

GALERIE CATHERINE PUTMAN

Geneviève Asse
Paintings, drawings, etchings

November 24th 2018 - January 26th 2019

Vernissage

Saturday November 24th

4 pm to 7 pm



Geneviève Asse «Tracé de lumière», 1976 - oil on paper - 54 x 75 cm

The gallery will be closed from 24th December to 4th January 2019

40, rue Quincampoix 75004 Paris | 1^{er} étage
T. +33 1 45 55 23 06 | Du mardi au samedi de 14 à 19 heures et sur rendez-vous
contact@catherineputman.com | catherineputman.com

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The Galerie Catherine Putman is pleased to present a new exhibition of works by Geneviève Asse, a prominent figure in French painting. Born in Vannes in 1923, Geneviève Asse—who has never belonged to a school or been part of movement, and does not follow fashions—practices painting, drawing, and engraving.

The selection of works in the exhibition, which is in line with the gallery's area of interest, highlights her works on paper: drawings, oils on paper, heightened engravings, dry points, and aquatints. Presented with a selection of oils on canvas in different formats, the works on paper, which are less well known, are a fundamental part of the artist's oeuvre.

Geneviève Asse's works are characterised by a quest for light and space. Geneviève Asse describes herself as a dreamy child; she discovered nature and light through the windows of her maternal grandmother's home in Brittany, and, when she moved to Paris to live with her mother, with whom she travelled to Belgium and the Netherlands, she continued her musings in the museums. She developed an enduring fascination with light and architecture, particularly religious architecture, driven by her discovery of the Dutch painter Saenredam (1597–1665).

The three 'Ouverture Sénanque' drawings (1971) presented in the exhibition are part of her work focusing on the architecture and light in Cistercian abbeys. Executed in the same year as the white canvas *Sénanque* (1971) (the Musée National d'Art Moderne) and *Sénanque I* (1971) (the Musée de Brou in Bourg-en-Bresse) in subtle shades of blue, these drawings attest to her fascination with the purity of the architecture, the simplicity, and the oblique light that reveals spaces. The treatment of these drawings reflects the same quest for evanescence that exists in the large canvases, created by means of light pencilling in grey and blue that soften the rigour of the horizontal and vertical intrusions. A more radical version of this approach was present the following year in a drawing entitled *Horizontale lumière*, in which the white area of the paper was simply constructed by a horizon line drawn with graphite and then blurred.

This mixture of graphite and blue crayon, combining lines and light pencilling can also be seen in other works dating from the 1970s, executed with pencil and ink on paper in very small formats, similar to those in her sketchbooks.

Geneviève Asse's works on paper include engravings—usually executed with dry point—, which are indissociable from drawings in her oeuvre. Engraving has the same interiority, simply enabling her to 'draw in a much sharper and more incisive way',* and in her dry point works there is the same division of spaces in which there is no sense of volume, with more accentuated lines.

Her engravings—such as *Triangle lumière* (1976) and *Ouverture bleue et blanche* (1980)—were sometimes heightened with oils; they became an architectural element within the painting.

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Lastly, the exhibition features paintings, executed on canvas or paper. Two very fine oils on paper, *Ouverture lumière* (1975), *Tracé de lumière* (1976), and two small oils on canvas dating respectively from 1972 and 1973, echo—due to their purity and transparency—the major white canvas paintings dating from this period. And a selection of canvases in various formats, dating from the 1970s to the 2000s, attest to the artist's experiments with blue, and representations of the sea and the sky, which are rainswept or darkened by storms.

* Extract from *Geneviève Asse - L'œuvre imprimé 1942 - 1997* ('Geneviève Asse: the printed works, 1942-1997'), a catalogue raisonné of her engraved works, compiled by Rainer Michael Mason, and published in 1998 by the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire in Geneva.



Geneviève Asse «Pluie 5», 1975 - oil on canvas - 16 x 22 cm

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2018

“Paintings”, Galerie Ditesheim & Maffei, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

2017

“De gris et de bleu”, Galerie Laurentin, Paris, France

2016

Galerie Catherine Putman, Drawing Now (contemporary drawing art fair), Paris, France

2015

Geneviève Asse, musée des Beaux-Arts, Lyon, France

2013

“Works on paper from 1954 to 2012”, Galerie Catherine Putman, Paris, France

Peintures, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France

Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris, France

2011

Transparences, Galerie Chantal Bamberger, Strasbourg, France

2010

Geneviève Asse, Musée des Beaux Arts de Rouen, France

Impressions, Galerie Catherine Putman, Paris, France

2006

Stèles, Musée des Beaux Arts de Quimper, France

2003

Hommage à Geneviève Asse, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes, France

2002

Geneviève Asse. La pointe de l'oeil, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris

Geneviève Asse, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tours, France

2000

Petits formats, 1943-2000, publication with a text by Jean Leymarie

First exhibition at Galerie Marwan Hoss, Paris where she regularly exhibits.

She realizes a print for the Chalcographie du Louvre.

1999

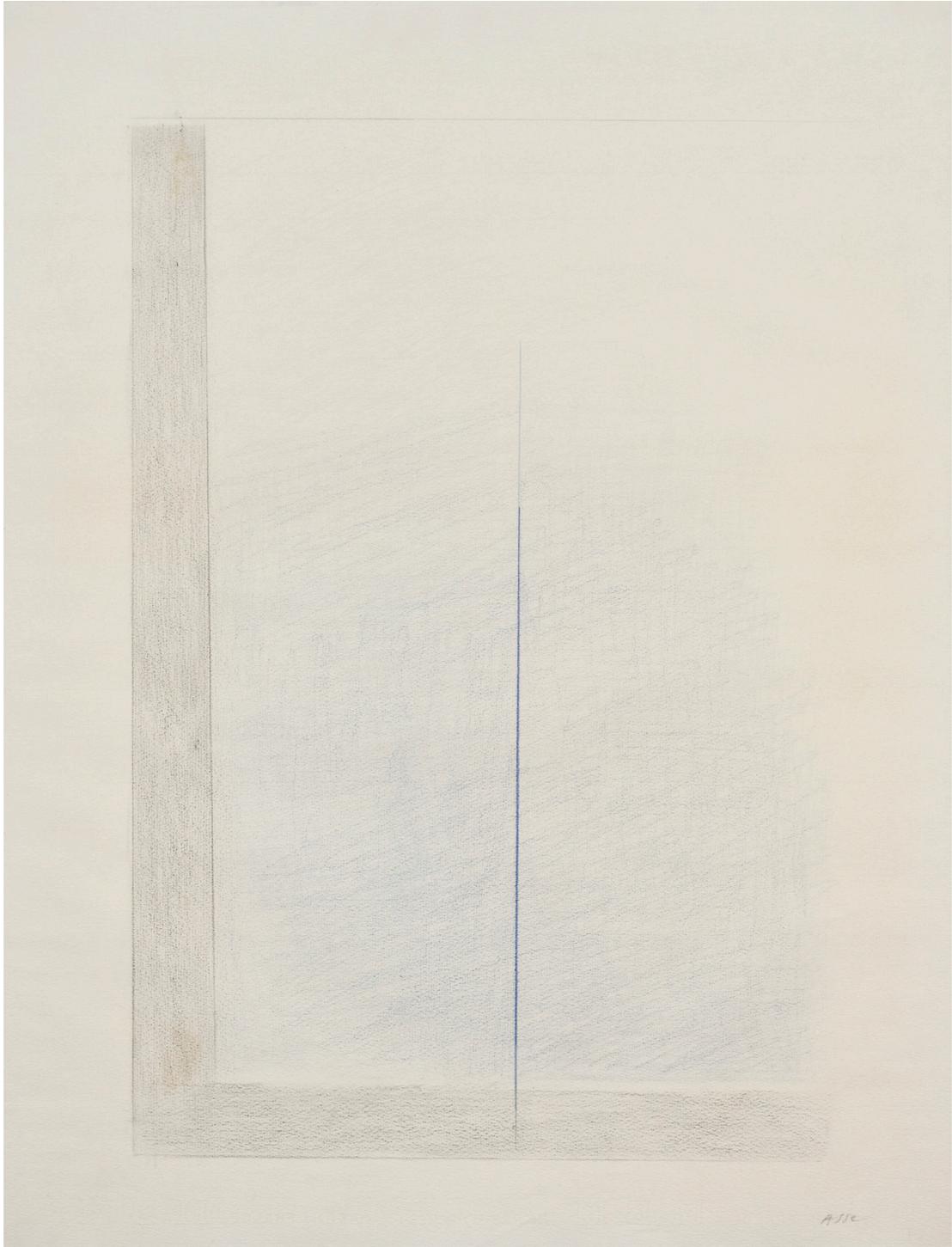
Catherine Putman becomes the publisher of her printed works and exhibits them at a number of art fairs such as Arco, Art Basel, Fiac...

1998

Exhibition of prints and illustrated books at musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva, publication of the catalogue raisonné “Geneviève Asse, l'oeuvre imprimé, 1942-1997” by Rainer Michael Mason.

1997

“Geneviève Asse. Le volume et le trait. Les arts décoratifs dans l'oeuvre de Geneviève Asse”, Vannes, La Cohue, France



Geneviève Asse «Sénanque», 1971 - colored pencil - 65 x 50 cm

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1995

First exhibition at the galerie Oniris in Rennes where she regularly exhibits.

Le Musée des Beaux Arts de Rennes, la Frac de Bretagne et le Musée de Bourg-en-Bresse join to present her paintings from 1943 till 1995.

1994

A Century of artists Books, Moma, New York

1993

Rétrospective, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes, France

1989

Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris, France

1988

Exposition de peintures (1942-1988), Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, France

Geneviève Asse. L'oeuvre gravé, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France

1987

Geneviève Asse. Peintures 1980 - 1987, Musée Cantini, Marseille, France

1980

Geneviève Asse, Choix de dessins de 1941 à 1979, musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes, France

1979

Geneviève Asse, Fondation Eugenio Mendoza, Geneva, Switzerland

1978

Geneviève Asse. L'oeuvre gravé, musée d'Art et d'Histoire, cabinet des estampes, Geneva, Switzerland

Geneviève Asse. L'oeuvre gravé, musée d'Art moderne de la Ville, Paris, France

1970

Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France

1968

Asse, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Reims, France

La peinture en France, à l'initiative de Bernard Anthonioz, National Gallery, Washington and Museum of Modern Art de New York, USA

1963

Participates to a group show at the galerie Krugier, Geneva where she will have a number of solo exhibitions.

1961

Geneviève Asse, Centre culturel français, Milan, Italy

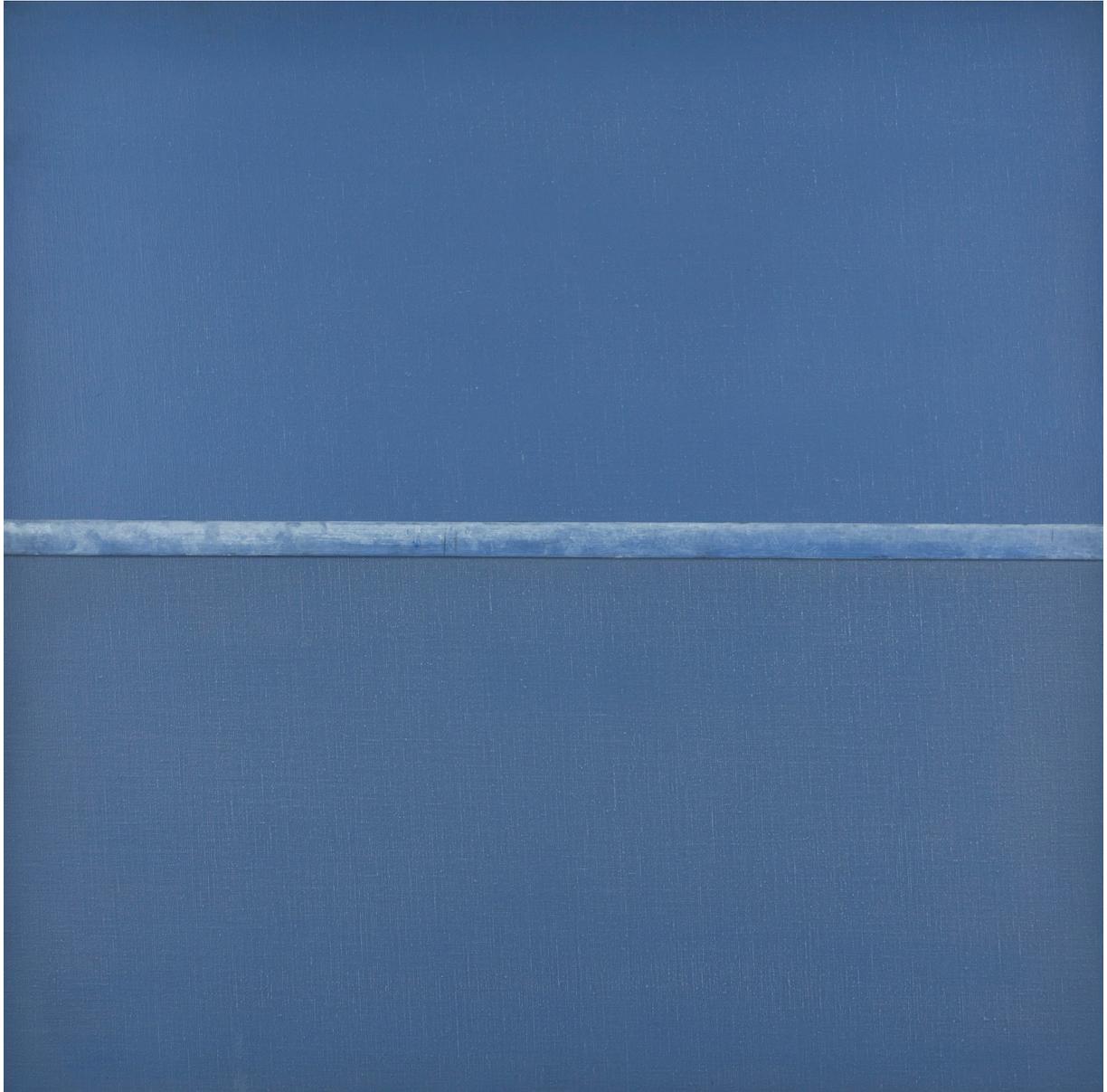
Geneviève Asse, galerie Lorenzelli, Milan, Italy

1960

Geneviève Asse, galerie Benador, Geneva, Switzerland

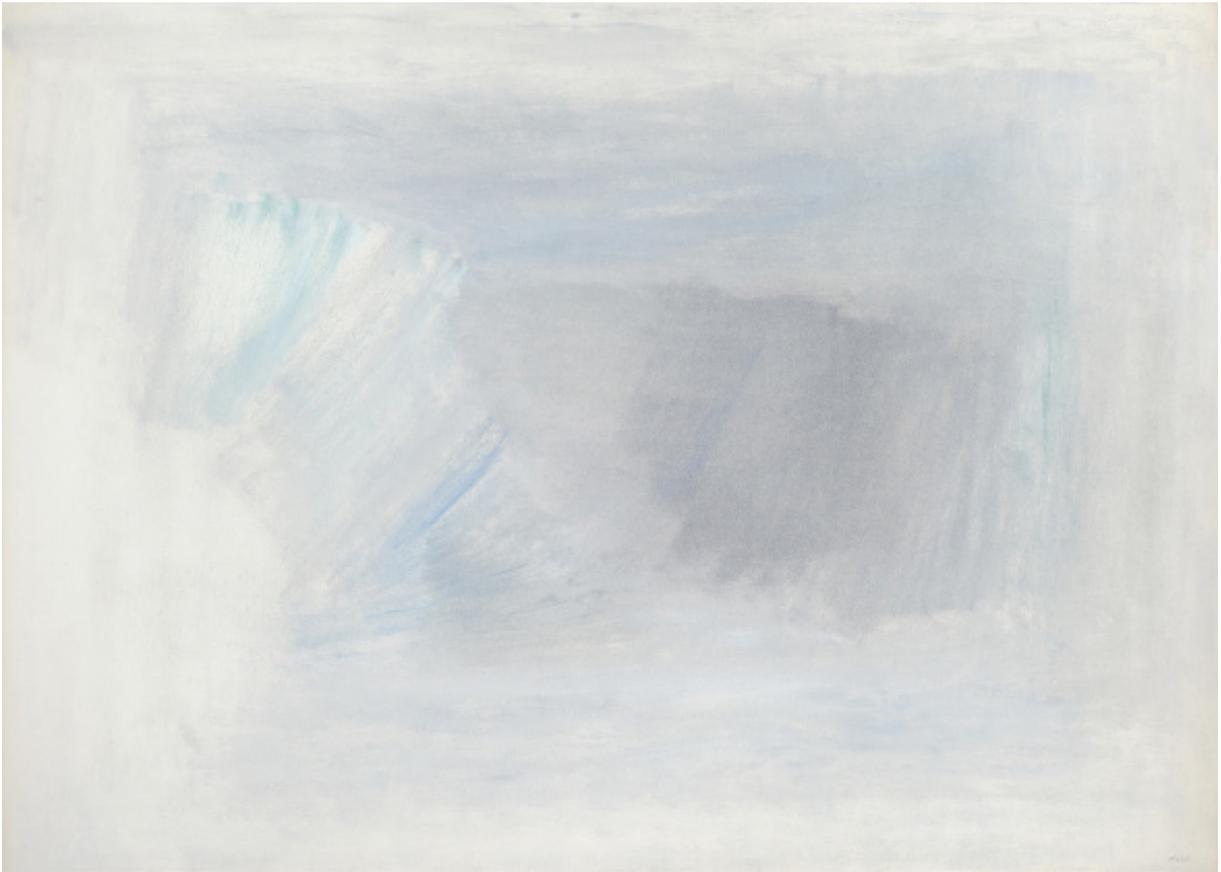
1954

First exhibition at the galerie Michel Warren, Paris where she regularly exhibits.



Geneviève Asse «Horizontale - collage», 1978 - oil on canvas - 80 x 80 cm

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Geneviève Asse «Côte sauvage», 1968 - oil on paper - 53,8 x 75,3 cm