

# GALERIE MITTERRAND

**EDI HILA**

*PRINCE OF THE LAKE*

25 FEB > 30 APR 2021

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

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Galerie Mitterrand is pleased to announce a new solo show by the Albanian painter Edi Hila. *Prince of the Lake* gathers artworks from his last three series of paintings produced between 2018 and 2020, all recently exhibited in his retrospective, *The Sound of the Tuba*, at the Secession Building in Vienna, Austria.

A major figure on the Balkan arts scene, over the past twenty or so years, Edi Hila has witnessed the dramatic changes experienced by European post-Soviet communities. Refusing to immigrate to a wealthier country, he chose to live in Tirana, where he has developed a body of work that explores the transitory nature of his country's history (a natural frontier between East and West), as well as the position of Albanian painting in the history of Mediterranean art. In just over twenty years, Edi Hila's painting has become a reference in Europe. Edi Hila has established himself as one of the greatest contemporary painters by basing his work on photographs, but also through the characteristic irony and melancholy which inhabits the historical subjects he treats with. His paintings have an apparent austerity which is reflected in his restricted use of a color palette, often monochromatic. The French historian Eric de Chassez even compares him to the master of Belgian painting Luc Tuymans. The recent recognition of the importance of Edi Hila's work in contemporary history painting has led him to participate as of late, to Documenta 14, and then to his successive retrospectives at the Warsaw Museum of Modern Art (2018), at the National Gallery of Arts of Tirana (2019) and at the Secession Building in Vienna (2020).

The title of the exhibition, *Prince of the Lake*, is also the title of the first painting of a new series started in 2020. Architecture, the artist's preferred motif, infuses his work with meaning. Edi Hila believes that a lot can be learned about a society from its architecture, such as its political history, its aesthetic culture, economic situation and even its psychology. As one who experienced the disillusionment of a country in the throes of reconstruction, Edi Hila highlights with irony the megalomania and anachronisms of recent architectures supported by the newly liberal culture of his country.

*House in Korça, 1945* is a cycle of works created in 2020, by way of which Edi Hila looks back on the violent and forced displacement of the people of the Albanian town Korça during the Second World War. These empty rooms, abandoned suddenly, bear witness to a past life. The paintings offer the visitor a stripped-down, ghostlike vision of these homes. His symbolic, abstract approach enables Edi Hila to transform an ordinary interior into a melancholic and meditative eerie flight of the imagination.

*Open Museum* is a series of paintings begun in 2018 in the aftermath of the wave of terrorist attacks that rocked Europe between 2015 and 2017. These disturbing visions trace the history of our civilisation through the prism of violence: from medieval armour to a cupboard full of weapons, or indeed the Tirana underground on fire. If the subject of these works is intended as figurative, though allegorical, their visual construction comes somewhat closer to being architectural, harsh, uncompromising and at the limit of abstraction.

Edi Hila was born in Shkodër, Albania, in 1944. He has exhibited to an international public on a number of other occasions, such as at the Venice Biennale and After the Wall at Moderna Museet in Stockholm (both 1999); Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, and the Ludwig Museum, Budapest (both 2000); and Blood & Honey: The Future's in the

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Balkans, curated by Harald Szeemann for the Essl Museum in Vienna (2003); as well as the Liverpool Biennial (2010), and also documenta 14, in Kassel and Athens (2017). His works feature in the collections held by the Musée National d'Art Moderne (in the Centre Pompidou); by the Frac des Pays de la Loire and the FRAC Auvergne; by the FMAC Paris; by the New Gallery in Kassel; by the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw; and by the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven.

## Practical information:

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

## Opening hours:

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

## Press contact:

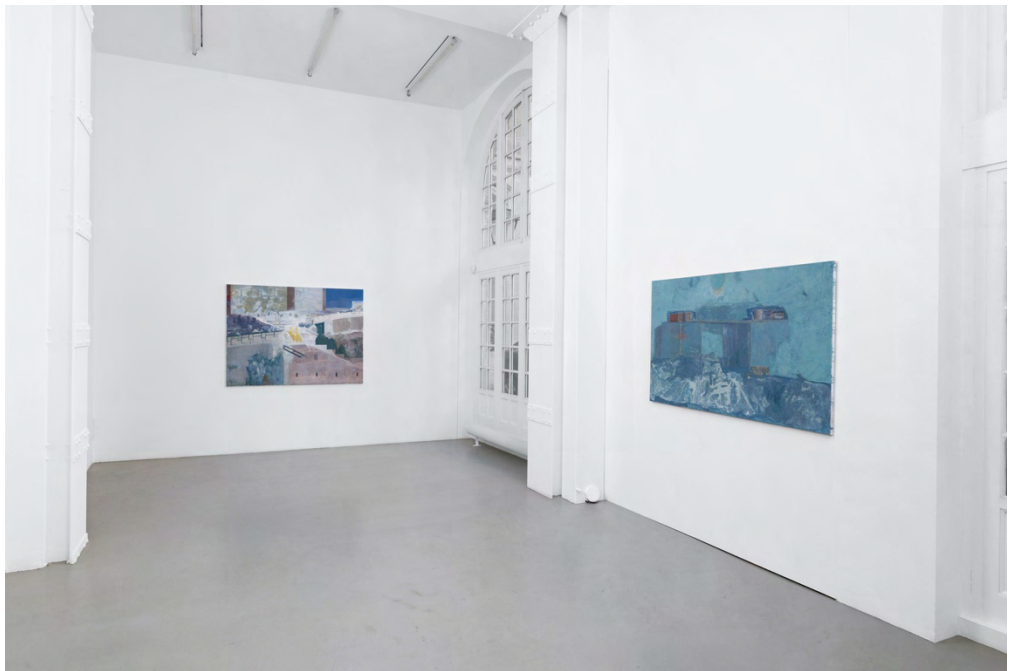
Marie Dubourdieu – Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris  
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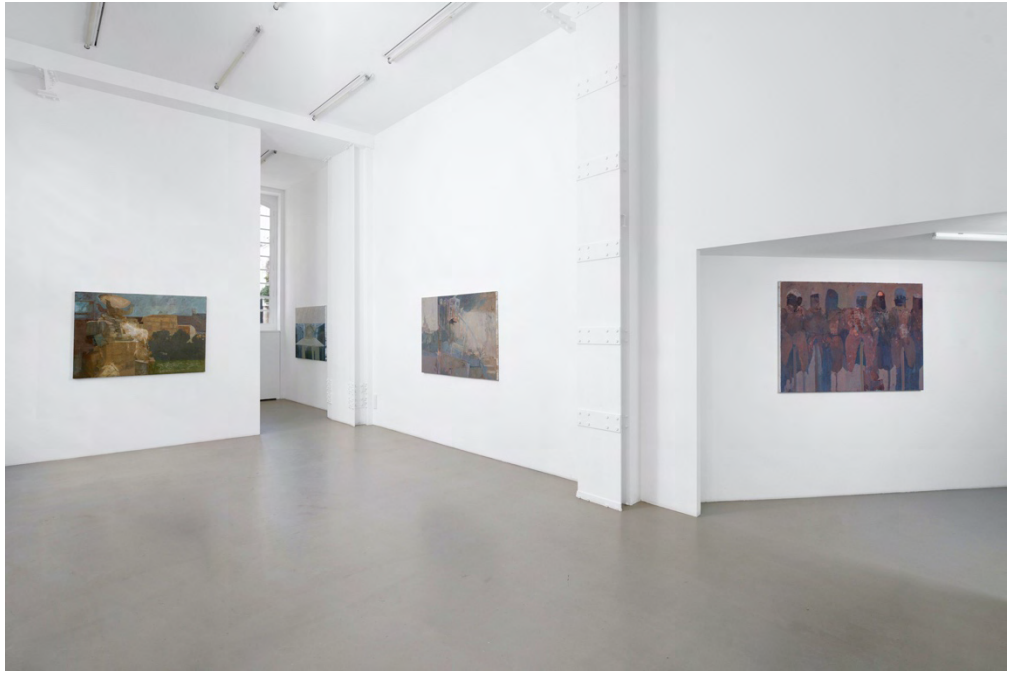
*Prince of the Lake* exhibition view at Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, 2021



*Prince of the Lake* exhibition view at Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, 2021

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**Edi Hila**

*Books, 2019*

*House in Korça, 1945*

Huile sur toile / Oil on canvas

H 88,5 x 110 cm / H 34 x 43 in

Unique

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**Edi Hila**

*Morning, 2020*

*House in Korça, 1945*

Huile sur toile / Oil on canvas

H 103 x 176 cm / H 40 x 69 in

Unique

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**Edi Hila**

*Prince of the Lake*, 2020

Huile sur toile / Oil on canvas

H 128,5 x 168 cm / H 50 x 66 in

Unique

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**Edi Hila**

*Armures Médiévales, 2017*

*Open Museum*

Huile sur toile / Oil on canvas

H 103 x 150 cm / H 40 x 59 in

Unique

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

## ARTIST

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### **Edi Hila**

Born in Shkodër, Albania, in 1944

Lives and works in Tirana, Albania

## EDUCATION

-

**1993**

Academic Dean University of Visual Arts, Tirana Academy of Arts

**1991**

Professeur de peinture, University of visual Arts, Tirana Academy of Arts

**1967**

Diplômé de Peinture à la Tirana Academy of Fine Arts

## SOLO SHOWS (SELECTION)

-

**2021**

*Prince of the Lake*, Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France

**2020**

*The Sound of the Tuba*, Secession Vienna, Vienna, Poland

**2018**

Musée d'Art Moderne de Varsovie, Warsaw, Poland

National Gallery of Arts, Tirana, Albania

*Open Museum*, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Brussels, Belgium

Documenta 14, Cassel, Allemagne

**2017**

*Tirana-Versailles*, Galerie Mitterrand, Paris

**2016**

*Mirages of a Boulevard*, Center of Openness and Dialogue, Tirana, Albania

**2014**

*Venice Biennale of Architecture*

**2013**

*Penthouse*, JGM. Galerie, Paris

**2011**

*Year '11*, Zeta Gallery, Tirana

*Transitional Landscapes*, mitterrand + sanz, Zurich

**2010**

*Les temps satellites*, Iconoscope, Montpellier

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

2009

*Paysages Transitionnels*, JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

2008

*Senza angeli*, Villa Romana, Florence  
Galleria Zeta, Tirana, Albania

2007

*Disegni non presentati. 1970-1989*, Gallery Zeta, Tirana

2006

*Suburban*, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe

2004

Galleria delle Arti Del Kosovo, Prishtina

2001

*Skendi* Gallery, Tirana

1998

*Komfort*, National Gallery, Tirana

1996

Galerie de Vergere, Sion, Zvicer

1994

Ikast herning, Danemark

1993

AKUD Gallery, Berlin

1992

Galleria Cobra, Brussels, Belgium

1991

Icast-Herning, Danemark  
National Gallery, Tirana, Albania

## GROUP SHOW (SELECTION)

-

2018

Galeria Kalo, Tirana, Albania

2017

Documenta 14, Kassel, Germany  
Documenta 14, Athens, Greece

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2016

*The Whale That Was a Submarine, Contemporary Positions from Albania and Kosovo*, Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest, Hungary  
*Prandaj Hyji i Iartësoi, Galeria e Arteve Shkoder*, Shkoder, Albania  
*A History: Contemporary Art from the Centre Pompidou*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany

2015

*Potential Monuments of Unrealised Futures*, AA School of architecture 2015, London, UK

2014

*100 Years of Albanian Drawing*, National Gallery of Arts, Tirana, Albania  
*Une histoire, art, architecture et design, des années 80 à aujourd'hui*, Centre Pompidou, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France  
*Some Artists' Artists*, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York, NY, USA  
14th International Architecture Exhibition, Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

2013

*Florenz!* Kunst und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, Germany  
*Critique and Crises. Art in Europe Since 1945*, Kumu Art Museum, Tallinn, Estonia  
*La Révolte et l'Ennui*, FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France  
*The Desire for Freedom, Arte in Europa dal 1945*, Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy

2012

*Critique et Crise. L'art en Europe depuis 1945*, Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin, Germany

2011

*Récits anamorphiques* - FRAC - Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France

2010

Biennale de Liverpool, Angleterre  
*Quartet-Four Biennials Reflected in Prints*, International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC), Ljubljana  
Art Brussels 2010, Bruxelles, JGM. Galerie

2006

*Art, Life & Confusion*, October Salon, Belgrade  
*Adrian Paci presents: Edi Hila e Giovanni De Lazzari*, francesca kaufmann, Milan  
*Interrupted Histories*, Ljubljana Museum of Contemporary Art

2005

International Prize Onufri 2004 National Gallery. Tirana  
TIRANA BIENNALE 3 Sweet Taboos. Tirana

2004

Cetinje Biennial V, LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT  
*Reappearance*, Museum of Kosovo, Prishtina

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2003

*The Essl Collection-Art of the present, BLOOD&HONEY/ Futures in the Balkans*  
Kunsthalle Fridericianum – Kassel, IN DEN SCHLUHTEN DES BALKAN

2002

Small Brother, International Prize “Onufri 2002”, National Gallery, Tirana

2001

*Beautiful Strangers*, Ifa Gallery, Berlin  
*Silhouettes*, TIRANA BIENALE e pare, Tirana  
*The Art of Balkan Countries*, Thessalonique

2000

Zoumboulakis Gallery, Athènes  
*After the Wall*, Ludwig Museum, Budapest  
*After the Wall*, Hamburger Bannhof, Berlin  
*In and Out*, National Gallery Tirana  
Galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris

1999

48th Biennale of Venice  
International Prize Onufri 99, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana  
Art & May, Bari, Italie  
*Albania Today*, 48th Edition of Venice Biennial, Albanian Pavilion  
*Albanische Kunst Heute*, Haus am Lutzowplatz, Berlin  
*After the Wall*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm

1998

Gallery XXI. Tirana  
International Prize Onufri 98, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana  
Biennale Internazionale, Le Caire

1997

*Reorientation*, the Porcelain Factory, Tirana  
International Prize Onufri 97, National Gallery, Tirana  
First Mediterranean Biennial. Tunis  
Espace Malraux, Chambéry, France

1996

Grenoble, France  
Aix les Bains, France  
Belley, France  
National Exhibition, Onufri, National Gallery, Tirana  
The First Mediterranean Biennial, Tunis  
Centre National d'Art et d'Essai, LUCERNAIRE, Paris.  
The International Biennial of Cairo  
Permanent Instability, International Prize Onufri 98, National Gallery, Tirana,

1994

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Hôtel de Ville, Yverdon, Switzerland

1993

Neue Galerie, Graz, Autriche

National Exhibition Onufri 93, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana

1972

Pranvera 72, First Prize, National Competition, National Gallery, Tirana

## COLLECTIONS

-

Musée national d'art moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

Fonds municipal d'art contemporain de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France

Fond Régional d'Art Contemporain Pays de la Loire, France

Fond Régional d'Art Contemporain Auvergne, France

National Art Gallery of Albania, Albanie

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