

**After the large success of Jeff Kowatch's solo show at Expo Chicago 2019, Galerie La Forest Divonne brings a major figure of French painting to the USA : Vincent Bioulès.**

After participating actively in the avant-gardes of the 1960's and 1970's (Supports/Surfaces, ABC Productions), proning the end of canvas, Vincent Bioulès (born in 1938), is one of the main contributors of the return to figure painting at the turn of the 1980's. This unrivalled painter seeks subversion within tradition by revisiting the great subjects of painting - landscapes, portraits and nudes - with extraordinary freedom.

Extensively represented in the Centre Pompidou collections and many other 1st class public and private collections, Bioulès' lifelong oeuvre was the subject of a major show at Musée Fabre, during the summer 2019, counting 200 paintings, some of which we are bringing to Chicago. On that occasion, many critics named Bioulès «the French David Hockney», considering importance of his work, mastered technique, amazing colours, and this bold freedom of his. Bioulès is part of important american private collections, including Waud Collection in Chicago, but hasn't been shown in the US since 2014.

Vincent Bioulès' amazing colors and composition would dialogue with two or three glazed masterpieces by Jeff Kowatch, installing a dialogue of vivid colors, abstract on the one hand, figurative on the other one.

Born in Los Angeles CA, Jeff Kowatch has been a important figure of the European Art scene for the past 17 years. Represented in New York and LA alongside Brice Marden, Bruce Nauman and many others great American artists by prominent gallerist Earl McGrath until his death in 2016, he is now represented by five galleries in Europe, including ours, with exclusivity in France since 2008. Although a true heir to American Abstraction, Jeff has Always been passionate of Rembrandt's painting. Leaving in Belgium, he has developped an extraordinary «glacis» technique, applied to a very sensitive abstract painting. In 2018 The Royal Museums of Belgium have acquired a very significant (14 feet large) canvas by him : «Christ entering Brussels» a monumental painting paying tribute to James Ensor's «Christ leaving Brussels» acquired by the Getty museum in the 1980's. Belgium in America, America in Belgium.



Jeff Kowatch, *Canson Quintet in Red Flat*, 2019, 120x100cm, Oilbars on Dibond



Vincent Bioulès, *Le Port de Carnon* 2022, huile sur toile, 81x100cm

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