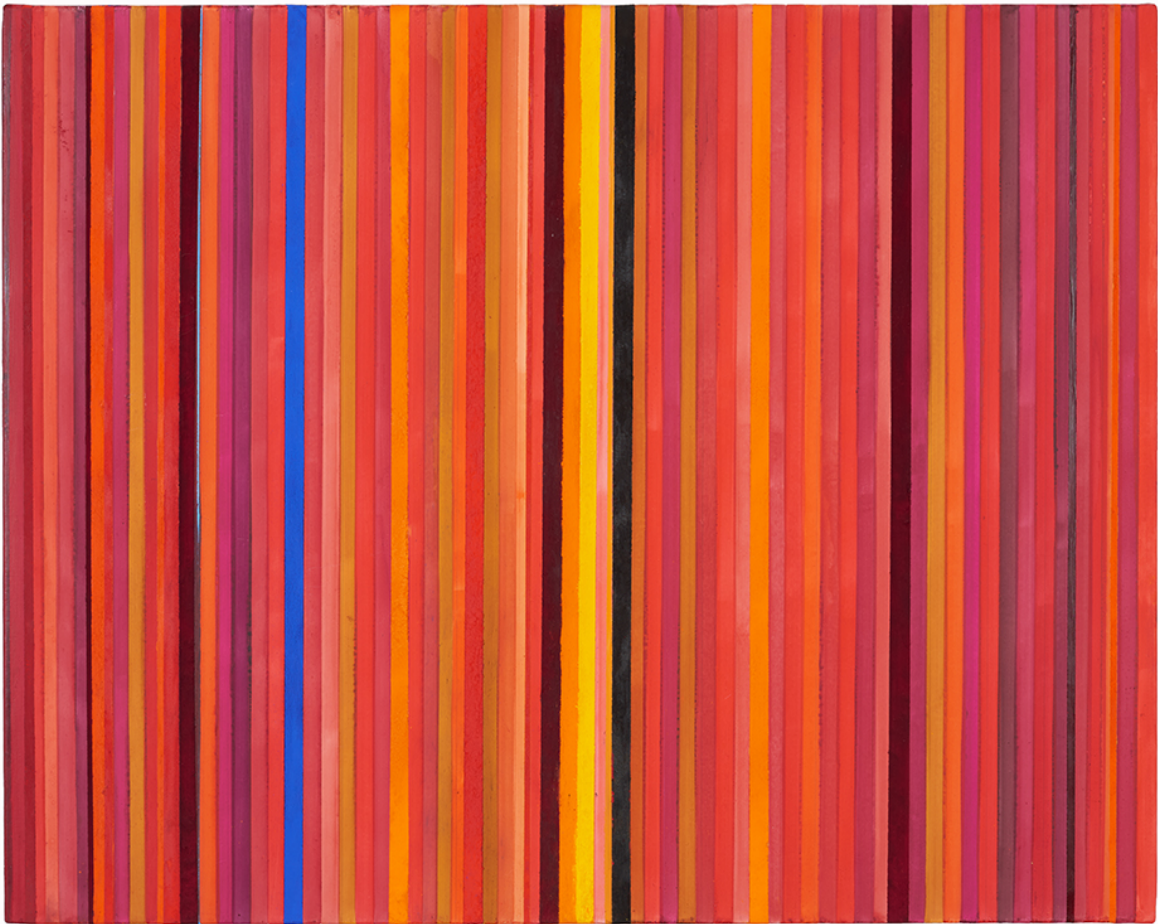


ERNA HECEY GALLERY  
Hamilius Centre-Rue Aldringen

PRESS RELEASE

**Eugénie Paultre**  
*Matter of Life*

Opening in presence of the artist 2 July 2021, 6pm – 9pm  
Exhibition 2 July - 30 September 2021



Eugénie Paultre, *Untitled*, 2015, Ink, oil and pigment, 73 x 92 cm, Courtesy of the artist and Erna Hecey Gallery

**Erna Hecey is delighted to present Eugénie Paultre's second solo show entitled *Matter of Life*, in a new space in Luxembourg City-Centre. The exhibition will inaugurate two adjacent spaces, located in an urban complex designed by Foster + Partners in 2019.**

Eugénie Paultre wonders what a *shared* world might look like. This is the case in her writings, as early as *L'état actuel des choses* (2012), as well as her painting. During a six-month residency in the English countryside in 2018-19, she devoted herself to painting large format canvases: there, the language of

coloured lines,<sup>1</sup> that she had developed until then on paper and canvas, extended into new physical dimensions. This period of intense production, where the painting took on an almost performative quality, was accompanied by moments of reflection. Eugénie Paultre took notes, and from this journal came *Matter of Life* (HENI, 2021), which questions the possibility of being alive, and the ways in which art can nourish this possibility.

In addition to presenting some of the large-scale paintings created in England for the first-time, the exhibition also includes a selection of works that retrace a journey made through art over several years, in parallel to her “Lines” series. Rather than a retrospective, it is an exploration of the experience of painting in many formats, using pigment, oil, ink, a knife, a cutter, fabric, wood or a paintbrush. Still life. Abstract. Action painting. Geometric. Figurative. Landscape. And also, assemblages, bordering on outsider art, where it is all about *letting emerge*. The many styles or modulations reveal the possibilities brought about by the act of painting as they converge in the exhibition space.

The art of Eugénie Paultre is a process of constant exploration. Like her friend Etel Adnan, she leaves it to “psychic improvisation” (Paul Klee) to guide her movement. “A painting is a raft that sets out on an adventure.”<sup>2</sup> She also finds this open pathway when writing. Her practice links the act of painting to the act of writing, and the pigment, just like the word, captures her existential and meditative inspirations. Alongside a library of “substantial texts” selected by Paultre, these works of multiple sizes and formal qualities inhabit a first space as a sort of foreword, announcing the need to adjust our field of perception to the upcoming “Lines” series. The artist does warn us about the experience of scale:

“You have to put yourself on the right scale. See a painting, for example, twice as big as you are. Or the Italian churches that envelop us completely in their colours. On this scale of grandeur, there is truth – a change of perception. Yes, large is not simply bigger, it is not a number, a mere measure. It is another dimension. The relationship between things, colours for instance, change, and another meaning appears.”<sup>3</sup>

This pictorial search seeks to locate some elementary and cardinal landmarks. Through vertical immersion and coloured composition, the question of orientation arises. For Eugénie Paultre, it is about pursuing the path – left open – of Modern Art, which is dependent on understanding the studio as a laboratory. Without projection or prior analysis, it is a place of experience still left to explore, in order to follow, in this free space, one “interior necessity” (Kandinsky) in all consciousness, and harvest the “signs” (Malévitch) that the space of painting allows.

After studying Humanities then Philosophy at the Sorbonne, where she then taught as an assistant after graduating, at the age of thirty Eugénie Paultre turned to painting and writing – which she had already practiced in her youth. After years spent on the Left Bank of the Seine, going from garden to garden and book to book, she now shares her time between Paris and Normandy.

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<sup>1</sup> Eugénie Paultre, ‘On Colour’, in *Eugénie Paultre, Des liens plus que terrestres/More than earthly ties*, 2019, Erna Hecey Gallery, Luxembourg.

<sup>2</sup> Eugénie Paultre, *Matter of Life*, 2021, HENI Publishing, London.

<sup>3</sup> Eugénie Paultre, *Matter of Life*, 2021, HENI Publishing, London.

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Hamilius Centre-Rue Aldringen

**Eugénie Paultre** (1979, Paris)

**Recent Exhibitions:**

Galerie Levy Gorvy, « Horizons », 2021  
Galerie Erna Hecey, « Des Liens plus que terrestres / *More than earthly ties* », 2020 (solo show)  
Institut français, Bratislava, 2019 (solo show)  
Galerie Gandy, Bratislava, 2019 (solo show)  
« Etel Adnan et les modernes », Mudam, Luxembourg, 2019  
« Colori: L'emozione dei colori nell'arte », Castello di Rivoli, Torino, 2017

**Monographic Works:**

*Eugénie Paultre. Outline*, London, HENI Publishing, 2018  
*Matter of Life*, London, HENI publishing, 2021

**Published Works:**

In French :

*L'État actuel des choses*, Foreword by Etel Adnan, Paris, Éditions Al Manar, 2012  
*Hiver*, Paris, Éditions Al Manar, 2013  
*Nous verrons bien*, Berlin, Moon Rainbow, 2013  
*En soi-même*, Paris, Éditions Al Manar, 2016  
*Up. Réflexion sur l'art et la folie*, Paris, Éditions Al Manar, 2019  
*Forward. Rencontre avec Hans-Ulrich Obrist*, Paris, Manuella Éditions, 2019  
*Présence des signes. Etel Adnan, Simone Fattal*, Paris, Manuella Éditions, 2019  
« Nous sommes toujours un libre commencement » in *Giorgio Griffa. Merveilles de l'inconnu*, Editions Mercatorfonds / LaM, Lille, 2021  
*Le temps presse* (to be published)

In English:

*Winter*, trans. Simone Fattal, Cole Swensen, Etel Adnan, The Post-Apollo Press, 2013

In German:

*Winter*, trans. Klaudia Ruschkowski, Hambourg, Nautilus, 2018  
*Ränder. Betrachtungen über Kunst und Wahnsinn*, trans. Jorinde Reznikov, Hamburg, Nautilus, 2019

Erna Hecey  
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**Opening hours:**

**Tuesday 3-7pm**

**Thursday and Friday 2-7pm**

**Saturday 3-7pm**

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