

ADRIEN COUVRAT
HABITER UNE PEINTURE

The Heinzer Reszler gallery is pleased to welcome a new exhibition by Adrien Couvrat entitled *Habiter une peinture* (Living In A Painting). For this exhibition, he presents two series. The *Lyres* series, which he has been developing over the last ten years, and a much more figurative series undertaken more recently, which revolves around architectural spaces.

The paintings in the *Lyres* series are dynamic and changing, defying static perception. They transform according to the viewer's movement, shifting from an animated composition to a surface of gradations. Each move reveals a new work, creating a constant interplay of shapes and colors. Adrien Couvrat's technique, the fruit of in-depth experimentation with painting, uses traditional skills to create complex optical effects, as in his architectural work with striated glazed terracotta bricks. He meticulously prepares his canvases, tracing fine grooves on a white paste base before spraying the paint in fine droplets. In this way, Adrien Couvrat plays with the inventions of optical art to recreate interactive screen surfaces. He develops the relationship of his work to space and plays with architecture.

Le Corbusier's villas, such as the Villa Savoye in Poissy (FR) and the Villa "Le Lac" in Corseaux (CH), serve as a source of inspiration for Adrien Couvrat. These homes feature the architect's characteristic polychromy, the fruit of "color keyboards" developed as early as 1923. These "color keyboards" are chromatic design tools to facilitate the choice and harmony of colors in architecture and design. The monochromes painted on the wall serve to compose the space and unconsciously invite the viewer to live inside a painting, to inhabit a painting.

Adrien Couvrat effectively extends Le Corbusier's vision in his acrylic canvases, integrating color as an architectural rather than a decorative element. The artist does not seek to faithfully reproduce the original hues, as heritage restorers would, but instead composes harmonious double-sided works. These creations are fully revealed through a play of mirrors, providing a unique visual experience.

* * *

Trained at the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Paris and IRCAM, Adrien Couvrat (1981, France, living in Paris) deploys his research through painting, drawing, sound, video... Whatever the medium, he experiments with optical movements, luminous metamorphoses and the sensitive vibration of colors. In 2015, he took part in the Desdemona, between desire and despair exhibition at the Institut du Monde Arabe with a 20-meter installation and exhibited at the Qingdao Sculpture Art Museum in Shandong (China). In 2016, he exhibited at the Musée des Arts et Métiers (Paris). In 2017, he had a solo exhibition at Villa

“Le Lac” Le Corbusier (Corseaux, Switzerland). In 2023, he deploys the monumental work Myriades at the Franklin Azzi architecture studio, as part of the Nuit Blanche.

“Adrien Couvrat strives to reveal the unstable, fragile and immaterial side of abstract painting. Between appearance and luminous breath, his painting, made of furrowed layers and pigments, never ceases to capture the eye, in jerks and jolts. Encouraging the viewer to come closer in order to perceive his painting, Adrien Couvrat incorporates the viewer's attitude of movement into his compositions, forcing him into a new dimension of perception. The body is solicited; the work enters into a relationship with the viewer, creating a link with the exhibition space. Inviting the viewer to a retinal dance, these paintings propose an ultimate transformation of our relationship with space.” Marianne Derrien, art critic.