

Galerie Lelong & Co.

## Jean Dubuffet

*Paysages et lieux de promenade*



**8 September - 22 October 2022**

**Opening 8 September from 6:00 pm  
13, rue de Téhéran Paris 8e**

Galerie Lelong & Co. Paris is pleased to announce the presentation in September 2022 of a series of eight paintings by Jean Dubuffet (1901 -1985) that are being exhibited for the first time. Titled *Paysages du Val-de-Marne* (*Val-de-Marne Landscapes*), the paintings are being shown alongside a selection of works by Dubuffet, also dating from the mid-1970s, titled *Lieux de promenade* (*Walking Sites*).

In the early 1970s, Dubuffet had a new studio dedicated to his large-scale sculptures in Périgny-sur-Yerres in Val-de-Marne, a suburb south-east of Paris. Several times a week, while driving his car from Paris to Périgny, he would observe the landscape. These acrylic paintings depict the sites that he drove past, thus seen from the artist's moving car.

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With *Lieux de promenade*, painted in only a few days of intense work at the end of August 1975, Dubuffet experimented with the presence of landscape or site without the familiar figures which had been his trademark until then. A series of brilliantly colored vertical paintings, composed of a tangled mass of signs and spots, prefigured Dubuffet's famous Mires series.

A few weeks later, at the end of 1975, he further developed this style with *Paysages du Val-de-Marne*, a series of eight paintings of the same scale but this time in a horizontal format. Trees, a house and a few figurative elements can still be found in these paintings but are barely discernible within the mass of abstract graphics. In Dubuffet's own words, one passes from "immediate visual figuration" to "denaturation due to a whim".

This complete series has never been shown before and will, for the first time, be reproduced in color in the exhibition catalogue published by Galerie Lelong & Co. It is thanks to the Fondation Dubuffet, and its generous loans, that the gallery can present these unseen works this fall.

Regarding the exuberant richness of these works dating from 1975, the late art critic Gaëtan Picon wrote: "The methodical organization of the conquered space, as embodied in the Hourloupe series, is accompanied by the random unfolding and slapdash inscription of accelerated time. Accelerated by the anxious impatience of summoning everything when there is still enough time in order to assemble it all in a simplified and abridged manner in front of his eyes? Perhaps. But I rather see the leap of an exit, hastened by curiosity, of someone going to encounter that which has not yet had the time to occur."

The exhibition catalogue is accompanied by a bilingual text by the art historian and critic Valérie Da Costa.



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Image: Jean Dubuffet, *Paysage du Val de Marne I (avec personnage)*, 1975 Acrylic on canvas-mounted paper 70 x 102 cm © Fondation Dubuffet, ADAGP, Paris 2022

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