



CLAIREGASTAUD | PARIS

**JEAN-CHARLES EUSTACHE**

*« Car le temps est proche »*

From April 14 to May 27 2023

# CLAIRE GASTAUD

## Galerie CLAIRE GASTAUD | PARIS

37 rue Chapon

75003 Paris

[01 88 33 98 63](tel:0188339863)

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

## Jean-Charles EUSTACHE

Galerie Claire Gastaud PARIS

April 14 - May 27, 2023

Opening Thursday, April 13 in the presence of the artist

Curated by Jean-Charles VERGNE

**This monographic exhibition of the artist Jean-Charles Eustache, curated by Jean-Charles Vergne, presents about thirty recent works specially created for the exhibition, which outline potential narratives in the artist's very particular universe: acrylic paintings on small wooden panels whose surprising mattness and diffuse treatment of its colors give them a mineral and dreamlike aspect.**

**Jean-Charles Eustache was born in 1969, he lives and works in France.** He graduated from the ESACM in 2004. During his studies, he worked to build a pictorial work whose first orientations served as a basis for all that followed in the years that followed. The first works were already landscapes charged with mysterious atmospheres, stretches of abandoned buildings, architectures without quality, atmospheres that vacillated between a romantic perception of the world and a dark charge that was not without evoking Edward Hopper's painting or David Lynch's films.

*«The figurative paintings - let's call them that for convenience - gathered in the exhibition organized at the Claire Gastaud gallery represent visions, inspired by the artist's memories and heady dreams, also borrowed from the field of apocalyptic literature (Dante, E.A. Poe, Cormac McCarthy) as well as from the dark annunciations or epiphanic revelations that strike children and shepherds in religious stories. «In his work, Jean-Charles Eustache has created a series of paintings that are not as narrative as the ones he created in the past, but that are similar to grids and embossments: «When he creates surfaces whose arrangement could be similar to meticulously ordered grids, Jean-Charles Eustache does not make abstract paintings, supposing that something like abstraction could exist elsewhere than in the ethereal visions of dreams and revelations. Instead, he renders in these miniature frescoes an intimate and utterly real moment dedicated to the observation of walls and facades caressed by sunlight.» Jean-Charles Vergne*

In 2021, the Claire Gastaud Gallery in Clermont-Ferrand and the FRAC Auvergne organized a double exhibition dedicated to the paintings of Jean-Charles Eustache - entitled From dark to dusk and From dusk to dark - on the occasion of which a monograph of the artist was co-edited.

The works of Jean-Charles Eustache are regularly presented in various contemporary art venues: Galerie Claire Gastaud, Clermont-Ferrand; FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand; Manifesta Lyon, Lyon; Grand Palais, Paris; Fondation Vuitton, Paris; Centre d'Art Contemporain, Meymac; Musée d'art moderne et contemporain des Sables-d'Olonne, Sables-d'Olonne; Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris; Centre d'art contemporain Le Creux de l'Enfer, Thiers; Kunstraum/Bethonien, Berlin.

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

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

Jean-Charles Eustache  
Car le temps est proche

Painting is not an image, it is not useless to remind it because painting is not born from images but from the surface, from the depth, from the light, from the story of a look. The images have a surface but their surface sinks like a ship at the bottom of an ocean. We are helpless sailors under a deluge of images, we no longer see the waves and search in vain for the surf and the swell when we are already drowned at the bottom of the waters. This is probably the reason why it is difficult to look at the works that work to put the images overboard, to build the makeshift rafts of our gaze, to resurface. Jean-Charles Eustache is a painter and, as such, produces no images. His paintings, barely larger than the hand that gave them birth, offer their smooth and absolutely matte surface, absolutely deep, worthy of an Italian primitive devoting an unconditional love to his expanses. Whether they represent situations borrowed from the visible world, whether they are composed by orthonormal grids or whether they fall back on the intensity of a hue contained in an illusionist frame, his paintings are neither figurative nor abstract - if such a dichotomy is worth debating.

The «figurative» paintings - let's call them that for convenience - are visions inspired by memories and heady dreams or borrowed from the field of apocalyptic literature, the dark annunciations and epiphanic revelations that strike children and shepherds in religious narratives. Heavens consumed by weak conflagrations, prodigious mounts overhanging a desolate land, telluric uprisings towards the firmament, obscure arches girdling the unholy foliage of cursed provinces: the subjects are finally only the signs of the inexistence of these images in the world. These hallucinated visions vibrate only with a hypothetical reality and reveal the falsification of the images of which they are the recipients. They offer themselves to the gaze like spectres - ghosts and colors - deigning to deliver themselves to those whose eyes know how to read between the lines of mist on gibbous moonlit nights.

Simultaneously, paintings of identical formats are composed by a monochrome tint whose flatness is contained within a trompe-l'oeil frame. The beauty of these miniatures is fascinating: I think of Giotto, Fra Angelico, the pink of Piero della Francesca, the blue of Jean Fouquet, the black of Manet. I think of the tactility of the decorative geometric frescoes in grisaille of the Villa Poppaea, near Naples, in the first century. These paintings are not abstract: light settles in, zenithal or projected from the upper left corner, carrying shadows over the edges, delicate and unforgettable like the light of Giorgio Morandi. These surfaces reveal a sense of color, an ability to create an intimate and sensitive space with a little, a little that is not nothing, a little that is capable of expressing the sensation, of concentrating the narrative of the gaze without the slightest narration. In the same way, when the paintings compose meticulously ordered grids, Jean-Charles Eustache gives an account of a time dedicated to the observation of walls and facades caressed by the sunlight. The duration stretched as the sun's flamboyance faded towards its last flickers of candlelight. The light and its modulations slowly revealed the reliefs and hollows of the stone, giving a chalky consistency to the surface, to the hours and to the elusive extinction of the day, making the imperceptible blueness of the stone surface blossom, gradually erasing its light rose pink to be tinted with a vesper color.

Jean-Charles Vergne  
Curator

Jean-Charles Vergne is director of the FRAC Auvergne, curator and author. He has designed exhibitions and books devoted to Jean-Charles Eustache, Dirk Braeckman, David Lynch, Katharina Grosse, Luc Tuymans, Raoul de Keyser, Gregory Crewdson, Albert Oehlen, Marina Rheingantz, Miryam Haddad, Charles Pollock, Richard Tuttle, Cristof Yvoré, Darren Almond, David Claerbout, Claire Chesnier, Agnès Geoffray, Shirley Jaffe, Gert & Uwe Tobias, Marc Bauer, Pius Fox, Ilse D'Hollander, Mireille Blanc. ... He is curator of the retrospective devoted to Gregory Crewdson (Gallerie d'Italia in Turin in 2022, Rencontres d'Arles in 2023).

# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Jean-Charles Eustache  
*A te convien tenere altro viaggio*, 2023  
Acrylic on wood panel  
20 x 20 cm

# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Jean-Charles Eustache  
*What is that sound high in the Sky ?*, 2023  
Acrylic on wood panel  
20 x 20 cm



# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Jean-Charles Eustache  
A38, 2023  
Acrylic on wood panel  
15 x 15 cm

# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Jean-Charles Eustache  
*Va te purifier dans l'air supérieur*, 2023  
Acrylic and pencil on wood pannel  
20 x 20 cm

# CLAIRE GASTAUD



Jean-Charles Eustache  
*There is not even silence in the mountains, 2023*  
Acrylic on wood panel  
20 x 20 cm



# CLAIRE GASTAUD

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

Caroline Perrin - Director  
[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.artforum.com/GalerieClaireGastaud)