

GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE



Ecriture, 2021, gouache, pencil and ink on paper

LOIC LE GROUMELLEC

Oeuvres (2018 – 2022)

Lavis, gouaches, sculptures, peintures

July 30 – September 17, 2022

Opening July 30, 5 – 7 pm

In presence of the artist

Galerie Karsten Greve is pleased to announce the second solo exhibition of the French artist Loïc Le Groumellec in St. Moritz. The presentation includes works from the last 15 years of the Breton artist's career, whose work always deals with the culture and nature of his homeland.

While studying at the École des Beaux-Arts in Rennes, Loïc Le Groumellec discovered a series of lithographs in the Academy's archives depicting megaliths - a structure he was well acquainted with. Born in Vannes, he grew up in the Gulf of Morbihan, a place particularly rich in mystical remains from the Neolithic period. The enigma of the inscriptions on the Gavrinis cairn, still undeciphered today, the dolmens, menhirs and wilderness of his Breton homeland serve as inspiration for him, as they have for generations of artists and writers before him.

VIA MAISTRA 4 CH-7500 ST. MORITZ TEL +41-(0)81-834 90 34
info@galerie-karsten-greve.ch www.galerie-karsten-greve.com

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Loïc Le Groumellec reduces his depictions and colour palette to a minimum in order to return to the origins of his pictorial work.

In addition to the motifs of his Breton homeland, the materials used play an essential role in the artist's work. He often covers his canvas works with a layer of varnish, which lends complexity and depth to the reduced formal language of his works.

The series of *Écritures*, which refer to the enigmatic pre-Christian inscriptions of Gavrinis, are set in dialogue with sculptures, the series "Mégalithe et maison" in orbicular diorite and marble, created between 2018 and 2022, and *Chapelles/Reposoirs*, wooden objects that enclose his *Écritures* like a sanctuary.

"These signs or 'runes', a kind of writing or metaphysical symbols, have always been present in my paintings," Le Groumellec explains of his pictorial language, the nature of which allows for an infinite variety of variations.

The production of these gouaches requires a lot of precision and concentration, not unlike the work of monk scribes in the Middle Ages. "I have just finished some gouaches on which I have been working ironically for fourteen days. In reality, I have been painting the same picture for forty years". Through the process of repetition, the creative process becomes a sacred ritual: "These writings allow me to open a space for an obvious abstraction, but also to reaffirm what I have been asserting for almost thirty years: the spiritual dimension of painting and the representation of the sacred through megaliths and these writings".

Biography

Loïc Le Groumellec was born in Vannes, Brittany, in 1957. He graduated in 1980 from the *École de Beaux-Arts* in Rennes and, in 1983, the Yvon Lambert gallery in Paris organised his first solo exhibition. His works can be found in prestigious private collections, and have been included in exhibitions of the CAPC in Bordeaux, the *Musée des Beaux-Arts* in Rennes and the *Conservatoire National de Musique* in Paris. They have also been displayed by major international institutions such as the New National Museum in Monaco, the French Institute in Cologne, Germany, the Hermitage Foundation in Switzerland, the *Musée d'art contemporain* in Montreal, Canada and the Juan Miró Foundation in Barcelona, Spain. Loïc le Groumellec has designed several theater sets, notably for the Basel theatre and the *Opéra Garnier* in Paris, and has participated in the creation of numerous illustrated books. The Karsten Greve Gallery has represented the artist's work since 1989. Loïc Le Groumellec lives and works in Paris.

Accompanying the exhibition, a publication on Loïc le Groumellec published by Galerie Karsten Greve is available: *LOIC LE GROUMELLEC Sculptures et gouaches*, Text: Loïc Le Groumellec, Giorgio Agamben, Yves Peyré, Philippe Le Guillou., Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris 2022, EUR 10,00.

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ABOUT GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE

Karsten Greve has been a successful art dealer for more than fifty years. He opened his first gallery in 1973 with a solo exhibition of Yves Klein in Cologne followed by additional premises, one in Paris (Rue Debelleye) in 1989 and one in St. Moritz (Via Maistra) in 1999. Galerie Karsten Greve ranked from the beginning as a leading gallery worldwide and is regularly represented at international art fairs such as the ART BASEL shows, FIAC and TEFAF. The owner's personal contact to artists of the international post-1945 avant-garde, such as Cy Twombly, Louise Bourgeois, Jannis Kounellis, John Chamberlain, and Pierre Soulages created the precondition that representatives of the international avant-garde define the gallery's programme. Karsten Greve's long-standing collaboration with artists such as Gotthard Graubner, Pierrette Bloch and Leiko Ikemura has contributed significantly to them achieving worldwide recognition. The gallery, which is representing about thirty artists, is constantly expanding its portfolio to include rising young artists like Georgia Russell, Claire Morgan, Gideon Rubin, and Raúl Illarramendi. Galerie Karsten Greve is equally well known for its solo exhibitions and its highly ambitious accompanying catalogue productions published by the gallery.

PRESS CONTACT

Christina Marx

Tel. +41 (0)81 8 34 90 34

c.marx@galerie-karsten-greve.ch

We are happy to provide you with images of the works shown in the exhibition.