

press release

GERARD DALLA SANTA
Des Paysages Longtemps

Exhibition from 3 Septembre to 30 October 2021



C'est le paysage longtemps...

*For a long time it's the landscape, it's a bell,
it's the pure deliverance of the evening -;
but all that prepares in us the approach
of a new, a tender figure...*

*So we live in a strange dilemma
between the distant bow and the too-piercing arrow:
between the world too vague to grasp the angel
and Her who, by too much presence, prevents it.*

Rainer Maria Rilke
Les vergers, 1924-1925

In French in the original text, English translation in LOUTH, Charlie: Rilke, the Life of the Work (Oxford University Press, 2020)

GERARD DALLA SANTA *Des Paysages Longtemps*

Paris, September 2021 - For its fall 2021 exhibition, Galerie Miranda is delighted to present a personal exhibition by Gérard Dalla Santa (b. 1947, France). Entitled *Des Paysages Longtemps*, the exhibition takes its name from a short poem by Rainer Maria Rilke.

The photographs presented in this solo show proceed from Gérard Dalla Santa's research into landscape that is anchored in two traditions: that of documentary photography and that of outdoor landscape painting (Corot, Courbet, Pissarro and Cézanne...) that considered the topography as well as the historical and collective dimension of landscape. Temporal markers punctuate the work of Gérard Dalla Santa, who captures, in the present tense of photography, the intersection between the time of landscape and the time of its representation. In his recent landscapes of river banks, the artist employs the picturesque and the banal to reveal a newfound lyricism, allowing living beings - human and animal - to enter the field on equal terms with nature.

Dalla Santa's work echoes the writings of English historian Simon Schama, whose seminal and exceptional publication 'Landscape and Memory' (Vintage books, 1995) draws upon science, geography, politics, literature, religion, art, architecture and mythology to weave a narrative of the 'necessary union' throughout history between civilization and nature. Avoiding the usual duel of conquering mankind vs. passive nature, Schama, seeks instead to reveal what binds them. To paraphrase Schama's introductory text:

"If...our entire landscape tradition is the process of a shared culture, it is by the same token a tradition built from a rich deposit of myths, memories and obsessions. The cults which we are told to seek in other native cultures - of the primitive forest, of the river of life, of the sacred mountain- are in fact alive and well and all about us if only we know where to look for them.... Instead of being yet another explanation of what we have lost, (this book) is an exploration of what we may yet find."

For Gérard Dalla Santa, these images do not evoke a nostalgia for things past but are instead a proposal for the repairing of a damaged world.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY: GERARD DALLA SANTA (b. 1947, France)

Gérard Dalla Santa's first photographic works date from 1978 and feature urban scenes, the banks of the Seine river, vistas of highways. Interested in mobility and movement, Dalla Santa is largely influenced by street photography and American underground literature. Since the 90s, Gérard Dalla Santa has focused mainly on landscape work, considering mankind's transformative effect on the landscape, memory space and coexistence across time. He first explored the southwest region of France, the greater Paris region where country and city overlap, and since 1993, has continued to explore these themes in the landscapes of Pennsylvania in the USA, drawing upon personal references that include Walker Evans, Lee Friedlander, Robert Adams.

From 2000 he broadened his field to include representations of work, bringing a poetic and delicate reading the body and its gestures within the context of labour. In 2015 he was awarded a grant from the CNAP (Centre National des Arts Plastiques), towards a project on the city of Pittsburgh, its industrial heritage within the urban tissue and the city's permanent cycle of demolition and construction.

His recent landscapes are places that bear witness to the interaction between man and nature. In the 2020 lockdown, he photographed every day the Belleville-Menilmontant neighbourhood of Paris where he lives, the series was acquired by the Musée Carnavalet in 2021. Gérard Dalla Santa has received several institutional grants and commissions and participated in numerous personal and group exhibitions in France and in Europe. His works figure in the permanent collections of the Centre Pompidou, the Frac Aquitaine, the Frac Midi-Pyrénées, the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain and the Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès.



GERARD DALLA SANTA

Paysage 7, 2015

Archival pigment print

60 x 70 cm

Limited edition of 5



GERARD DALLA SANTA

Paysage 16, 2017

Archival pigment print

66 x 100 cm

Limited edition of 5



GERARD DALLA SANTA

Paysage 4, 2015

Archival pigment print

66 x 100 cm

Limited edition of 5



GERARD DALLA SANTA

Paysage 14, 2011
Archival pigment print
66 x 100 cm
Limited edition of 5



GERARD DALLA SANTA

Paysage 12, 2011
Archival pigment print
66 x 100 cm
Limited edition of 5



GERARD DALLA SANTA

Paysage 31, 2016
Archival pigment print
60 x 70 cm
Limited edition of 5



GERARD DALLA SANTA

Paysage 20, 1993

Archival pigment print

60 x 70 cm

Limited edition of 5



GERARD DALLA SANTA

Paysage 32, 1996
Archival pigment print
60 x 70 cm
Edition limitée de 5

GALERIE MIRANDA: *A propos*

Galerie Miranda was founded in 2018 by Miranda Salt, French-Australian who has lived and worked in the 10th arrondissement since her arrival in France in 1995. Specialized in fine art photography, the gallery presents international artists and works celebrated in their own country but little known in France and Europe. Inaugurated on International Women's Day 2018, the gallery's opening cycle of exhibitions featured solo presentations by prominent women artists Jo Ann Callis, Nancy Wilson-Pajic, Marina Berio and Ellen Carey. Amongst the other artists represented, or with works available, at the gallery are Merry Alpern, Peggy Anderson, Jo Bradford, John Chiara, Sally Gall, Gary Green, Gerard Dalla Santa, Chloe Sells, Laura Stevens, Arne Svenson, Terri Weifenbach. The gallery participates in fairs and private salons and is also a bookshop with a curated selection of publications on photography in French and English. Galerie Miranda is situated in Paris' vibrant 10th arrondissement at 21 rue du Château d'Eau, close to the Place de la République and 100 metres from the former site, on rue Léon Jouhaux, of Louis Daguerre's wonderful Diorama and laboratory, destroyed by fire in 1839.

Galerie Miranda
21 rue du Château d'Eau. 75010 Paris FRANCE
Tuesday-Friday 2-7 pm / Saturday noon-7pm or by appointment
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