



ANDRÉ MARCHAND CHEZ LOUIS CARRÉ

Exhibition 17 May – 7 September 2014

A house for art. Such was one of the main characteristics of the villa designed by Alvar Aalto in the late 1950s for the gallerist and collector Louis Carré. White walls with generous proportions, integrated hanging systems, and appropriate lighting: art was an important part of the original program. Even the furniture and design details – created entirely by the Finnish master – were intentionally made of materials in neutral tones as to enhance the vivid colours on the reception rooms walls.

Maison Louis Carré opened to the public in 2007. Ever since, many visitors have come from all over the world to admire Alvar Aalto's architecture and design, brought to perfection through his collaboration with an ideal commissioner. However, something was missing: the house was incomplete without the presence of artworks.

For its first exhibition, Association Alvar Aalto en France is particularly pleased to welcome the paintings of André Marchand, an artist supported and exhibited by Louis Carré. This presentation was made possible through the collaboration and generous loan of Mrs Violaine Menu-Branthomme, the painter's indefatigable ambassador. The subtlety and the originality of the colours, as well as the strength of the artist's motifs and figures, respond in full to the call of the architecture. André Marchand is at home in this house.

Ásdis Ólafsdóttir, Director of Maison Louis Carré

ANDRÉ MARCHAND (AIX-EN-PROVENCE 1907 – ARLES 1997)

Until 1929, André Marchand spends his youth, like Cézanne, roaming the countryside of Aix-en-Provence. Driven away by a father hostile to his vocation, Marchand settles in Paris where he assiduously frequents the Louvre and the free academies of Montparnasse. With Francis Gruber and Pierre Tal Coat, he participates in the group "Forces Nouvelles" (New Forces) and exhibits paintings made in Biskra (southern Algeria) at the Galerie Billet-Worms in 1934. After discovering Marchand's paintings, Louis Carré purchases *Les bergers, l'hiver* (1935). Marchand's friend Darius Milhaud introduces him to the gallery owner Pierre Colle, who exhibits his works in 1936. The following year, he wins the prix Paul Guillaume for *La jeune fille et le paralytic*.

Marchand works in Cauterets (Haute-Pyrénées) when the war breaks out. In the middle of the debacle, "on a road in the month of June," he has a revelation of color in its purist form: "I abandoned my former way of seeing that very morning." At the invitation of painter Jean Bazaine, he presents his work at the Galerie Braun in May 1941 where he figures among "twenty young French painters." A patriot at heart ("during the Occupation I wanted to fly the French flag a bit"), Louis Carré opens his gallery to him in May 1943; Picasso and Le Corbusier sign the guest book. Grateful, the painter writes to Carré: "I thank you for the efforts you made for almost a year on my behalf so that I could prepare my exhibit. It was the first shared exhibition that I have seen of my paintings."

With Gaston Diehl, he becomes one of the founders of the Salon de Mai. In 1943, he marries the decorator Yvonne Sjoestadt, but also gives drawing lessons to a certain Françoise Gillot... A year later, Aimé Maeght invites him to work in Cannes and Vence and introduces him to Matisse and Bonnard: "important conversations," notes Marchand. In May 1946, the Galerie Maeght, inaugurated a year earlier on rue de Téhéran in Paris, dedicates a large and critically acclaimed exhibition to him. Picasso takes umbrage to this: "the falling out between us is complete," writes a mortified Marchand.

Accustomed to seeing him as a "painter of Arlesians," the public rejects his paintings of Burgundy exhibited at Galerie Maeght in May 1947. Defended by a few shrewd critics and gallery owners, he begins nonetheless to enjoy an international reputation. In 1952, he wins the prix Arches for a drawing of Italy and writes inspired texts on the painters Dufy, Jacques Villon, and Renoir. He is invited to the art biennials of Sao Paulo (1951) and Venice (1954) and is the object of a large retrospective at the Galerie Charpentier in Paris (1956). He meets Odile Vivier, thanks to whom he discovers the composer Edgar Varèse and Belle-Isle-en-Mer island, one of his "three territories." In 1963, the Réattu Museum looks back over his "thirty years of painting."

On May 9, 1964, he sends a manuscript written about the painter Jacques Villon to Louis Carré. The two men maintain a friendship until Carré's death on September 11, 1977: "I always had very refreshing connections with living artists," said Louis Carré. André Marchand continued to paint and exhibit his artwork until his death on December 29, 1997.

Violaine Menu-Branthomme and Laurent Lecomte

"I was in my studio in Provence. I didn't know about his death. I very much liked this intelligent, sensitive and cultured man. This is a loss for Paris. I always had with Louis Carré easy and courteous reports, especially in the field of thought, which is unfortunately rare in Paris today."

André Marchand, answer to a letter by Diane Foy (Galerie Louis Carré), announcing the death of Louis Carré, 11 September 1977

CATALOGUE

A catalogue of 32 pages is published on the occasion of the exhibition. It contains an introduction by Ásdis Ólafsdóttir and an essay on the art of André Marchand, signed by Laurent Lecomte, curators of the exhibition, as well as a biography of the artist, co-written by Mrs Violaine Menu-Branthomme, niece and legatee of his work, and Laurent Lecomte. The book also includes a catalogue of all the 27 artworks exhibited, completed by quotations by the artist. Retail price : 10 €.

CONTACTS

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Open: March to November, Saturdays and Sundays 2-6pm upon reservation (resa@maisonlouiscarre.fr). Private visits and groups upon request.

Maison Louis Carré is the property of Association Alvar Aalto en France since 2006. Besides seminars on architecture and design, one or two art exhibitions will be organized annually.

IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESS



1 – *Les neuf bonbonnes – Bourgogne / The nine Bottles – Burgundy*

1980s

oil on canvas

97 x 195 cm

Private collection



2 – *Les Jeux de l'été / The Plays of Summer*

1944-1945

oil on canvas

130 x 195 cm

Private collection



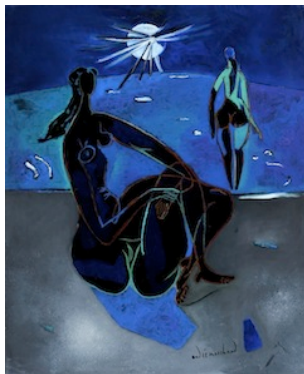
3 – *Les Parques*

1943-1944

oil on canvas

130 x 195 cm

Private collection



4 – *La baigneuse dans la lumière, Méditerranée / The Bather in the Light, Mediterranean*

1950s

oil on canvas

100 x 81 cm

Private collection



5 – *La nuit à la Ciotat / Night in Ciotat*

1942

oil on canvas

73 x 92 cm

Private collection