

Daniel LEVIGOUREUX “ Silent landscapes“ (Paintings, works on paper)

Levigoureux was born in 1945 in Northern France, and after an education at l'Ecole Supérieure des Métiers d'Art of Paris (*School of Art professions*) he became an artist and art teacher in Amiens, notably at the Ecole régionale des Beaux-Arts (regional School of Fine Arts) then the Ecole Supérieure d'Art et de Design (School of Art and Design). He now lives in Normandy.

His quest for the absolute made him start with abstraction. However in 1975, he turns to motif through landscape painting, his favourite theme, which he depicts unremittingly from his glass-panelled truck-atelier. He paints plains, the coastline, snow, the industrial harbour. He has had over 50 personal exhibitions recently, namely retrospectives, in cultural centres and museums. « *The plain, vast stretches, the horizon are my recurring subjects, along with facades and roofs. To look really, to look at the most ordinary of everyday reality, at close objects, the view from a window, the surrounding countryside.* »

This painter has the urgent need for an inquisitive observation of the world. He stalls upon a motif, before an unadulterated reality, on the edge of a plain, often upon an outlook, the gaze peering out into the infinite, toward the horizon... By the sea in seaside resorts deserted in winter... He seeks for snow and its white ellipses. Humans are absent from Levigoureux' work, yet are nonetheless present through the architecture of houses and the chequered pattern of fields, created by man. The atmosphere created is reminiscent of the universe of American painter Edward Hopper.

Simultaneously, the sketching itself must be as minimal as possible. No anecdotes. Bringing white paper to life with as few lines as possible...

Over 50 paintings, often large-scale, exposed along the picture rails of the three levels of the castle and around 20 drawings in the gallery will immerse the visitor into this contemplative and fascinating world. **An artist of purification and suspended time.**

Roger CAPRON (1922-2006) : « Sculptor in Vallauris » (Ceramics)

Roger Capron was born in 1922 and studied at l'Ecole des Arts Appliqués de Paris (School of Applied Arts) until 1943. In 1947 he moves to Vallauris, where he opens the Atelier Callis with ceramists R. Picault (1919-2000) and J. Derval (1925-2010). Vallauris is renowned for its pottery production since Roman times. Post-war, there was a resurgence of this handicraft, whilst numerous artists (such as Picasso) moved to work with ancient materials and techniques. Capron draws his inspiration from cubism, surrealism and folkloric traditions, bringing modernity to the traditional curves of Provencal potteries. The atelier Callis starts to create little home objects, deliberately modest and with an everyday utility. Several years later, Capron's reputation is made on an international level and his objects can be found namely at Saks 5th Avenue and Gimbels.

From 1960, he evolves toward a modernist style, with shiny varnishes and conspicuous geographical patterns. He is one of the artists responsible for the revival of the golden age of ceramics in Vallauris. In 1982, Capron gains interest in Raku sculpture and opens a new atelier to work entirely on this new art form creating unique objects, original works, sculptures or bas-reliefs which represent eternally playful characters or animals. One essential element in Capron's creations is the use of colour. For Jacotte, his wife and long-term collaborator, the mixture of enamels and pigments is equally as important as the creation of form itself. The most remarkable however is the harmony between a shiny and matte aspect, the metallic effects obtained by the Raku technique. Roger Capron received numerous international prizes during his career such as the 1st Grand Prix in Ceramics in 1970. He exposed in galleries and museums the world over. In 2000, the New York Times wrote « *He is one of the most prolific and important design artists in Europe since the end of the war.* » He died in 2006. His collaboration with German collector Reinold Harsch gave birth to the creation of numerous large-scale sculptures for outdoors. Since his death, exhibitions pay tribute to his work worldwide.

