

Exhibition from 12 May to 28 August

MARC DESGRANDCHAMPS SILHOUETTES

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon



Key: Marc Desgrandchamps, Sans titre, 2020, oil on canvas, 200 x 300 cm Dijon, Musée des Beaux-Arts, © Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon / Photo: Julien Bouvier Studio © Adago, Paris 2023

In Spring-Summer 2023, the musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon will present a major exhibition devoted to Marc Desgrandchamps (born in 1960 in Sallanches, lives and works in Lyon), one of the most acclaimed French painters of his generation.

This event will take stock of the evolution of the artist's work over the last ten years, following the retrospective devoted to him at the musée d'art moderne of the city of Paris in 2011.

The Marc Desgrandchamps - Silhouettes exhibition, which is designed to complement the exceptional collection of paintings and sculptures in the musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon, will also inaugurate the museum's new 3rd floor exhibition space, which will now be dedicated to temporary exhibitions with direct access to the rooms from the Cour de Bar courtyard of the former Palais des Ducs et des États de Bourgogne.

Marc Desgrandchamps - Silhouettes will bring together a significant group of **47 large canvases** and polyptychs accompanied by a few drawings, divided into **six distinct rooms and themes**, allowing us to trace the changes that have occurred in the artist's practice over the last decade: the appearance of new subjects, forms and motifs that have been asserted with intensity.

His work as a whole bears witness to the instability of perceptions and the ambiguity of the visible. Through the great visual originality of his work, Desgrandchamps has created a pictorial universe which is immediately identifiable, yet nevertheless resists interpretation.

His deep knowledge of art history is not limited to ancient, modern, or contemporary painting, but also extends to other fields such as film, music, and photography, not to mention literature. So many fields of curiosity that have nourished his artistic practice, full of multiple references. His works are based on the principle of cinematographic montage: the bringing together of images, scenes, and characters in urban or natural settings produces narratives that are at once evocative and yet complex to analyse.

Although the phenomena of transparency continue to manifest themselves in Desgrandchamps' compositions, the works produced since 2012 show that the trickles that had become the hallmark of his work, particularly in the 2000s, were not in the end an indispensable condition of his painting. They have now largely disappeared, a sign that a cycle has come to an end for the artist, opening up new horizons. The exhibition *Marc Desgrandchamps - Silhouettes* will offer visitors to the musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon, the chance to see these works, which have been **recently created and come from the artist's own collection**. The exhibition will also include exceptional loans (from public institutions – Musée national d'art moderne de Paris/Centre Pompidou, Musée d'Art Moderne of city of Paris, Centre national des arts plastiques, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Strasbourg and Museum Frieder-Burda in Baden-Baden - and from private collections in France, Switzerland, and Germany).

The musée des Beaux-Arts de Dijon will also use the opportunity to present **two relevant recent acquisitions**: the purchase by the **City of Dijon** of a diptych from 2020, which makes reference to *The Flagellation of Christ* painted by Piero della Francesca (circa 1460, National Gallery of the Marche in Urbino) and, thanks to the **artist's donation, a work from 2012**, which evokes the Mod culture born in London in the 1950s, a theme dear to the artist.

At the same time, a film directed by Judith Du Pasquier, entitled «Desgrandchamps, temps mélangés» (Desgrandchamps, mixed tenses) will be shown in the exhibition. The film takes place mainly in Lyon, in the artist's studio, between 2009 and 2022. It also delves into the older layers of the works, through the meticulously organized archive Marc Desgrandchamps created. The trust between the painter and the filmmaker, built up over the years, gives us intimate access to the gestures of the pictorial work, as well as to the artist's reflections and questionings.

Exhibition curators:

Frédérique Goerig-Hergott, Chief Curator of Heritage and Director of Dijon Museums
Pauline Nobécourt, art historian
Assisted by Virginie Barthélemy, project assistant at Dijon Museums

The exhibition is accompanied by an important 216-page catalogue, published by Skira, designed in close collaboration with the [mac] musée d'art contemporain de Marseille, which is sharing a corpus of some fifteen works with Dijon in its own exhibition devoted to the artist, running from 15 December 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The exhibition is supported by the galleries Lelong & Co in Paris and Galerie EIGEN + ART Leipzig/Berlin.

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