

PRESS RELEASE

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dunoyer
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exposition / exhibition
JEU-JEN / THU-FRI 14h-18h30
SAM / SPT 11h-17h
bureaux / offices
LUN-JEN / MON-FRI 9h-12h30
14h-18h30

PRESS RELEASE

On 19 March 2009, to coincide with the upcoming "Nuit des Bains", BFAS Blondeau Fine Art Services is proud to present at 5 rue de la Muse, Geneva, an exhibition by the French painter **Pierre Dunoyer**.

Intent on allowing the spectator a more in-depth acquaintance with a corpus that requires reflection even as it imprints itself on the spectator's gaze, we have offered the artist a re-hang. Within the reconfigured gallery, the public is offered the chance to re-envision these *tableaux*¹ as they "reconquer" the space in rue de la Muse, inhabiting and proclaiming it in entirely new ways.

Born in Marseilles on 20 January 1949, Pierre Dunoyer lives and works in Paris, where he has exhibited since the eighties. That was also a period of long stays in New York – from 1979 to 1985 – where he took part in several group exhibitions. He held his first solo exhibition in London in 1975. It was followed by others in Paris, at the Sonnabend gallery in 1979 and 1980, and in New York. In 1991, for the second exhibition of the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Pierre Dunoyer exhibited six series of four *tableaux*.

Today we are making over to him our space at 5 rue de la Muse, where he is showing ten *tableaux*, most of them specially made for this exhibition.

When Pierre Dunoyer began painting in 1976, the influence of *Supports-Surfaces*, a French avant-garde movement active from 1969 to 1972, was on the wane. It had brought together artists such as Louis Cane, Daniel Dezeuze, Jean-Pierre Pincemin and Claude Viallat, who foregrounded the practice of painting at the expense of the subject while questioning the constituent elements of that practice. This method of interrogating the specificity of the painted object, initiated and practised by the founder-members of the group, attracted Dunoyer. He insisted, as they had before him, that where questions arose, they must be answered within the bounds of the *tableau*. He nevertheless held out against their principled deconstruction of painting and the declarations then current concerning its death². *I am playing catch-up*, Dunoyer says, *the decisions were taken twenty years ago. They haven't changed since then and I persist with the question of the tableau. At the outset, everything was based on the death of painting. Immediately the question came: painting maybe, but what about the tableau? What do we do with that?*³

Dunoyer's work derives from his reading of the history of art, in which he sides with the radical minimalists such as Mondrian and Ad Reinhardt. But his work also proceeds from an outlook of profound reflection that embraces philosophy and the human sciences. His work necessarily involves the articulation of his thought. *The tableau constitutes a true statement of being in the world. [...] The tableau is the companion of our trajectory – we, the living. It has nothing to do with the world of yesterday, by which I mean the world as it has always been, the metaphysical world enchainé in causalities and categories. We are faced here with a strange solitude that subjugates us. We are the guardians of the past and the future through the enormous present. The tableau articulates the enormity of the present.*⁴

A 90 pages catalogue is available.

1. The French word *tableau* is retained in contradistinction with the usual translation "picture".

2. J. Busse, *Benezit* (Paris: 1999), 867

3. P. Dunoyer interviewed by Nathalie Anglès in *Peintures Françaises*, exhibition catalogue, Villa Medici, Rome, 1997, 86.

4. P. Dunoyer interviewed by Alain Cuffet, tr. by Gila Walker, in *Pierre Dunoyer, Tableaux*, exhibition catalogue, Paris, Galerie Internationale du Jeu de Paume, 1991, 46, 47.

PRIVATE VIEW during the Nuit des Bains: Thursday 14 May from 18.00

Press dossiers and h-d illustrations available on demand

BFAS Blondeau Fine Art Services moved in 2000 to 5 rue de la Muse in the heart of the Quartier des Bains in Geneva. Consultants and connoisseurs in art since 1820, BFAS Blondeau Fine Art Services sells works to collectors and institutions world wide. It has a unique reference library comprising more than 14,000 titles. Aspiring to share its vision of contemporary and emerging art, BFAS Blondeau Fine Art Services mounts regular exhibitions at its dedicated gallery-space, *5 rue de la Muse*, showing artists such as Alex Brown, Fabrice Gygi, Louise Lawler, Dan McCarthy, Raymond Pettibon and Jim Shaw.

www.bfasblondeau.com