

# VILLEPIN

Marie de Villepin: *Murmuration*  
November 17, 2022 – March 2023  
G-2/F, 53-55 Hollywood Road  
Central, Hong Kong



Marie de Villepin, *Year of the Tiger*, 2022, 215 x 298 cm. Photo courtesy of Villepin.

Villepin is pleased to present *Murmuration*, the debut exhibition of Marie de Villepin in Hong Kong, marking her first major solo exhibition in Asia. The title *Murmuration* originally describes the enchanting gesture and roaring sound created by ballet birds in the sky in certain seasons. In a similar movement to these birds, Marie captures the energy of various worlds where her multifaceted practice has long experimented with intrinsic expressions through colours, shapes, and rhythm.

For Marie, the canvas is not so much a conventional painting material as an all-receptive medium, a tabula rasa, on which she lays down her diverse ideas and personal experiences, expressed more often by the harmony of colours than by any preordained meaning of figures. After spending much of her life abroad, moving from one culture to another, Marie began sketching, not only to capture the colour or emotion of a moment, but also to ward off the dizziness of frantic change in the passing of life and time.

Her paintings are expansive configurations of spatial experimentations that articulate abstraction as an ever-shifting field. She draws upon ideas from different states and times to explore the spatial relation of each form and the space in between. Shifting and unraveling layers of paint, each figure and shape appear and recede in a multiplicity of directions, drawing viewers among unknown territories and experiences.

In her works, music plays a key role generating a certain rhythm of swaths of brushstrokes that diverge and converge. Where does it begin? Where does it lead us to? Marie's works explore the importance of mobility and memory, and the relentless changes in forms, where identities, communities, and technologies in this postmodern world can at once be aggressive, oppressive, and repulsive. Through her works, she questions the key issues of our time and introduces new paths through her imagination with its own words and music, in which motifs are repeated, rhythms impart textures, and sounds alternate with voids, stringing together chords and sublimating emotions.



Marie de Villepin, *Inner City Fades*, 2021, 207 x 152 cm. Photo courtesy of Villepin.

Today, there is a general tendency to follow a certain opinion or a predesigned algorithm, to swarm in the same direction of a multitude. In a constantly overstimulated world of configurations of layers, the urge to find order, meaning and perhaps beauty, within chaotic conditions becomes more palpable. Marie's works reintroduce us to a new path of discovery through a deep amalgamation of formal aesthetics that encompass her travels and experiences, one that is deeply allegorical and personal.

In the spirit of "Murmuration," the exhibition will adopt an evolutive nature, beginning with Marie's works and gradually evolving to take its own shape. In addition to paintings and drawings, personal stories and inspirations from art, music, film, and photography that influenced her creative practice, will also transform the exhibition, transporting viewers onto a temporal visual as well as auditory voyage.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About the Artist



Born in 1986 in Washington, D.C., Marie de Villepin grew up in the United States and in India. Art was a constant feature in her upbringing as she began developing her musical and drawing skills throughout her frequent travels, filling dozens of notebooks, which allowed her to fix moments and emotions as a chronicle of her life. Growing up in a diplomatic household, Marie had the chance to surround herself with a prominent circle of poets, musicians, filmmakers, and painters including Zao Wou-Ki, a family friend. She was inspired by influential post-war American artists, including Willem de Kooning, Cy Twombly, Joan Mitchell, and Philip Guston. In particular, she admired the musicality, freedom, and capacity for transcendence in their works.

Marie de Villepin in her studio, 2022, photo by Louis Stimes. Courtesy of Villepin.

In 2005, Marie moved to New York, and then to Los Angeles, where she developed various musical projects, before devoting herself entirely to painting. In search to deepen links between colours, sounds and rhythm, she took a decisive step to transcribe her inner world onto canvas: painting what she sees and where she lived in a way perhaps to ward off exile, loneliness and doubts through an accumulation of brushstrokes. Gradually, her whole world started taking shape, complete with imaginary landscapes, creatures, and machines of all sorts. Her works trace through space and time, oscillating between figuration and abstraction.

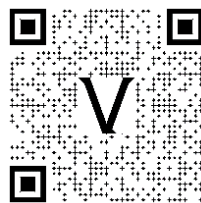
Marie has participated in a number of group exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, Beijing, and Hong Kong. In 2019 she presented her first solo exhibition titled *New Creatures*, which marked her return to Paris. In March of 2022 after the pandemic, she presented *The Lost Weekend* a combination of works made in the United States and in France. In June, Marie was selected as one of the twelve artists to receive Le Prix Antoine Marin. The prize is presented by the gallery Julio Gonzalez in Paris, where each young artist is nominated by a renowned artist: Marie was nominated by Anselm Kiefer. She is currently working on a major institutional exhibition scheduled for 2023 at a museum in China.

### About Villepin

Shaped by Dominique and Arthur de Villepin's passion for art, Villepin is a new gallery model created by collectors for collectors. Founded in 2019 in Hong Kong, Villepin is specialized in selected important artists, estates and foundations, advocating their work through carefully curated exhibitions while bridging them with the leading collectors and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. Beyond its gallery walls, Villepin also acts as curator for exhibitions in museums and institutions.

Each exhibition at Villepin is based on in-depth scholarship and offers a unique experience to immerse visitors in the life and art of each artist. Previous exhibitions have also produced special bilingual publications that include original essays and curatorial research. Artists presented by Villepin include Zao Wou-Ki, Myonghi Kang, Pierre Soulages, Georges Mathieu and Hans Hartung among others.

As curator and advisor to a close community of collectors, Villepin is focused on education and promoting scholarship of its artists through intimate salons and collaborations with leading institutions, foundations, universities and museums. Through their extensive experience in building close friendships with artists, the father-son partnership aims to share their expertise, encourage dialogue, and support collectors in building long-lasting relationships with artists, who are at the heart of Villepin's initiatives.



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