

FABIENNE VERDIER

Horizons et Chênes-lièges

At the bookshop

18 January 2024 - 9 March 2024

Opening on Thursday 18 January at 6pm

13 rue de Téhéran

75008 Paris



Horizon #1, 2023

Oil pastel and collage on tinted Arches paper, 45 x 33 cm.

© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Lelong & Co.

During the summer of 2023, Fabienne Verdier spent some time in Corsica, in the bay of Porto Vecchio. From the house she occupied, she could observe the pine forest, the cork oaks [chênes-lièges] and, beyond the rocky coast, the islands and the horizon of the sea.

To draw the world is first to see it. To look at it intensely, for a long time, to really see it. These drawings were not made on the spot. They are not instantaneous reproductions of the forms that the artist has in front of her. They are reconstructions of things seen, from all angles, at different times of day, close up or at a distance.

Twisted pines, junipers, cork oaks, rocks, yews, buds; things seen and experienced, remembered, interiorized and reinvented by the purity of a fine pastel line and the boldness of a simple collage of blue tape to sum up the infinite variety of the sea.

In parallel with the *Horizons and Chênes-lièges* exhibition, the firm Valode & Pistre architectes is presenting thirteen large paintings by Fabienne Verdier, the *Rainbows*, on show at the Musée Unterlinden in Colmar during the summer of 2022.

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Valode & Pistre architectes has a long history of working with artists. In 2006, it was Denis Valode himself who designed and built Fabienne Verdier's studio near Paris. He understood and even anticipated the artist's needs by creating the immense pit in which Verdier paints, wielding her gigantic suspended brushes. While respecting the architectural spirit of the village, he has created an ideal working space for a completely new and unusual artistic practice. Today, the journey has reversed course, with the Verdier's work now slipping into the creative world of the architects.

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Fabienne Verdier was born in Paris in 1962. She lives and works near Paris. In 2019, the Musée Granet in Aix-en-Provence devoted a retrospective exhibition to her, retracing the artist's career since her return from China. Her works can be found in numerous collections, including the MNAM Centre Pompidou (Paris), the Musée Granet (Aix-en-Provence), the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen (Munich), the Nasjonalmuseet (Oslo), and the Fondation Hubert Looser and Kunsthaus in Zurich. Several major exhibitions have recently been devoted to the artist: *La mouvance de la matière* at Château Lynch-Bages, in Pauillac, *Le chant des étoiles* at the Musée Unterlinden in Colmar and *Im Auge des Kosmos* at the Musée de Saarbrücken, Germany.

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