Bernard Moninot

Cadastre

17 March – 4 May 2018

Preview
Saturday 17th March
4pm – 8pm

Bernard Moninot «Cadastre 4.03.2017», 2017 | acrylique on paper | 28 x 21,5 cm
The Galerie Catherine Putman is pleased to present « Cadastre » by Bernard Moninot. The third solo exhibition by the artist in the gallery has been organised with the Galerie Jean Fournier, which will be holding an exhibition on the same dates entitled « Chambre d’Echo ».

The exhibition « Cadastre », which focuses on the drawings of Bernard Moninot, which are central to his oeuvre, includes various recent and hitherto unseen series of works: *Cadastre, Clinamen, Lignes d’erre, À la poursuite des nuages, and Lumière Fossile*.

Guided by chance, the drawings in the *Cadastre* and *Lignes d’erre* series are created instantaneously. They are the result of the observation and collection of drawings from *La mémoire du vent* (‘The memory of the wind’), which he created by attaching a stylus to the ends of flowers or tree branches. This project has given him greater freedom in his approach, as this time the drawing is no longer based on preconceived ideas and has been instilled with renewed spontaneity. Continuous lines, drawn on the surface in acrylic or China ink using a ruling pen, form on the paper an area generated by lines alone. The interlacing lines form a sort of ‘all-over’ composition.

Hence, Bernard Moninot reinterprets the words of Jean-Luc Nancy in the preface of the catalogue of the exhibition ‘Dessin(s)’ in the Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2014: ‘The line begins its journey and forms a longer line. It is only aligned, underlined, and highlighted in an incidental and derivative way: essentially, it extends before one with no other rule than the unknown and the uncharted, where it meanders like the fisherman’s line in the river’.

*À la poursuite des nuages* (‘In pursuit of the clouds’) is the title of a series of ‘meteorological drawings’ that were systematically annotated minute by minute as they were created. Bernard Moninot had created an initial series on this theme in 2013, and already the drawings formed a celestial narrative, made up of cloudy phrases. The works executed during the summer of 2017 were created with a Japanese brush, in order to render the transparency of the mass of the clouds, according to the eighteenth-century tradition. They are drawing performances that are completed over the course of a day and require several hours of sustained work and concentration.

In all his drawings, the lines that are drawn are based on the artist’s observations, the skies, stars, and seismographic recordings—a ‘cadastral map’ of a mental landscape. During the periods of intense work, which mainly takes place in his studio in the Jura region, and after various visits to the astronomical observatory of Haute Provence, which triggered the idea of translating the ‘experiences of thought’, Bernard Moninot produced several series of drawings which resonate with each other.

The *Clinamen* series was produced after these visits. The clinamen is a divergence, the deviation of moving atoms from a straight path through the void. The artist has translated the Epicurean concept by superposing two drawn ‘maps’ on transparent canvases with a gap of several centimetres between them.
Lastly, a model from the « Chambre d’Echo » project will also be on display at the gallery, creating a link with the eponymous and simultaneous exhibition at the Galerie Jean Fournier. This project, which is very complex and on which the artist has been working for five years, is a three-dimensional work that represents the course of long-term memory in a spatial device.

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Bernard MONINOT

Born on 15 May 1949 in Fay in the Saône-et-Loire département. He studied at the École de Beaux-Arts in Paris from 1967 to 1973, where he studied the art of engraving in Lucien Coutaud’s studio. From 1983 to 2006, he taught at the Écoles de Beaux-Arts in Bourges, Angers, and Nantes, and at the École de Beaux-Arts in Paris from 2006 to 2015.

Principal exhibitions:

The 1971 and 1973 Paris Biennial; the Musée d’Art Moderne, Saint Etienne, 1974; the Documenta international exhibition in Kassel, 1977; the Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, 1979; the ARC, the Musée d’Art Modern de la Ville de Paris, 1980; the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris, 1997; the Fruit Market Gallery, Edinburg, 1998; the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai and Delhi, 2001; the MAC VAL Museum of Contemporary Art, Vitry-sur-Seine, 2012; and the Musée Cocteau, Menton, 2013.

In 2012, Jean-Christophe Bailly wrote a monograph on the artist, published by Éditions André Dimanche.
Bernard Moninot «A la poursuite des nuages 13.07.2017», 2017 China ink and acrylic on paper | 48 x 38 cm
graphite, China ink and watercolour on paper
18 x 14 cm

graphite, China ink and watercolour on paper
18 x 14 cm