

SE METTRE AU VERT

Maxime Biou

For the start of the 2024 season, pal project presents its first exhibition of the painter of the intimate, Maxime Biou, who recently spent time at the Villa Velasquez. On this occasion, he has left the studio with a brand new series. From September 5 to October 5, 'Se mettre au vert' will show landscapes that retain the poetry and melancholy characteristic of the artist's universe.

Se mettre au vert...

For several years now, Maxime Biou's work has been capturing our attention. Or perhaps it's more accurate to say it gently inserts itself into our daily lives, bringing with it the beauty of everyday moments.

This collection of soft yet powerful images, a testament to the painter's talent and empathy, has found its way into our imaginations, with its animals, plants, and effortlessly posed portraits. But this new exhibition at PAL Project offers something different: instead of engaging with his usual subjects, Maxime invites us to embark on a journey—to «se mettre au vert.»

In this new series of landscapes, created specifically for the exhibition, Biou dives deeper into a theme he had previously only skimmed. Inspired by the environment of his new life after returning from the Casa de Velázquez—set in the charming village of Marolles and its surroundings, from the banks of the Ourcq canal to La Ferté-Milon—Maxime returns to the basics: the earth and its poetry, which sometimes dances with a touch of melancholy. Along his meandering paths, the painter gathers inspiration to enrich his work, always with the element that makes his art so unique: his most faithful companion, light.

In this green, tranquil pause, we find landscapes like those of Bagnolet, the pond at Parc des Guilands, and even his relaxed cat lounging on a cozy sofa—all perfect excuses to masterfully play with the impasto that defines Maxime Biou's art. And that Norman beach «borrowed» from the skies over Cabourg seems to have a natural dialogue with a view of Lozère, another geographic witness to the artist's meditative daily walks.

As you can tell, this new and surprising chapter in the painter's journey is sure to bring us joy... in a refreshingly new way!

Text : Edward Vignot

MAXIME BIOU

Maxime Biou graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he studied for five years in François Boisson's studio. He began painting shortly before enrolling at the École, initially working almost exclusively from life, using his friends and everyday elements as models. It was only later that he incorporated photographic references into his creative process, granting him greater freedom.

A painter of spontaneity, Maxime Biou acts as a witness to the moments he captures. The narratives in his paintings are more implied than explicitly stated. The key lies in the relationship that forms between the viewer and what the work, its treatment, and its material evoke. Thus, Maxime Biou does not impose interpretation on the viewer; instead, he allows ample space for it to develop and take root.

His work has received numerous awards: the Diamond Grant, the Friends of the Beaux-Arts Prize/Bertrand de Demandolx Prize, the Yishu 8 Prize, the Fénéon Artistic Prize, and the Encouragement Prize in Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts.

Recently, his work has been featured in several group exhibitions, including the 2019 show of the laureates of the Emergence Revelation Grant – *L'effet falaise* – after which the National Museum of the History of Immigration acquired his painting *Les naufragés* for its permanent collection.*

In 2021-2022, Maxime was an artist-in-residence at the Casa de Velázquez, Académie de France in Madrid. In late 2023, he was in residence at the Beijing House of Arts, invited by Yishu8.

*Excerpt from the biography written by Matthieu Landolino for the Casa de Velázquez

THE GALLERY

Founded in 2020 by Pierre and Alexandre Lorquin, pal project is an emerging art gallery located in the 7th arrondissement of Paris. Intentionally free and experimental, the gallery's programming features strong and ambitious exhibition projects accompanied by a meticulous publishing policy to extend and sustain the developed intentions.

Press contact : Myriam Brando | myriam@pal-project.com | 06.09.35.40.19

press release



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.



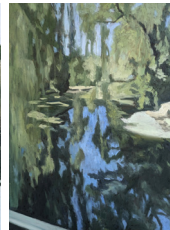
16.



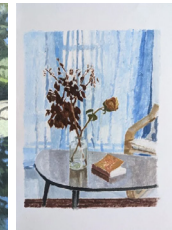
17.



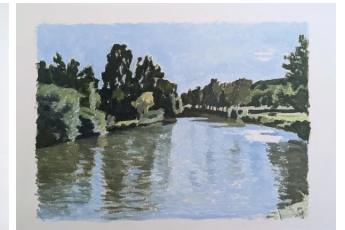
18.



19.



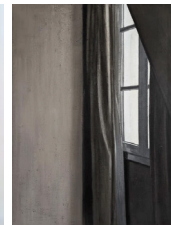
20.



21.



22.



23.



24.



25.



26.



27.



28.



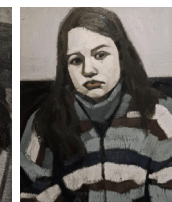
29.



30.



31.



32.

1. Maxime Biou, *Après le déjeuner Boulogne*, 33×24 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
2. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre (Une rose pour Delacroix)*, 50×40 cm, oil on canvas, 2023
3. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 27×35 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
4. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 29,7×21 cm, oil on paper, 2024
5. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 29,7×21 cm, oil on paper, 2024
6. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 29,7×21 cm, oil on paper, 2024
7. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 29,7×21 cm, oil on paper, 2024
8. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 32×25 cm, oil on paper, 2024
9. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 33×24 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
10. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 38×46 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
11. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 38×46 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
12. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 41×33 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
13. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 46×55 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
14. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 60×73 cm, oil on canvas, 2023
15. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 61×50 cm, oil on canvas, 2024

16. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 73×60 cm, oil on canvas, 2023
17. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 81×65 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
18. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 89×130 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
19. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 116×89 cm, oil on canvas, 2024
20. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 29×21 cm, oil on paper, 2024
21. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 21×29 cm, oil on paper, 2024
22. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 29×21 cm, oil on paper, 2024
23. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 116×89 cm, oil on canvas, 2023
24. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 146×114 cm, oil on canvas, 2023
25. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 130×97 cm, oil on canvas, 2023
26. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 130×97 cm, oil on canvas, 2023
27. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 116×89 cm, oil on canvas, 2023
28. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 81×65 cm, oil on canvas, 2022
29. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 100×81 cm, oil on canvas, 2022
30. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 100×81 cm, oil on canvas, 2022
31. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 55×46 cm, oil on canvas, 2019
32. Maxime Biou, *Sans titre*, 81×65 cm, oil on canvas, 2019