

FABIENNE VERDIER  
ARIAS

In 2014, Fabienne Verdier was invited by the Juilliard School, the famous conservatory of music in New York, to explore the interaction between the lines of sound and the line of sight. She took on and developed this idea in her studio, working with lyrical songs as her guide. While listening to some of the most famous arias of Mozarts in her studio, the artist let her body respond with the appropriate gesture. She thus spontaneously found the figure of the Vortex, this dynamic vortex present in a large number of natural phenomena. Mozart's energy and clarity are found in the ample and tense gestures of Fabienne Verdier. This results in a series of fifteen prints created by the artist on her own printing press during the period of covid isolation between 2020 and 2021.

*The exposition Arias is shown through a set of prints in different formats from this series that explore the poetic expression of the song of the lyrical voice, whose breath circulates like a wave around its center.*

All of Fabienne Verdier's work is nourished by the careful observation of natural phenomena: variations in light, wind energy, waves and eddies in waterways... The artist does not seek to mimic these forms or to represent them but to soak up their energy to, in the calm of the studio, materialize their trace on canvas. *Solstice* is a series of large paintings in small-format style created on the days preceding the changing of the seasons. They are quite the opposite of miniatures made with a tiny brush. They are a collection of details, the capturing of a movement that has escaped the limits of the canvas. Each piece can be read by this spurt of material with the drips, paint runs, and overflows that correspond to the moods of the moment. While the artist prepared this set, she was rereading Marguerite Yourcenar's book *That Mighty Sculptor, Time*. The author underlines the ambiguity of this time, when, at the entrance of summer, the days will start to get shorter, and that, without realizing it, winter is already on its way.

*A Solstice painting, also produced during the 2020 quarantine, is featured in this exhibition. The complete series was exhibited in digital form by Galerie Lelong in 2020.*

With an interest in artists in search of this meaningful depth, the gallery is delighted to welcome the artist Fabienne Verdier, whose work, imbued with spirituality, touches us deeply. Her unique approach reminds us to open ourselves to the Presence inside us, which is possible to find through self-awareness. Her work is a rare and precious gift in these times when everything is accelerating. It is a breath, a meditation, an invitation to listen to one's interior. Let's go with her— discovering the musical and visual lace of the soul, the source of the breath of life and of everything that is possible.

Fabienne Verdier was born in 1962 in Paris. Today, she continues to live and work near Paris. In 1979, the artist began her studies at the School of Fine Arts in Toulouse. At twenty, she left for China to study with the last of the great masters of traditional painting. Suffering from a serious illness, she returned to Europe at the age of thirty and in 2003 and published the autobiographical novel *The Dragon's Brush, A Journey to China in Search of a True Master*. Fabienne Verdier then abandons easel painting and imagines a new way of painting vertically where the force of gravity becomes a factor. In 2006, she designed large brushes with which she used to create her paintings on the ground. She regularly collaborates with musicians, writers, and scientists to capture the forces that create these forms— the vital energies that animate this world. Her works are present in many public and private collections around the world. In 2019, the Granet Museum in Aix-en-Provence is devoting a retrospective exhibition to her, retracing her career since her return from China. Her works are included in many collections, the MNAM Center Pompidou (Paris), the Granet Museum (Aix-en-Provence), the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen (Munich), the Nasjonalmuseet (Oslo), and even the Hubert Looser Foundation and the Kunsthaus (Zurich). One major exhibition is currently underway at the Unterlinden Museum in Colmar.