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Pierre Dunoyer: vers le tableau

September 13th – October 26th, 2017

“I do not feel the right to name a drawing, to give it a conceptual orientation”
“Our emotions, are thoughts, our intuitions are the glaring truth”

Pierre Dunoyer



The Jean-Paul Najjar Foundation is pleased to announce, *Vers le tableau*, an exhibition featuring major works by French artist Pierre Dunoyer.

Vers le tableau explores Pierre Dunoyer's deep seeded interest in abstraction, one that is based on the concept of the *tableau*. Central to his approach, Dunoyer differentiates between 'tableau' and 'painting': tableau for him is the end result of painting one that not only questions the basic elements of abstraction but examines collective and universal concerns. Through composition, color, form and movement, Dunoyer's path to abstraction is steeped in art history, philosophy and the humanities. From the start of his artistic career in the 1970s as a member of the JANAPA Group, he has distinguished himself through an analytical discourse that has aligned him with conceptual artists Piet Mondrian, Ad Reinhardt and Robert Ryman.

Pierre Dunoyer has a philosophical approach to art. He seeks to produce works capable of turning seeing into thinking. Influenced early on in his career by Support-Surfaces (a French avant-garde modernist movement of the 20th century), the *tableau* becomes an object of thought or knowledge. Foregrounding the practice of painting at the expense of the subject and the relationship between color and form over pictorial space, Dunoyer has spent the past 35 years interrogating the specificity of the painted object insisting that the primary goal of the *tableau* is to be here in the present, an entity onto itself; it exists to tantalize the viewer and to question the purpose of its own existence. According to Pierre Dunoyer, “an analogy exists between Being and the *tableau*: just as Being is no single instance of being, so the *tableau* must be nothing determinate above and beyond its presence. In respect to Being, the *tableau* is a pure indeterminate presence, ‘a privileged beingness which...articulate being as different from the totality of all being’.”¹

¹ *The Tableau of Pierre Dunoyer*, Mathieu Kessler, 2009

Pierre Dunoyer Biography

Pierre Dunoyer was born in Marseille in 1949, After studying Architecture and Psychopathology, Pierre began to paint in 1976. He has exhibited in numerous galleries amongst which Farideh Cadot, Marc Blondeau, Sonnabend, Nohra Haime. He has also participated in group shows at the Villa Medici in Rome, the Tecla Sala in Barcelona, the Grand Palais, Musee National d'Art Moderne and Centre Pompidou. Dunoyer has given numerous conferences on the tableau throughout Europe, and was given the inaugural show of the Jeu de Paume Museum in Paris, in 1991. In this exhibition, he displayed 24 works of the same format, arranged around four different colors. His paintings are in the permanent collections of musuems around the world, and he continues to live and work in Paris.

www.pierredunoyer.com

About the JPNF

The Jean-Paul Najar Foundation for Contemporary Art is a non-profit ICOM registered private museum, gathering abstract European and American art from the 1960s through today. The JPNF is also home to a remarkable archive tracing forty years of artist-collector exchanges. Education is central to the museum's mission. We are committed to presenting an educational program that promotes a spirit of discovery and inquiry that engages our diverse communities. The JPNF is designed by Mario Jossa, of Marcel Breuer and Associates, and is presented in partnership with Alserkal Avenue in Dubai.

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