018, the MAMCO Geneva devoted a large retrospective to his work. Several of his pieces are housed in major public collections such as the Kunstmuseum in Berne and MoMA, New York.

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

## Practical informations :

Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris  
T 33 1 43 26 12 05 - F 33 1 46 33 44 83 - [www.galeriemitterrand.com](http://www.galeriemitterrand.com)

## Opening hours :

From Tuesday to Sunday 11 am > 7 pm and Monday by appointment

## Press contact :

Marie Dubourdieu – Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris  
T 33 1 43 26 26 32 – [marie@galeriemitterrand.com](mailto:marie@galeriemitterrand.com)

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND



**Vaclav Pozarek**

*Swiss-Made, 2019*

Wood, transparent color

Piece in two part:

H 96 x 70 x 70 cm / H 70 x 96 x 96 cm

H 37.8 x 27.5 x 27.5 in / H 27.5 x 37.8 x 37.8 in

© Vaclav Pozarek, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND



**Vaclav Pozarek**

*Very open with neon (Ganz offen mit Neon), 2015*

Wood, transparent color, aluminium

H 230 x 134 x 50 cm / H 90.5 x 52.7 x 19.6 in

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND



**Vaclav Pozarek**

*Wall cut-out (Wandausschnitt), 1988*

Wood, transparent color, bottle dryer, etching (Bernini), glass

H 270 x 70 x 30 cm / H 106.2 x 27.5 x 11.8 in

© Vaclav Pozarek, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND



**Vaclav Pozarek**

*Four-D (Vier-D)*, 2015

Wood, transparent white color, glass, aluminium, 4 books

H 82 x 70 x 56,5 cm / H 32.2 x 27.5 x 22.2 in

© Vaclav Pozarek, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

## ARTIST

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### **VACLAC POZAREK**

Born in Budweis, Czech Republic (at that time Czechoslovakia), in 1940  
Lives and works in Bern, Switzerland

## EDUCATION

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1965-66 : Studied film direction at the Prague Film Academy  
1969-71 : Studied at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Hamburg  
1971-73 : Studied at St. Martin's School of Art London, under Anthony Caro

## SOLO SHOWS (SELECTION)

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2020

Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France

2019

Galerie Francesca Pia, Zurich, Switzerland

2018

MAMCO, Geneva, Switzerland

2017

Kunstparterre, Munich, Germany  
Barbara Wien, Berlin, Germany  
Gevaert Editions, Auslaufmodell Vaclav Pozarek / Koenraad Dedobbeleer, Brussels, Belgium

2016

Villa Garbald, Castasegna, Switzerland

2015

Kunstmuseum, Solothurn, Switzerland  
Galerie Francesca Pia, Zurich, Switzerland

2012

Bündner Kunstmuseum, Chur, Switzerland

2006

Kunsthaus Glarus, Glarus, Switzerland

2005

Marks Blond Project, Bern, Switzerland  
Galerie Friedrich, Basel, Switzerland

2004

Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland  
Galerie Francesca Pia, Bern, Switzerland

2001

Projektraum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Thun, Switzerland

1999

Galerie Friedrich, Basel, Switzerland

1995

Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau, Switzerland

1994

Galerie Friedrich, Basel, Switzerland

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

1993

Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal, Switzerland

1992

Daadgalerie, Berlin, Germany

1991

Kunstraum, Aarau, Switzerland

1988

Kunsthalle Bern, West Franz, Pozarek Vaclav, Bern, Switzerland

Galerie Xaver Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium

## GROUP SHOWS (SELECTION)

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2020

Stadtgalerie Bern, Kasten, Bern, Switzerland

2019

LUMA Westbau, It's urgent! - Part II, Zurich, Switzerland

Art Unlimited, Basel, Switzerland

Galerie Mitterrand, Une brève histoire de la modernité des formes, Paris, France

Musée jurassien des Arts, Ian Anüll. Peinture en Promo, Moutier, Switzerland

2018

Kunsthalle Bern, Die Zelle, Bern, Switzerland

2015

Swiss National Library, The Photobook and its authors, Bern, Switzerland

Lange Strasse 31, FFF...!, Frankfurt, Germany

ETH Zurich, Hönggerberg, HIL, gta exhibitions, Book for Architects, Zurich, Switzerland

Stadtgalerie, Nothing, really. Ein Dialog zwischen Bern und Antwerpen, Bern, Switzerland

Swiss National Library, Unikat – Unicum. Artists' books from the Prints and Drawings

Department, Bern, Switzerland

2014

SPAM-Contemporary, Ian Anüll / Vaclav Pozarek, Dusseldorf, Germany

A.Ve.Nu.De.Jet.Te Institut De Carton vzw, Forcefield – drawing show, Brussels, Belgium

2013

Kunsthalle Bern, Weihnachtsausstellung, Bern, Switzerland

Galerie Micheline Sz wajcer, A Whole Range of Furtively Titillating Stereotypes, Brussels, Belgium

Aargauer Kunsthaus, Kunst fürs Kunsthaus – Editionen des Aargauischen Kunstvereins 1991 – 2013, Aarau, Switzerland

Galerie Bernard Jordan, BuntStrichBleiStift, Zurich, Switzerland

Galerie Bernard Jordan, Ian Anüll & Vaclav Pozarek, Paris, France

2012

Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Don't Smile, Vom Humor der Kunst, Vaduz, Liechtenstein

Kunsthaus Grenchen, Dancing Towards the Essence, Grenchen, Switzerland

Kunsthalle Palazzo, Minimallinie Bern-Basel, Liestal, Switzerland

Museum im Kulturspeicher, Sammeln, was man liebt, Würzburg, Germany

2011

Annex14 - Raum für aktuelle Kunst, Unter sich, Zurich, Switzerland

Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Beispiel Schweiz. Entgrenzungen und Passagen als

Kunst, Vaduz, Liechtenstein

Kunstmuseum Bern, Rectangle and Square – Von Picasso bis Judd, Erwerbungen der Rupp-  
Stiftung, Bern, Switzerland

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2010

The Drawing Room, A moving plan B – chapter ONE, London, Great Britain  
Haus für Kunst Uri, Edition 5 Erstfeld, Altdorf, Switzerland  
Galerie Kornfeld und Cie, Balthasar Burkhard / Václav Požárek / Albrecht Schnider, Bern, Switzerland

2009

Cneai, Fleuves, Chatou, France  
Gandy Gallery, Fleuves, Bratislava, Slovakia  
Kunsthalle Palazzo, Dialog der Generationen, Liestal, Switzerland

2008

Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Symmetrie – Vom Spiel mit der Regel, Aarau, Switzerland  
Kunsthalle Bern, NOLEFTOVERS, Bern, Switzerland  
Galerie Friedrich, Full House – Arbeiten auf Papier, Basel, Switzerland

2007

Grazer Kunstverein, Die Blaue Blume, Graz, Austria  
Galerie Plzen - University Gallery Pilsen, Claudio Moser and Václav Požárek, Pilsen, Czech Republic  
Galerie Friedrich, Touch-down 2, Basel, Switzerland

2006

Galerie Skopia, A Friend Of Mine, Geneva, Switzerland

2005

Kunsthalle Bern, Keiner hilft Keinem, Bern, Switzerland

2004

Kunstmuseum Thun, Reanimation, Thun, Switzerland

2002

Kunsthalle Palazzo, das Weiss dahinter, Liestal, Switzerland

2001

Kunstmuseum Solothurn, Analog – Dialog, Plan, Modell und Bühne in der zeitgenössischen Kunst, Solothurn, Switzerland

2000

Kunstmuseum Winterthur / Nationalgalerie Prag / Rupertinum, Museum für Moderne und Zeitgenössische Kunst / Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte / Neues Museum, Staatliches Museum für Kunst und Design, Von Edgar Degas bis Gerhard Richter: Arbeiten auf Papier aus der Graphischen Sammlung des Kunstmuseums Winterthur, Winterthur / Prague / Salzburg / Muenster / Nuremberg

1999

Kunsthalle Palazzo, Konstruktion, Liestal, Switzerland

1998

Aargauer Kunsthhaus / Bündner Kunstmuseum / Musée Jenisch / Museo Civico Villa dei Cedri, Im Reich der Zeichnung und Arbeiten auf Papier: Werke des 20. Jahrhunderts aus dem Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau / Chur / Vevey / Bellinzona  
Graphische Sammlung, Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Visible: Künstlerbücher und Portfolios, Bern, Switzerland  
Galerie Francesca Pia, Das rote Zimmer: Berns stora Kafé, Stockholm 1879, arrangiert von Wenzel Pozarek und Johannes Gachnang, Bern, Switzerland

1997

Fri Art – Centre d'Art Contemporain, Bonjour, Bon Echo, Fribourg, Switzerland

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Kunstmuseum Bern, Wege zur Kunst, Wege zur Sammlung, Malerei, Skulptur, Zeichnung aus Bern, Bern, Switzerland

1996

Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales – MNAV, Vaclav Pozarek (Suiza), René Zach (Suiza) y Elizabeth Wagner (Alemania), Montevideo, Uruguay

1994

Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, Jedes Haus ein Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland  
Kunstmuseum Bern, Zeitgenossen, Bern, Switzerland

1993

Nationalgalerie, „Andere Länder – andere Sitten“: Zeichnungen aus dem Kunstmuseum Bern, Prague, Czech Republic

1991

Kunstmuseum Bern, Kunstmuseum in Stufenbau, Bern, Switzerland  
The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago, A Swiss Dialectic, Chicago, United States

## PUBLIC COLLECTION

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Kunstmuseum, Bern, Switzerland  
MoMA, New York, USA