

## MARIELLE PAUL

### Calepin

painting

24.03 – 06.05.2023

**PRIVATE VIEW** Thursday, March 23rd – 5pm > 8.30pm

**SUNDAY OPENINGS** Sunday, March 26th – 2pm > 6pm  
Sunday, April 16th – 2pm > 6pm

**LATE-NIGHT OPENING** Friday, March 31st – 7pm > 9.30pm – with Marielle Paul

Since the beginning of her career in the mid-1990s, Marielle Paul has developed the universe *she had to*, eluding the “what to do” of dominant trends then in vogue in the artistic landscape. Starting modestly with three colours of gouache and two brushes on “child-size” formats (24 x 32 cm), she worked on concentrates, with a landscape-inspired image placed in the center of the sheet. The compositions are dense but simply titled: the month of the creation of the work and a number. **The impression is that of a formalised landscape: a juxtaposition of archetypes - rocks, fields, bushes, buildings, trails, clouds - which, added together, communicate the idea of a whole identified as a “landscape.”**

Fifteen years later, many paintings and a landscape architecture diploma in hand - Marielle Paul embarked on larger paper formats, taking increasing possession of the page. The compositions freed themselves from the image to leave room for an abundance. *A musical dream* then materialized, whose sounds derive from the most diverse registers, playing on repetition, juxtaposition and even superposition in turn: shapes, arabesques, abstract and decorative elements. The palette passes through delicate harmonies and jostling pop hues. These luminous ensembles are immediately seductive. But it isn't an idle seduction. The initial wonder gives rise to questioning, in search of meanings and links between the components. **Marielle Paul uses an open language in which recognisable, formal, formless, and unknown elements enter into free association. Like a poem whose words and interlines widen and shift the meaning, her works produce new imaginations and possibilities.** Her inspiration derives from multiple sources: readings, journeys, impressions or fleeting ideas...

Marielle Paul's favourite technique is gouache on paper - a beautiful, matte, unctuous material, rich in pigments. She works it in flat tints or with a brush loaded with a range of colours which are revealed by the application on the paper. Her discovery of lithographic ink a few years ago was a revelation. The subtle variations of grey and black and ink's potential for overlays and transparencies has added a new dimension to her world.

**Calepin**, the title of Marielle Paul's first exhibition at the Galerie Maria Lund, refers to *calepinage* – a layout sketch developed to prepare and catalogue the cutting and laying of stones, a coating, or even the joints to be drawn. The title therefore refers to the structure and integration of different elements, but also to a small personal notebook, the *calepin*, in which to write anything and everything, higgledy-piggledy and without hierarchy. With the series of *Mosaïques*, Marielle Paul carried out a playful, somewhat mischievous *calepinage*. These walls with Aztec overtones are composed of very diverse elements and moreover are equipped with legs! The rigour of *calepinage* has been put of out joint: the *Mosaïques* wander or rotate on themselves like treadmills... *Nouvel horizon* (New Horizon), as the name suggests, features paintings articulated around a horizontal line which separates two territories with contrasting hues. Botanical motifs or “electrical” vibrations with assertive graphics develop above these planes of colour. Their dynamism brings about movement and temporality.

GALERIE

**M A R I A  
L U N D**

48 rue de Turenne  
75003 Paris

**T.** +33 (0)1 42 76 00 33  
**M.** +33 (0)6 61 15 99 91

[galerie@marialund.com](mailto:galerie@marialund.com)  
[marialund.com](http://marialund.com)

Although the initial actions of Marielle Paul's brush, both light and determined, are guided by an intention, this soon gives way to an intuitive work. *Does inspiration have eyes or is it sleepwalking*, Paul Klee wondered. The question takes on new meaning in front of Marielle Paul's paintings. Where do they come from, where are they going? The Greek origin of the word poetry (*poiêsis*) means *creation*. The fascination of these genuinely poetic works lies in their ability to propose perceptions and narratives which are constantly renewed.

## background

**MARIELLE PAUL (1960-)** was born in Lyon. She obtained her diploma in visual expression (DNSEP) in 1986, at the Ecole nationale des beaux-arts de Lyon, followed by a postgraduate diploma (DEA) of landscape architecture, at the Paris-La Villette architecture school, 1993, under the direction of Bernard Lassus. Marielle Paul currently lives and works in Paris, after stints in the Limousin, the Drôme and Vannes.

In 2003, Marielle Paul met the gallery owner Jean Fournier through the intermediary of the American artist Shirley Jaffe, who encouraged her to continue with her painting practice. The following year, she took part in a group exhibition at the **Galerie Jean Fournier**. The **Galerie Jean Broly** presented her first solo exhibition, *Un rocher tombe entre les arbres*, in 2007. That same year, the **Musée des Beaux-Arts de Brest** hosted her exhibition *Les arbres masqués*. In a text of the catalogue published on this occasion, Didier Semin evoked *Anxiety adorned with gentle colours*.

The collaboration with the Galerie Jean Broly continued with the exhibitions *Montagnes russes, été indien, arabesques et paradis latin* (2011), followed by *Fines fleurs* (2014) and *Barcarolles* (2019).

Since 2019, Marielle Paul has been practising silk screen printing with the **Atelier Arcay**, and lithography with the **Atelier Michael Woolworth** in Paris. Her *Herbier* series was displayed in 2020 at Michael Woolworth's studio as part of *The painting people show*.

In 2021 the **Musée d'art et archéologie Joseph Déchelette de Roanne** presented her retrospective monographic exhibition *Et pourtant il brillait deux lunes dans le ciel*. A year later, a portfolio of 6 new *Allez Zou* lithographs created in duo with graphic designer **Pierre di Sciallo** was featured as part of an exhibition of the two artists' paintings at Michael Woolworth's. In late 2022, Marielle Paul took part in the *Chocolate Fresa Vainilla* exhibition, curated by Camila Olivera Fairclough, at the **Galerie Luis Adelantado** in Valencia, Spain. In January-March 2023, her name featured amongst the artists exhibited in *Abstractions-Mutations*, curated by Alexis Nivelles and Vincent Herlemont at the **Galerie Jean Fournier**.

The monographic exhibition *Calepin* (2023) marks the beginning of Marielle Paul's collaboration with the **Galerie Maria Lund**.

Marielle Paul's work features in the permanent collections of the **Musée des Beaux-arts de Brest**, the **Museums of Rennes** and **Valence**, the **Musée des Beaux-Arts de Roanne**, the **Artothèques of Nantes**, the **CAP de Saint Fons** and of **Angers**, as well as the **FNAC** (National foundation for contemporary art) and the **FRAC Auvergne** (Regional foundation for contemporary art).

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