

CLAIREGASTAUD | PARIS

**MILÈNE SANCHEZ**

*Vision rapide, vision appuyée*

Exhibition from September 2nd to October 8th, 2023

Opening on September 2, 2023

37 rue Chapon  
75003 Paris

37 rue Chapon, 75003 Paris - F +33 1 88 33 98 63  
galerie@claire-gastaud.com  
www.claire-gastaud.com  
Membre du Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art

# CLAIRE GASTAUD

**Milène SANCHEZ**

« *Vision rapide, vision appuyée* »

September 2nd - October 8th, 2023

37 rue Chapon, 75003 Paris

Opening on September 2, 2023, in the artist's presence, 3 - 8 pm

***Joint opening with all rue Chapon galleries***

**Milène Sanchez's second solo exhibition will be held in Paris at Galerie Claire Gastaud.** For this exhibition, Milène Sanchez presents a group of recent oil paintings on canvas, including four large-format works (170 x 220 cm) created especially for the gallery space.

**Her images play with blur and sharpness. The aim is to capture their movements and the light they reflect, bringing them to life.** Her work does not seek to follow in the tradition of bouquet or still-life painting, nor to use the motif as a pretext for abstraction. Her pictorial creation is nourished by writing, through notes that record her reflections and observations following a reading, a film or the sight of a painting. In painting, as in writing, she engages in a dialogue with her object, losing control of the gesture and then regaining it. Her thoughts wander over the canvas until the image appears, until the «fluorescence» bursts forth. Using screenshots from films or photographs, she paints something that would be impossible to say or see.

Milène Sanchez's technique is characterized by the use of pigments that she prepares herself to achieve new hues, between natural and artificial tones. She works with oil paint and turpentine, and uses the glazing technique, superimposing successive thin layers to create a unique atmosphere in each of her canvases.

Milène Sanchez (1997) graduated from ESAD Saint-Étienne in 2021 (Atelier Denis Laget).

In 2022, Milène Sanchez won the Prix Horizon Desjoyaux. A series of works is acquired by the Frac Auvergne and the Musée Paul Dini, Villefranche-sur-Saône. The same year, she joins the Moly Sabata artist residency and has her first solo show at the Claire Gastaud gallery in Clermont-Ferrand. She takes part in the «Secrets de fabriques» exhibition at the Musée Paul Dini (Villefranche-sur-Saône).

In 2023, she took part in several group exhibitions: «Beautés» at the Frac Auvergne (curator Jean-Charles Vergne), Cristof Yvoré «Coi» at the Verrière Hermès in Brussels (curator Joël Riff) «Immortelle» La Panacée -Moco Montpellier- nouvelle génération (curator Anya Harrison). In 2023, a number of works also joined the Frac Poitou-Charentes collection.

Information and HD visuals on request :

Caroline Perrin :

[caroline@claire-gastaud.com](mailto:caroline@claire-gastaud.com)

+33 6 29 95 88 60

Léo Woo :

[leo@claire-gastaud.com](mailto:leo@claire-gastaud.com)

+33 6 88 81 70 14

37 rue Chapon, 75003 Paris - F +33 1 88 33 98 63

[galerie@claire-gastaud.com](mailto:galerie@claire-gastaud.com)

[www.claire-gastaud.com](http://www.claire-gastaud.com)

Membre du Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art

# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Milène Sanchez  
*Lighter than the wind III*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
170 x 220 cm  
Courtesy galerie Claire Gastaud



# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Milène Sanchez  
Lighter than the wind II, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
170 x 220 cm  
Courtesy galerie Claire Gastaud

# CLAIRE GASTAUD

«It's not by looking at flowers that you become a painter, but by seeing a painting that depicts flowers<sup>1</sup>. Part of the history of painting is played out in efflorescences and wilting - from the first independent bouquets of the 17th century<sup>2</sup> to today's painting, via Henri Fantin-Latour, Odilon Redon, Édouard Manet, Piet Mondrian, Georgia O'Keeffe... Part of history is played out there, in these ephemeral beauties. It's not a question of depicting flowers - they don't need paint to exalt our gaze with their fragility - but of situating ourselves in a counter-field, measuring the gap between the way we look at flowers and the resulting painting. Anyone who has tried their hand at painting a bouquet (or a mountain, as Paul Cézanne did, or bowls on a table, as Giorgio Morandi did) will be able to grasp what is at stake between what is seen and how it is painted.

It's not so much a question of technical difficulty as of the elusive shift from reality to pictorial thought. These flowers are not the flowers observed, and the project is not to give an image of them, but to make a painting. The surface of the painting is based on the paint, not on the flowers, nor on any hypothetical resemblance to the model. The barely-marked smoothness of a few gestures enhances the thinness of the texture, right down to the bone of the canvas, which is blank in places. This faded heap, these bundled stems, are no longer a bouquet. The paint has liquidated the motif to pulverize the floral essence, provoking the rapture of colors through withering. Were they agapanthus, centaurea, drosera? They are vanities, beauties overturned by the boreal hues of night.

Jean-Charles Vergne, Beautés exhibition, Frac Auvergne, 2023

<sup>1</sup> -To paraphrase Bertrand Lavier: «It's not by looking at a sunset that you become a painter, but by seeing a painting that represents a sunset. You need a filter.»

<sup>2</sup> - The first «independent» bouquet of flowers would be *Flowers in a Vase*, painted by Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder in 1618. See Victor I. Stoichita, *L'instauration du tableau* (Geneva: Droz, 1999), pp. 35-52.

# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Milène Sanchez  
Lighter than the wind I, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
170 x 220 cm  
Courtesy galerie Claire Gastaud

# CLAIRE GASTAUD



In situ artwork, La Serre, Saint-Etienne, 2023



# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Milène Sanchez  
*Je me souviens de l'écarlate*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
143 x 115 cm  
Courtesy galerie Claire Gastaud



Milène Sanchez  
*For ever gushing VII*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
33 x 41 cm  
Courtesy galerie Claire Gastaud

# CLAIRE GASTAUD

«In my work process, images are the raw material. Often supported by film screen captures or photographs taken or found. These images that become fixed give rise to dreams. That's what painting is all about: trying things out, seeing where the images take me. It's a kind of thought stroll. Although I use images to produce a painting, it's not a question of showing what I see, but rather what I don't see in the first instance.

Through my artistic production, I seek to express an emotion, to show my vision. My reality. I'd like my paintings to bear abstract witness to a suspended moment in the studio. That they bear witness to the inner and outer character of the moment depicted, between creator and spectator of my own painting. When I paint, I come into contact with reality (material and color) and thus enter into a dialogue with my object. I lose control and regain it. It's a constant game.

These paintings are built around the gesture of staring at flowers, moving towards them, away from them, sweeping them with the eye. Always coming back to them. I feel that in painting, I'm able to capture the gifts of light and movement that flowers give us to see. That's how I see things, through brief flashes of light. I attach importance to the epiphanic moment in the creative process. When the image appears when you hold it. In painting, the thing in the making evolves, takes other directions, sometimes escapes me.

I try to create a disturbance by distancing painting from reality. It's not a question of embodying reality or distancing it, but of oscillating between the two. It's about finding a balance between hovering and worked areas, between dripping and drying. Flowers, like paint, move towards the light, plants disappear, re-emerge, are born of their own seeds, and it's this trembling that I seek to capture. That's what makes them and this medium alive. I have an abstract vision of painting, which makes it my main subject, because for me it's all about matter and color. Color is an important part of my work, and preparing my pigments allows me to achieve new hues. I don't try to get exactly what I see, but a subtle interplay between natural and artificial tones. With turpentine, I work by superimposing thin layers of different tones to achieve an atmosphere. I like to play with transparency, revealing the first drawing as well as clusters of material.

It's painting as living matter that inspires me, and I also write a lot of notes when I'm painting or beforehand, short sentences, remarks, definitions, observations. Things that work and things that don't, warnings. They invite metaphysical reflections on what I see, or attempt to 'elevate' it. These notes help me to paint and teach me to see.

My work is influenced by everything that surrounds me, things I've seen, read or heard. I'm just as fascinated by Manet's Impressionism as I am by Flemish and Spanish paintings, not to mention American abstraction with Sam Francis. Or the subtle details of Odilon Redon, the composition of Jacopo Da Pontormo or the light of Joaquin Sorroala. But also the color of Lee Krasner, the grays of Luc Tuymans and the yellow of Zurbarán's lemons.

Painting helps me to see better, and my aim is to share my vision. But also to share my emotion at the moment of making it, to be invaded by something unspeakable.»

Milène Sanchez, 2021

# CLAIRE GASTAUD



# CLAIRE GASTAUD

Milène SANCHEZ, born in 1997  
Lives and works in France

## Solo shows

- 2023** «Vision rapide, vision appuyée», Galerie Claire Gastaud, Paris, France  
**2022** «Par éclair, par éclat», Galerie Claire Gastaud, Clermont-Ferrand, France  
«Millefleurs», (curator Joël Riff), Moly Sabata, Sablons, France

## Group shows

- 2023** Cristof Ivoré, «Coi», La Verrière, Bruxelles, Belgique  
«Rêves», L'Espace, Rognac, France  
«Immortelle», La Panacée Moco, Montpellier, France  
«Xolo Cuintle», Galerie Chloé Salgado, Paris, France  
«Beautés», FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France  
«Figurer l'absence», Galerie Provost Hacker, Lille, France  
**2022** «Secrets de fabrication», Musée Paul Dini, Villefranche-Sur-Saône, France  
«Espacements», commissariat Alexandre Quoi, Ceysson & Benetiere, Saint-Etienne, France  
«Contente d'être aujourd'hui», Manifesta, Lyon, France  
**2021** «X'mas Hanging», Avant Galerie Vossen, Paris, France  
«Sillon / Itinéraire art», Drôme, France  
«De la Tulipe à la crypto Marguerite», Avant Galerie Vossen, Paris, France

## Résidences

- 2022** Moly Sabata, Sablons, France

## Collections

Musée Paul-Dini, Villefranche-sur-Saône, France  
Frac Poitou-Charentes, Angoulême, France  
Frac Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France  
Clermont Auvergne Metropole, France

## Grants

Prix du jury - Prix Horizon - Desjoyaux

## Education

- 2021 DNSEP et mémoire sous la direction de Denis Laget  
2019-2020 Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe, Franz Ackermann  
2019 DNA  
2016-2021 Ecole Supérieure d'Art et Design de Saint-Etienne



In situ artwork, La Serre, Saint-Etienne, 2023

# CLAIREGASTAUD

Claire Gastaud  
[claire@claire-gastaud.com](mailto:claire@claire-gastaud.com) +33 6 63 05 24 24

Caroline Perrin - Directrice  
[caroline@claire-gastaud.com](mailto:caroline@claire-gastaud.com) +33 6 29 95 88 60

## PARIS

37 rue Chapon, 75003 Paris - F  
+33 1 88 33 96 83

Léo Woo (Paris) [leo@claire-gastaud.com](mailto:leo@claire-gastaud.com) - +33 6 88 81 70 14

## CLERMONT-FERRAND

5 et 7 rue du Terrail 63000 Clermont-Ferrand - F  
+33 4 73 92 07 97

Théo Antunes (Clermont-Ferrand) [theo@claire-gastaud.com](mailto:theo@claire-gastaud.com) - +33 6 35 58 47 89

[www.claire-gastaud.com](http://www.claire-gastaud.com)



[@galerieclairegastaud](https://www.instagram.com/galerieclairegastaud)



[Galerie Claire Gastaud](https://www.facebook.com/GalerieClaireGastaud)



[Galerie Claire Gastaud](https://www.galerieclairegastaud.com)

**JOINT OPENING :**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 FROM 3 TO 8 P.M.**

**PROGRAMMATION :**

**GALERIE LES FILLES DU CALVAIRE**

**GALERIE BAUDOIN LEBON**

**GALERIE SULTANA**

**GALERIE CLAIRE GASTAUD**

**H GALLERY**

**GALERIE ANNE-SARAH BÉNICHOU**

**GALERIE JULIEN CADET**

**ART ORIENTÉ OBJET**  
*JE SUIS CONTRE !*

**LAURENT PERBOS**  
*ODYSSÉE*

**GEORGES BRU**

**MILÈNE SANCHEZ**  
*VISION RAPIDE, VISION APPUYÉE*

**LINAS KAZIULIONIS**  
*XIVth YOUNG PAINTER PRIZE WINNER*

**MIREILLE BLANC**  
*GLAÇAGE*

**NADIA AYARI**

**GALERIE CHRISTOPHE GAILLARD**

**GALERIE C**

**ARTS D'AUSTRALIE - STÉPHANE JACOB**

**GALERIE ISABELLE GOUNOD**

**GALERIE PAPILLON**

**GALERIE MAÏA MULLER**

**LES ARTS DESSINÉS**

**BINA BAITEL**  
*UNUSUAL OBJECT*

**JULES LINGLIN**

**CARRIBERIE**

**LENNY RÉBÉRÉ**  
*TOUS CEUX QUI ONT CONTINUÉ À COURIR*

**HREIN FRIDFINNSSON**  
*ARTIST IN THE AIR*

**CÉLIA MULLER**  
*INVOCATIONS*

**YVAN POMMAUX**