

PRESS RELEASE

## **RENK**

**EXHIBITION « VOYAGES SUR LE MOTIF »**

AT GALERIE 75 FAUBOURG

Exhibition from January 27<sup>th</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Monday - Friday, 10am – 7pm, Saturday by  
appointment  
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Galerie 75 Faubourg collaborates with Galerie Enrico Navarra to present an exhibition of the artist Renk, showcasing a selection of his most recent works on canvas from the series *Voyages sur le motif*. Painted in seven places from 2020 to 2022, 13 of the 24 canvases are on view today at Galerie 75 Faubourg, and the last 11 canvases will be displayed at Villa Navarra (Le Muy, France) this summer. The exhibition also reveals all the stages of their creation through videos.

Started in Paris, the series *Voyages sur le Motif* is mostly the result of several stays in Brittany. Each canvas was painted in front of nature, facing the sky, and bears the name of its place of creation: Champ de Mars, Dinard, Baie du Mont-Saint-Michel, Île-de-Bréhat, Crozon, Île Bruc, Belle-Île... Renk follows the path of the impressionists and, as they did, carries his equipment to paint outdoors, without prior sketch. He paints "sur le motif", "on the spot". Self-taught artist, he uses spray paint to represent skies in which the colors fade to reveal the harmony. The sky is at the center of his search, not for its picturesque effect but to illustrate, with spontaneity, the variations of colors, shadows and lights. These works are an accumulation of his tag "Renk", in different sizes and colors, endlessly repeated until it disappears.

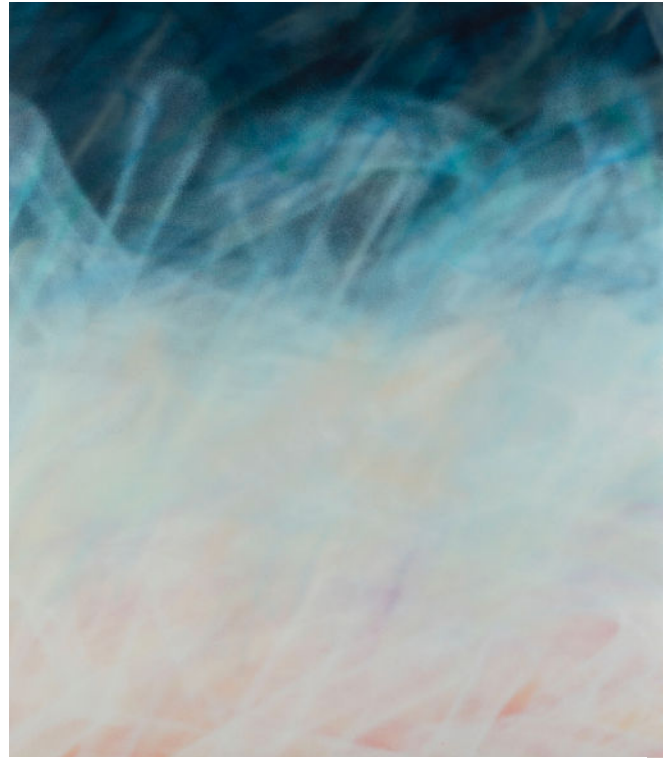
While graffiti is a means of expression often associated with notions of vindication, appropriation, and territory, Renk seems instead determined to make his tag disappear by repeating it endlessly, yet retaining the creative gesture and technique of aerosol. The relentless repetition of his tag has always been the basis of his work, but his method evolves with each series. Until then, all his paintings were created from his imagination, and painted indoors. Renk began to paint in the daylight, facing nature, after having set up a frame in the vineyards during a stay in the South of France. And soon were born his first canvases painted while contemplating the sky.

"I come from the world of graffiti. My intention was to go into the studio to make paintings, and after a number of years it has become the opposite - it has become 'I want to get out of the studio'." (Renk, 2022)

An artist full of contrasts, between abundance and order, maturity and childhood obsessions, the serenity of his paintings and the energy of his creative act, Renk brilliantly blends his influences from street art and impressionism to create *Voyages sur le motif*.



Champ-de-Mars, Paris, 15 juillet 2020 (soir)  
Peinture au spray sur toile / Spray paint on canvas  
160 x 120 cm / 63 x 47 1/4 in



Île de Cézembre, Dinard, juillet 2021 (matin)  
Peinture au spray sur toile / Spray paint on canvas  
160 x 140 cm / 63 x 55 in



View of the exhibition *Voyages sur le motif* at Galerie 75 Faubourg, Paris, January 27<sup>th</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## ABOUT RENK

Born Walig Nicolet in Rennes in 1987, he started tagging in 2000 with the blaze 100REMOR after seeing a TV report about graffiti. A few years later, he met several taggers and graffiti enthusiasts during his training in communication in Bagnolet. He then changed his name to Renkar, before choosing Renk in 2007, which becomes his artist name.

In 2011, after a revelation during a trip to the Sinai desert in Egypt, Renk fully dedicates himself to paintings on canvas. "One evening, while watching the sunset, Walig has an epiphanic moment. The sky and the colours seemed to speak to him. The message was clear and concise: 'painting will be your whole life'. (David Rosenberg, Renk, Éditions Skira, 2021)

Lives in Paris and works in Saint-Maur-des-Fossés, France

2009-2010 CFA Com, Bagnolet

2011 Decisive trip to Egypt

2012 First group show, Galerie Brumaire, Paris, France

2017 First solo show, PDP Gallery & Loft Sévigné, Paris, France

2018 Solo show, PDP Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2020 Preparation of the series *Voyages sur le motif*

2021 Renk, *Always in the sky*, monograph published by Skira, Paris



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Photos p.3 (artworks) : Bruno Pellarin

Photo p. 3 (exhibition view), p.4 : Fabrice Gousset

#### ABOUT GALERIE 75 FAUBOURG

Galerie 75 Faubourg is a contemporary art gallery mainly dedicated to the secondary market. It organizes personal exhibitions (Kenny Scharf, Enoc Pérez, Rafa Macarrón ...) as well as group exhibitions, and regularly collaborates with partner galleries or curators to bring its spaces to life through other eyes (Harper's, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, galerie frank elbaz, A.R. Penck with Vincent Fraikin...).

#### ABOUT GALERIE ENRICO NAVARRA

Galerie Enrico Navarra organizes numerous exhibitions of contemporary art and also has an important publishing department with more than a hundred published art books and catalogs.

The gallery has dedicated more than 15 exhibitions to Jean-Michel Basquiat around the world, each accompanied by a catalog, from Taiwan in 1996 to Château La Coste in 2019.

Other exhibitions and monographs have been dedicated to Keith Haring, Yue Minjun, Zao Wou-Ki, Bernar Venet, César, Arman, Ron Arad, Claude Viallat, Chu Teh-Chun, and architects such as Tadao Ando, Rudy Ricciotti and Jean Prouvé; and the gallery has organized various group exhibitions such as *l'art à plage, 80 artistes autour du Mondial* or *Le Corps Mutant*.

Since 2001, the gallery has been working on the collection of books *Made by* which offers a postcard of the contemporaneity of a geographical area, through its art and more generally its culture.

Most recently, the gallery has organized the exhibitions *Résonance : Jean-Michel Basquiat et l'Univers Kongo* at Galerie Gradiva (2022), *Jean-Michel Basquiat* at Saint Laurent Rive Droite (2021) and *Keith Haring at the Citadelle de Saint-Tropez* (2021).

#### ABOUT VILLA NAVARRA (LE MUY, FRANCE)

Designed by Rudy Ricciotti, Villa Navarra hosts, within the perimeter of the Navarra family property, exhibitions and installations with artists and sometimes partners in an inspiring and ambitious architectural and environmental context. Galerie Enrico Navarra has organized at Villa Navarra the exhibitions of Kenny Scharf's *Tondos* (2021), and works by Ettore Sottsass in collaboration with the curator Ivan Mietton (2022).

LEAFLET OF THE EXHIBITION « VOYAGES SUR LE MOTIF »



32 pages  
Foreword by Dorian Navarra  
Interview of the artist  
Bilingual French / English  
Available at Galerie 75 Faubourg

#### VIDEOS



**TEASER**



**MAKING-OF**

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