

PRESS RELEASE

RENK

EXHIBITION « PAPER CLOUD »

Exhibition from December 8th, 2023 to January 26th, 2024
Monday - Friday, 10am - 7pm, Saturday by appointment
75, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, 75008 Paris

+33 (0)1 44 51 75 75
info@galerie75faubourg.com
www.galerie75faubourg.com

Special opening on Saturdays December 9th, 16th, and 23rd, 11am - 6 pm



Galerie 75 Faubourg is delighted to present *Paper Cloud*, its second exhibition devoted to the artist Renk, in collaboration with Galerie Enrico Navarra.

In his creations, Renk subjugates space through writing and sign, through a formal language that unfolds in the pigments of his work. His gestures and his name which he constantly affixes, question the physicality of the literary landscapes created. They irremediably fill the void inherent in words, until they make way for the painting, skies and climatic instants that inhabit the artist and which he had decided would eventually eclipse scriptural space.

This all-over spray-on-canvas artistic practice had led him for his latest series to take his easel out of the studio and to the coast of Brittany. Since then, cloud masses have become his main pictorial preoccupation. He came across them in Arles, in search of a book for his son. This book, *Le petit guide des nuages** (“The little guide of clouds”), exhaustively describes all the forms they can take, all the meanings they carry.

Since then, they have been the focus of all his attention. The subject, with its multiform nature, its hypersensitivity to light and its attributes, whether vaporous or condensed to the droplet, led the artist to search for a medium that would embody his artistic vision.

He opted for a paper made from crushed stone chips, whose resistance to liquids made it an ideal medium for this new series, both in terms of form and intention. When asked about his practice, Renk explains that he first draws on the paper with alcohol markers, still in his signature writing process, and then, stroke by stroke with a brush dipped in acetone, for greater evanescence, allowing the poetic nature of the support to emerge in the composition. Attenuating or fully reducing the paint's concentration gives him more lightness, to blur, to fog, to the point of seeing a drop of water run down a window in a thunderstorm.

While *Paper Cloud* is part of the same passion for the beauty and complexity of natural elements, it offers visitors the opportunity to discover a different facet of the artist, a creative break that shows both the diversity of his artistic talents and the intimate, ethereal nature of the clouds that contemplate us.

* *Le petit guide des nuages*, Blandine Pluchet, 2020, First



Untitled, 2023 (Ref. PC 03)
Alcohol marker and acetone on stone paper
5 7/8 x 4 1/8 in



Untitled, 2023 (Ref. OP 12)
Alcohol marker and acetone on stone paper
23 2/9 x 16 5/9 in



Untitled, 2023 (Ref. D 07)
Alcohol marker and acetone on stone paper
11 5/7 x 8 1/4 in

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

2023 Solo show, Galerie 75 Faubourg, Paris, France

2023 Solo show, Villa Navarra, Le Muy, France

2023 Residency, Villa Navarra, Le Muy, France



Copyrights images

Artworks © Renk, 2023

Photos p. 1, p.3 : Fabrice Gousset

Photo p. 3 : Loïc Thébaud

ABOUT GALERIE 75 FAUBOURG

Galerie 75 Faubourg is a contemporary art gallery mainly dedicated to the first market. It has recently presented solo exhibitions devoted to Kenny Scharf, Enoc Pérez, Rafa Macarrón and Renk, as well as group shows, notably with partners to bring this space to life through other eyes (Harper's, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Galerie Frank Elbaz and Vincent Fraikin for an exhibition devoted to A.R. Penck).

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, César, Arman or Claude Viallat, and architects such as Tadao Ando, Rudy Ricciotti and Jean Prouvé.

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), and *Keith Haring at the Citadelle de Saint-Tropez* (2021).