

Baronian Xippas

Press release

Yves Zurstrassen 4 COLORS

Rue Isidore Verheyde 2
& Rue de la Concorde 33

09.09-13.11.2021

Opening

Thursday 09.09.2021
from 6 - 9 pm

Yves Zurstrassen 4 COLORS

Baronian Xippas is pleased to be hosting a solo exhibition of Belgian artist Yves Zurstrassen (b. 1956, lives and works in Brussels). It's the first presentation of his work in Brussels after his solo exhibition *Free* at BOZAR in 2019.

The exhibition, titled *4 COLORS*, brings together a new series of works across the two spaces of the gallery. Whereas the main space presents monumental paintings, the gallery space across the street shows tapestry works for the first time. Zurstrassen presents three smaller tapestry works, but the eye-catcher is an enormous hand-woven tapestry painting measuring 2 meters by 2 meters - which took a year to complete. This new and time-consuming technique provides a surprising translation of the works of this painter, who also previously produced frescoes.

The title of the exhibition refers to the four colors present in the exhibited works: blue, red, yellow and black. Although these are primary, luminous colours, they are incredibly deep and intense, and immediately absorb the viewer into the work.

Zurstrassen's paintings are multi-layered and carefully constructed. He combines collage, decollage and contemporary techniques and thus seeks to achieve the right choreography of form, color and object. He interrogates the material that fascinates him, searching in the movement of his brush, in the plains of roughly sketched shapes and unpolished black to metaphysics in his essential need of painting. Stencils of blank newsprint, produced by a cutting machine connected to a computer, are meticulously and intimately disposed directly onto the fresh, wet paint of the background. The stencil motifs in these "abstract" canvases can come from reality or photographs, but they can also be lyrical and expressive forms drawn from earlier paintings.

This technique results in works that are enigmatically sensual and rhythmically and formally reminiscent of free jazz. The paradoxical effect is that what seems to stand out in the foreground is actually in the background. The memory of the past resurfaces. We recognise volatile floral motifs, but we also encounter abstract forms and amorphous, unrecognisable surfaces.

"Sometimes it feels like I'm not the one painting. It's the painting that determines the path. I just have to determine when we get to the destination."

— Yves Zurstrassen

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Yves Zurstrassen (b. 1956, Liège) lives and works between Brussels and Viens (FR). Recent solo exhibitions include *Free*, Bozar, Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels (2019), *Free Energy*, Museo de Santa Cruz, Toledo (2019) and *MCNA (Le Delta)*, Maison de la Culture de la Province de Namur (2019). Recent group exhibitions include *Jan Hoet gewidmet*, IKOB - Museum für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Eupen (2016), *Approche aux Constellations*, Atelier 340 Museum, Brussels (2012) and *Cobra (C) Co*, Musée National des Beaux-Arts, Riga (2010).