

## Arthur Grosbois

*Deux*

05.03. - 06.05.2022

„With this new series of works, **the painting process is more visible** compared to my previous projects. I think it is something pretty important: **the paintings show the making of the image, as well as carrying** a feeling of presence. I have always been moved by things conveying **timeless feelings** as well as uncanny atmospheres.”

„The **initial idea of the title «Deux»** (meaning two in French) was **to evoke my attempt to represent characters interacting -or at least being present simultaneously-** with one another. As, up until now, I depicted mostly isolated figures in my paintings.

«Deux» is **also** a nod to this being **my second personal exhibition with the gallery.**“

„**My paintings are on canvas or on paper.** I used **different techniques** such as cera-colla and oil painting.“

„**The hat is an omnipresent motive in this exhibition,** which in part is **inspired from Faulkner’s novel „Light in August“** as it accompanied me during the realisation of my paintings. The novel takes place in the beginning of the 20th century in southern USA; images of cotton shirts and hats of all sorts emerge throughout the reading.

**This coincides with photos of American farmers from the 30s or 40s that I had found** around the same time. The way the hats were highlighting people’s faces completely fascinated me.

Maybe **the hat is also a subconscious idealisation of elegance** for me.“

„**I have been deeply touched** whilst reading „**Light in August**“ by **William Faulkner**. I saw in Faulkner’s narrative what I am looking for within my art. **Repetition is a very important element in this novel**, as well as **time distortion**, both of which, generate very convincing descriptions of the **process of memory** and subjective consciousness. Each character’s consciousness is layered progressively through the story creating a gigantic canvas, even though the characters seem to remain isolated in their own perception of things. I think what Faulkner caught is impressively accurate and **I am trying to bring a bit of this in my work.**“

„**I use collage to build the compositions** I am going to use **for my paintings**. It is a very lively process involving spontaneity and instinct, then reflection and modifications. I usually **start to assemble photographs**, then start drawing from the first draft, then go back to the collage, making slight modifications and so on and so forth. For the compositions, **I select details of photographs based on my impressions and desires**. Sometimes it works as pattern recognition, I see something making me think of a position or a theme interesting me. For instance the painting «Le chien enragé et la mort du poète» is inspired by a painting from A. Dürer «The Christ amongst the doctors.»“

„For me **repetition is** a way to create a background from which you can then play around with. It is **like a stage set for theatre or a recurring melody in music**. I like repetition with variation/alteration, as **there is something to do with absurdity and alienation** (being stuck in a loop, imprisoned), as well as with the process of life. Something **that struck me in Beckett’s writing** too.“

„**Casein is a technique I started to experiment with in Tuscany** during a residency in 2019. The Cera-colla is an antique technique using wax, a natural binder such as casein, and pigments. At the time I was trying **to recreate the texture of fresco paintings**. I also wanted to find **a technique I could use both on canvas and paper**, as well as a painting technique I could combine with the mark making of charcoal and pencil.“

Arthur Grosbois  
march 2022