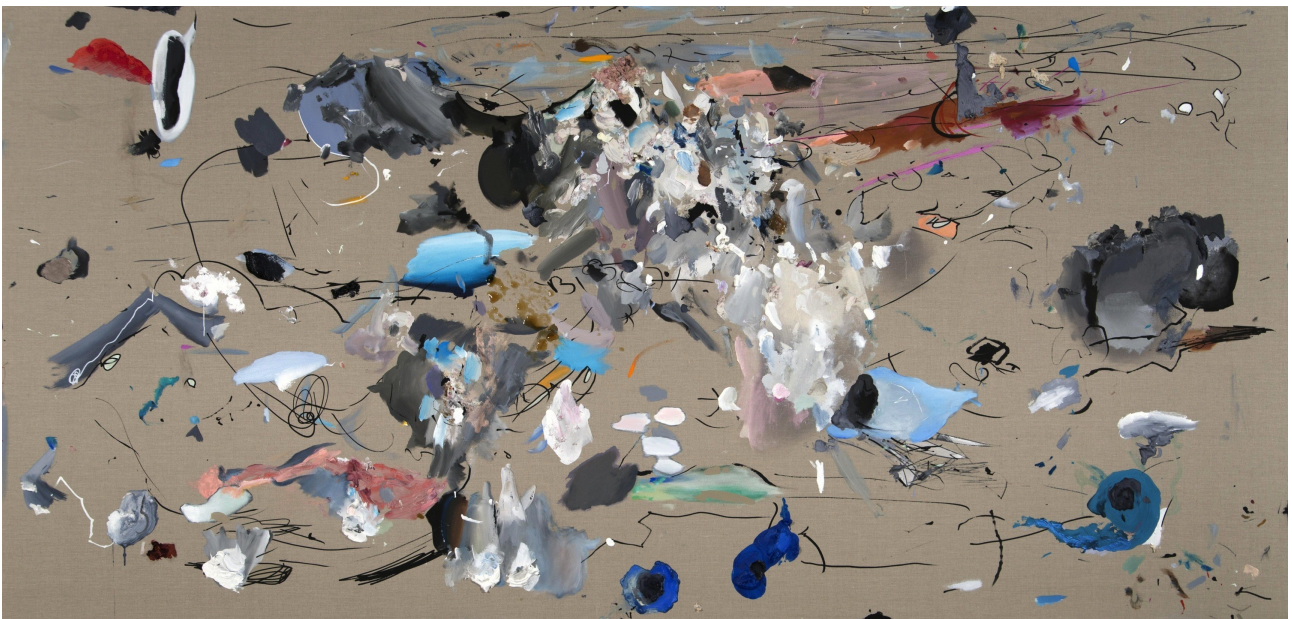


# SECUNDINO HERNÁNDEZ

The Miettinen Collection

18 September - 30 November 2014



Maison Louis Carré  
2 chemin du Saint Sacrement - 78 490 Bazoches-sur-Guyonne

Preview on Thursday September, 18th 2014 6:30 - 9:00 pm

## Exhibition

« Things in my painting should be what they are and also appear what they are. »

*Secundino Hernández*

With an intricate and uncluttered gesture, where the lively brush and the fullness of the line levitating on a neutral and monochromic background, Secundino Hernández's paintings display both a dissolution, and a union. Our intrigued gaze follows the path of an organic labyrinth, where the darkness in its convolutions encounters points of light exploding with colours. And this play with emptiness, broad strokes and fine strokes and ramifications of forms arise like so many movements in the history of art.

His eye and mind inhabited by masters such as Goya, El Greco or Velázquez, Secundino Hernández manages to free himself from their visions in order to deliver his own, with instinctive liberty and eminently subjective impressions. This exploration leads us to the roots of classical pictorial tradition, after-images of contours and portraits, revisited by the artist on the margins of expressionism and abstraction. Year after year, his paintings take on both minimalist and spectacular traits, evoking Kandinsky's colors, Miró or Picabia's forms no less than the infinite and vibrating lines of Giacometti and Pollock. Thanks to his mastery of technique and theory, and the intense physical tension that he maintains with the canvas, Secundino Hernández operates with a kind of artistic familiarity, while at the same time imposing his contemporary vein.

It is precisely this singularity that was detected by the Finnish collector Timo Miettinen and his wife Iris when they met him in 2009 in Berlin. Ever since, a mutual affection between the artist and the couple grew in step with the latter's acquisitions. This is reminiscent of the outgoing friendship of the art dealer Louis Carré, whose home, designed by his Finnish friend Alvar Aalto, now hosts an exhibition of Secundino Hernández's past four creative years.

In the spirit of the Miettinen and Carré collections, this intimate and humanist exhibition illustrates a symbolic facet of the artistic dialogues and interactions that bind together Finland, Germany, Spain and France.

## Secundino Hernández

Born in 1975, Secundino Hernández lives and works in Berlin and in Madrid, his city of origin. Upon receiving his Diploma of Fine Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid where he studied from 1995 to 2000, he entered the Spanish Academy in Rome.

Since 2002, Secundino Hernández's art has been regularly exhibited in Helsinki, Vienna, Madrid, Berlin, London and Miami, in galleries (Heinrich Ehrhardt, Krinzinger, Forsblom, Victoria Miro...), institutional and private foundations (Coca-Cola, Helga de Alvear, NMAC...), as well as art centers and museums (North-Carolina Museum, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Español, ...).

His paintings are also acquired and promoted by international collectors such as the Rubell family (USA), Poju and Anita Zabłudowicz (United-Kingdom, USA, Finland) and the Miettinen family (Germany and Finland).

## **The Miettinen Collection**

Initially prompted by his mother, Timo Miettinen developed his love of art and his taste for collecting from the age of fifteen, beginning with Finnish landscape paintings of the 19th and 20th centuries. Member of the board of Ensto Oy Finland, he and his wife Iris Ulin have collected international contemporary art since 2004. The couple, who live in Helsinki and Berlin, acquired the Salon Dahlmann on Marburger Straße 3 in 2010 in order to exhibit more than 300 artworks by contemporary international artists of various generations. Among them were Georg Baselitz, Albert Oehlen, Helene Schjerfbeck, Heikki Marila, Secundino Hernández, Manolo Valdés, Peter Halley, Jacob Hashimoto or Pierre Alechinsky and Bernard Piffaretti.

Thus, this essential eclectic collection, featuring both abstract and figurative, geometric and expressionistic paintings, sculptures and drawings distributed among the Miettinen family's private apartments in Finland and Germany, is now in part on public display in Berlin.

## **In the wake of Louis Carré (1897-1977)**

Louis Carré was one of those wise collectors and art dealers who got involved in the avant-garde movements during the 20th century. After academic training as a jurist and a career as an antique dealer specializing in French plate, he opened his Parisian gallery in 1938 with Paul Klee, Juan Gris and Le Corbusier.

Louis Carré's militant renown in the arena of modern art asserted itself during the hardships of the Occupation when he defended the new French creativity of Dufy, Matisse, Rouault, Vuillart, Jacques Villon and André Marchand. During the post-war period, he especially exhibited Bazaine, Kupka, Estève and Léger.

In the manner of Guggenheim and Maeght, Louis Carré left as a legacy an architectural work : his villa in Bazoches-sur-Guyonne, close to Versailles, designed by his friend, the Finnish Alvar Aalto, one of the greatest architects and designers of the 20th century.

## **Maison Louis Carré by Alvar Aalto : an outstanding exhibition venue**

Listed as a historical monument in 1996 and opened to the public eleven years later, the house is the single representative in France of the architecture of Alvar Aalto (1898-1976). Its design is the embodiment of the perfect understanding between the two men, who saw art as a material way of improving and enhancing the ordinary daily life.

Louis and Olga Carré's principal residence in the countryside, this house is considered one of the architect's masterpieces. Faithful to his fluid conception of space, and his very personal vision – eminently humanist – of modernism, Aalto succeeded perfectly in integrating his villa into the soft landscape of Ile-de-France's and fulfilling the wishes of his client. He designed everything, from the general plan and the garden to the furniture and fittings, thus creating a total work of art.

The dwelling of a prosperous couple, comfortable and sophisticated yet without ostentation, the villa was also intended to be a setting for its owners' magnificent collection, featuring paintings by Bonnard, Léger, Picasso, Dufy, Lansky and Klee and sculptures by Laurens, Degas, Calder and Giacometti, as well as African art pieces. When Olga Carré passed away in 2002, these artworks were sold and

dispersed, and the house thus lost one of its essential functions.

It is precisely this dimension, dear to Louis Carré, that can be reawakened by exhibitions of innovative art, such as the art of Secundino Hernández...

## Several paintings from the Miettinen collection\*



**Untitled** (2013)

gouache, acrylic, alkyd and oil on canvas

200 x 230 cm

Photo : Roman März / Courtesy Miettinen Collection



**Melted** (2013)

gouache, acrylic, alkyd and oil on canvas

162 x 132 cm

Courtesy Miettinen Collection



**Iris** (2010)

gouache and oil on canvas

signature

95 x 85 cm

Photo : Sampo Muranen / Courtesy Miettinen Collection

\* Cover of the press release : **Where are we now** (2013), gouache, acrylic and oil on canvas, 170 x 350 cm, Courtesy Miettinen Collection

## Practical informations

### Contacts

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A catalogue including texts signed by Karpov Shelby and Joaquín Jesús Sánchez Díaz, as well as *in-situ* photographs from the exhibition, will be released in October 2014.

This exhibition is organized with the support of Ensto



### Location

Maison Louis Carré  
2 chemin du Saint Sacrement  
78490 Bazoches-sur-Guyonne  
+33 (0)1 34 86 79 63  
www.maisonlouiscarre.fr

Open :

March to November, Saturdays and Sundays 2-6pm upon reservation (resa@maisonlouiscarre.fr).  
Private visits and groups upon request. Maximum size of a tour 19 persons.  
Group visits outside normal opening days and hours are possible on arrangement.

Admission fees :

15€ for adults, 5€ reduced price, free for children under 12 with family.

10€ for groups over 10 persons.

The admission fee includes a guided tour in English/French

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