

October, 2017,

Dear Friends,

I have the pleasure to share with you an autumn rich in news!

### CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

**Yves Ullens. *Tribute*, Mark Rothko Art Centre, Daugavpils, Latvia**

**September 22th – November 5th 2017**

**[www.rothkocenter.com/en/ekspozicija/yves-ullens-tribute](http://www.rothkocenter.com/en/ekspozicija/yves-ullens-tribute)**

As announced in my previous newsletter, I have the honor to have been invited to exhibit my photos at the Mark Rothko Art Center in Latvia. Daugavpils, formerly called Dvinsk, is the born city of the famous naturalized American painter Mark Rothko. This center of art, situated in a former Russian arsenal, is a magnificent renovated building which welcomes around thirty annual exhibitions and several symposia dedicated to painting, photography, sculpture and ceramic.

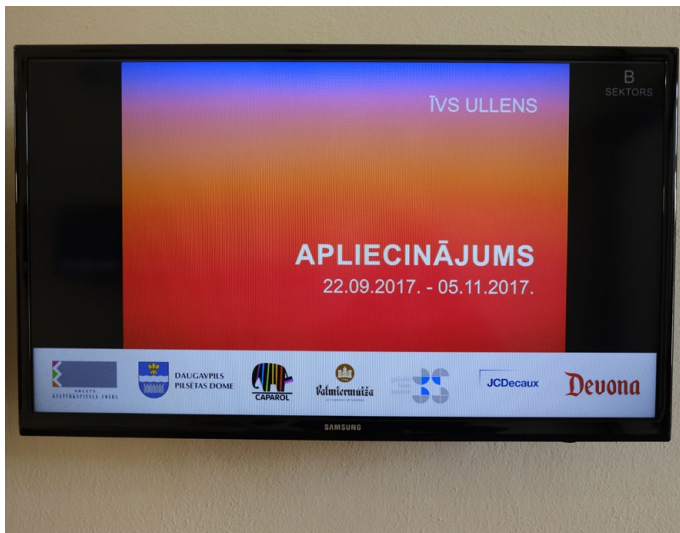


External views of the Mark Rothko Centre of Daugavpils

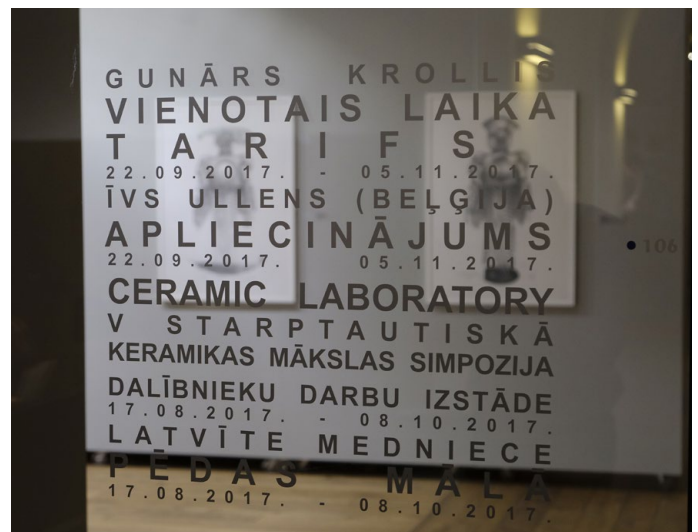




Touched to have my name on the poster !



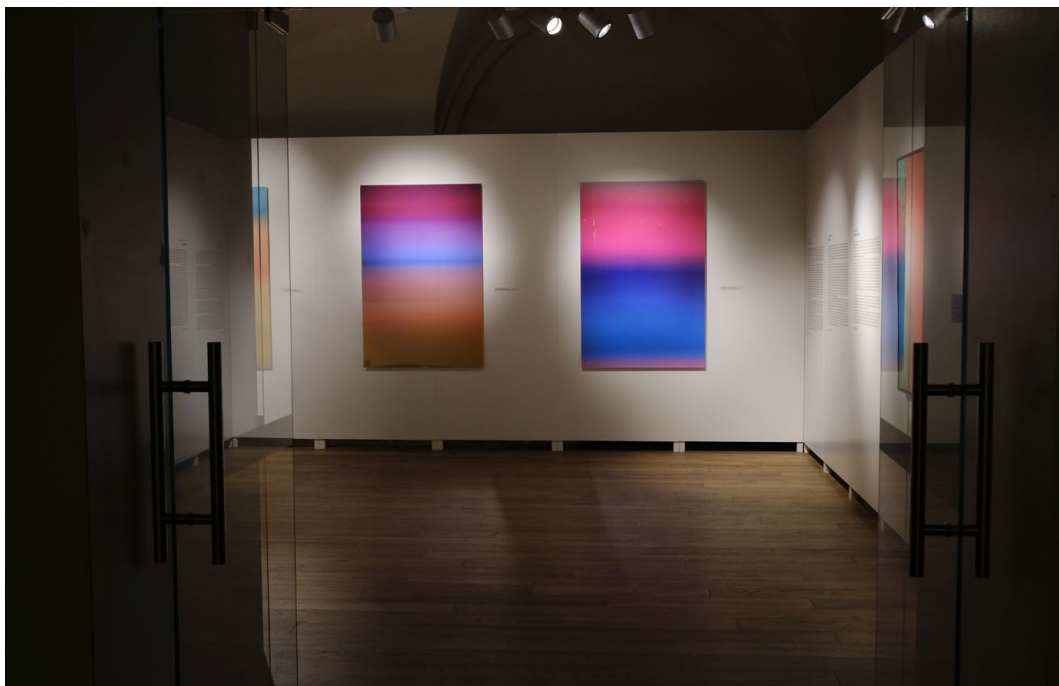
Exhibition announced in Latvian, in English and in Russian



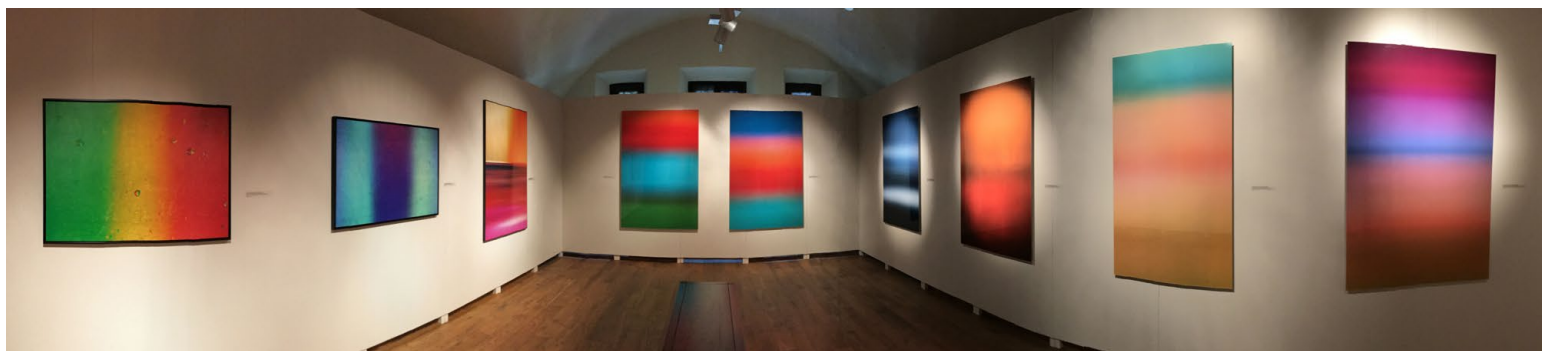
Entrance of the section where my exhibition takes place

My exhibition *Tribute* has a place of honor in the museum because it is situated facing the rooms dedicated to Mark Rothko. Kate and Christopher Rothko, the children of the artist, give to the museum 4 to 6 original works which are renewed every 3 years. The works are accompanied with a presentation very documented on the bibliographic and esthetic route of Mark Rothko. A real national pride!

My choice of photos for this exhibition was in connection with my sensibility for the pictorial work of Mark Rothko. Beyond the shape and the colors, Rothko especially enjoyed confronting his paintings with the human feelings. "Silence is so accurate" he said. An almost religious experience which he felt himself when he painted. The treatment and the strength of colors, the apparent simplicity of a subtle and complex work, as well as the contemplative character of the paintings of Mark Rothko are elements which have been guiding me since several years and where from arises my series *Coloured Meditation* largely present in the exhibition.



Entrance of the room where my exhibition takes place



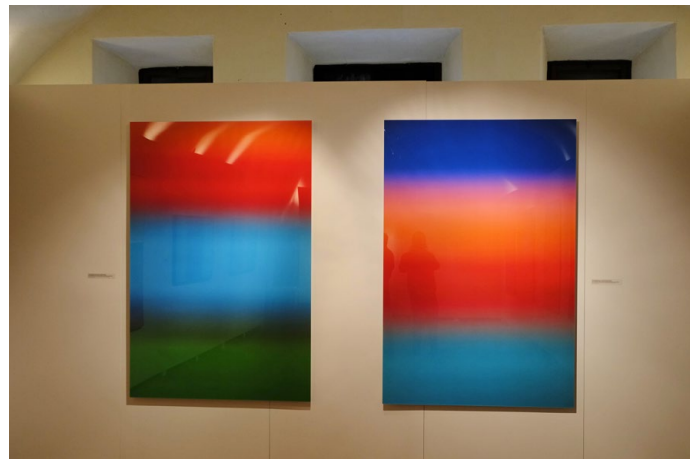
Panoramic view of the main part of my exhibition



YVES ULLENS  
APLIECINĀJUMS

Pabeidzis karjeru telekomunikāciju nozarē, Ivs Ullens nolēma pāriet uz citu nozari – fotogrāfijai. Būdams pusaudzis, viņš radīja savus pirmos attēlus ar kameru, kas bija noslēpums savas vecsmātes slavenās fotogrāfes un operātes lumbā. Šajā laikā viņam apguva tehnisko meistarību ASV pie diviem profesionāliem fotogrāfiem, kas viņam nodrošināja viņam novērošanas svarīgumu. Ivs Ullens trenējās ar un apguva fotogrāfijas izstrādāšanu, un viņam patīkās mākslas galerijas un gadatirgus.

Ivs Ullens izpētīja dažādus veidus, kā izstrādāt attēlus, un viņš nolēma izstrādāt attēlus, kas ir abpusējais redzējums. Šajā laikā viņam patīkās mākslas galerijas un gadatirgus. Ivs Ullens izpētīja dažādus veidus, kā izstrādāt attēlus, un viņš nolēma izstrādāt attēlus, kas ir abpusējais redzējums. Šajā laikā viņam patīkās mākslas galerijas un gadatirgus.





## YVES ULLENS TRIBUTE

After a career in the telecommunications sector, Yves Ullens decided to dedicate himself entirely to his lifelong passion: photography. As a teenager, he had developed his first prints and learned the ropes of lab work in the dark room of his grandmother, herself a noted photographer and filmmaker. During a year's study in the United States, he took technical lessons with two professional photographers who taught him about the importance of observation above all else. Yves Ullens developed an experienced eye and gained a lot of background theory about photography by assiduously attending contemporary art galleries and fairs.

His artistic vocation revealed itself rather late in his life pursuant to the unexpected outcome of a photograph taken during a stay in Turkey. An accidental blur awakened his innate sense of abstraction and plays on light. It was the outcome of a well-defined choice of subject matter, lighting, strict framing and a controlled capture of the image with the camera in motion. This photograph marks the start of Yves Ullens' quest for personal creativity. Little by little, Yves Ullens developed his photographic technique that involves free movement of the camera, almost a dance, when he lets himself be guided by his emotions and his imagination. The subject matter of the photographs is inspired by the artist's travels and day-to-day life: an object, a landscape, a particular material... It becomes an unexpected pictorial composition, bright, vibrant and colourful, in many ways akin to a painting, with the brush being replaced by the lens of the camera; the artist takes a deliberately aesthetic and sensorial approach to his works. Each photographic composition features a visual sensibility that is made enhanced by the artist's perpetual quest for capturing the vital energy of light and of colours, transcending the conventions and the rules of traditional photography.

There are numerous references to painting in Yves Ullens' work. The optical effects and the geometric compositions of certain images such as *Blue Floating Shapes into Red*, *Disco Lights* or *White Light Sculpture* evoke the kinetic works of Victor Vasarely or Bridget Riley. His more recent works in the *Coloured Meditation* series evoke the *Colorfield Paintings* of Mark Rothko, the American painter, who used to express himself by means of one or more colours, with vague contours, laid flat on the canvas.

The abstract photographs of Yves Ullens explore new aesthetic avenues and invite the viewer to embark on a sensory journey. Each of the images has a title that evokes strong and positive emotions. There is a certain sensitivity linked to the state of mind of the artist for which he is keen to share through his works. The endless variety of colours and lights, whether natural or artificial, results from the richness of the textures and the forms captured by the lens. The subject is no longer identifiable and simply vanishes, making way for emotions and imagination.

Caroline Bouchard

The public came in large numbers at the varnishing of the exhibitions of the Mark Rothko Art Center on September 22nd of this year. I was particularly touched by the fervour of the visitors of any age and coming from all the horizons. Very curious, the visitors asked me numerous questions, wanted autographs and took many photos and selfies!



The numerous public outside of the Mark Rothko Centre during the speeches the day of the varnishing,





With my wife



My speech of thanking directly translated

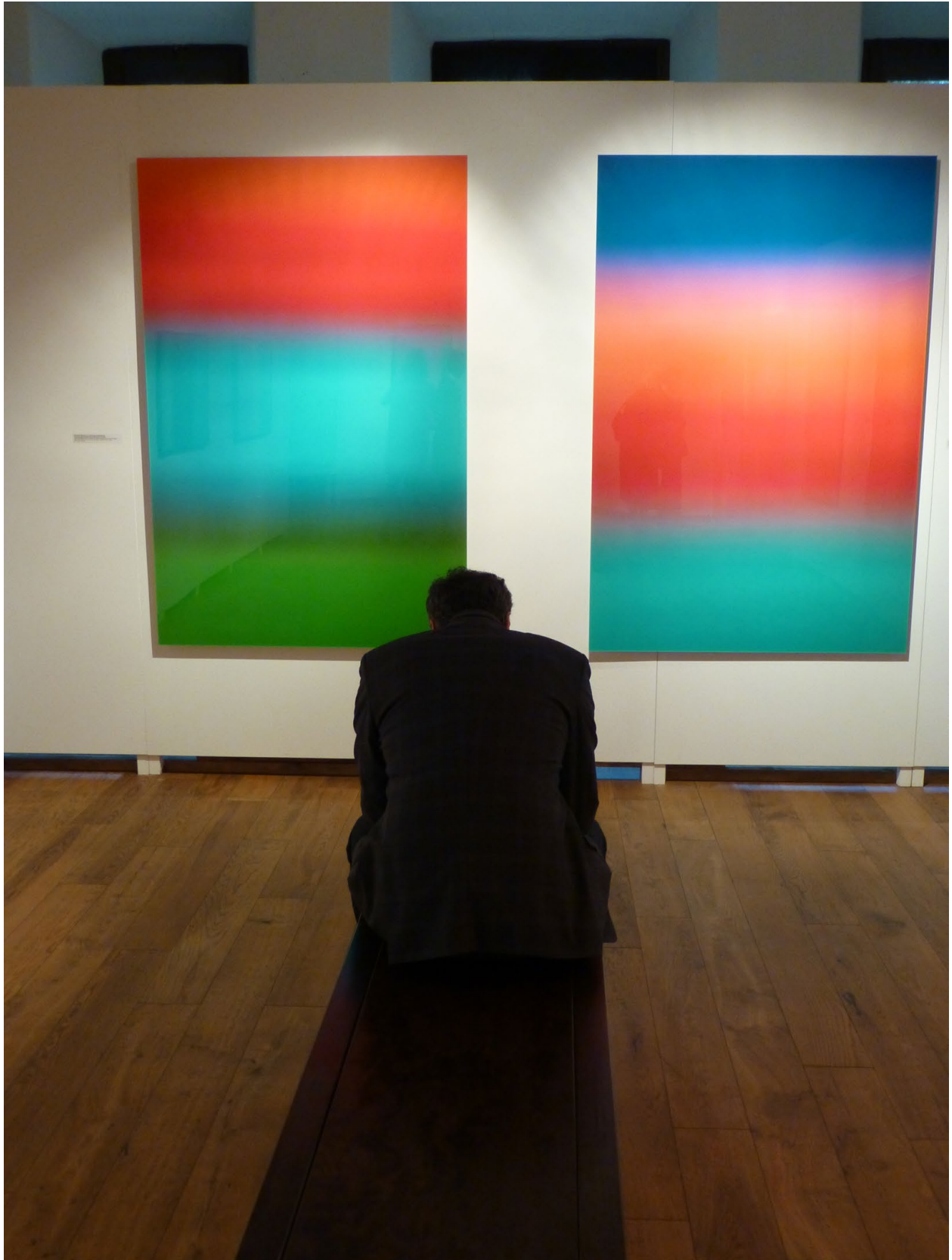


In the middle of an interview









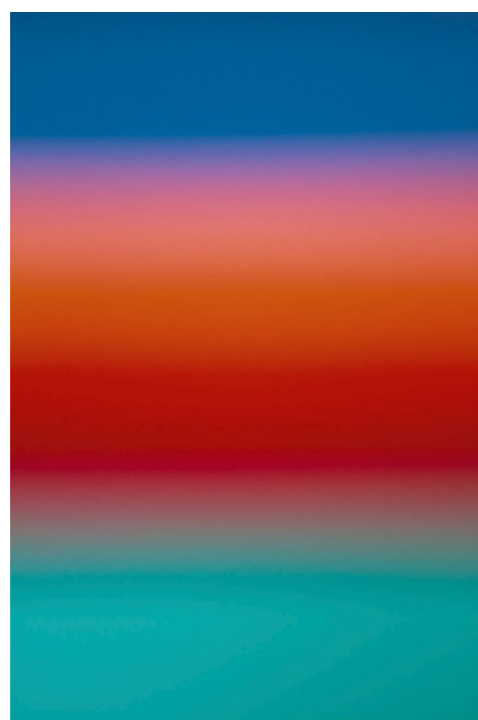


I would like to warmly thank Māris Cacka, the director of the Mark Rothko Art Center, who invited me to show my works in this beautiful museum setting. Surrounded by a young and dynamic team, he organized a high-quality exhibition of which I am very proud. The exhibition will stay some time on the spot to consider traveling to the Baltic countries, Belarus and Scandinavia.

And I am especially proud that one of my works, *Colored Meditation # 3*, entered the collection of the museum. My first work in a museum collection and more particularly in a museum dedicated to Mark Rothko!



With Māris Cacka in front of *Coloured Meditation #3*  
acquired by the Rothko museum



We kindly invite you to  
Rothko exhibition session  
with the opening of

**Yves Ullens exhibition «Tribute»**

and 5 new modern and contemporary art projects

at Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre  
Mihaila Street 3, Daugavpils, Latvia  
on 22 September, 2017 at 4PM

The invitation



This journey was filled with many positive feelings that I had the great joy to share with my wife Bénédicte and a big part of my team. After the visit of Māris Cacka during the fair Art14 in London where he had noticed my photos on the stand of the gallery Pascal Janssens, Dianne Beal, my American agent, organized the exhibition details with the Mark Rothko Centre. Caroline Bouchard helped me set up the exhibition and Hervé Depuydt filmed the exhibition. The movie of the exhibition will be visible on my website in the course of November.



With Māris Cacka and Dianne Beal



In the company of Dianne Beal, Hervé Depuydt and Caroline Bouchard.



## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Yves Ullens. *Urban Traces Project*

MM Gallery – Place du Jeu de Balle 68 – 1000 Brussels

From November 9th until December 3th 2017

Opening thursday November 16th from 5.30PM until 9PM

[www.mmgallery.be](http://www.mmgallery.be)

From November 9, MM Gallery will unveil for the first time to the public my new series of photographs *Urban Traces Project*. This set of prints is a continuation of an aesthetic reflection on abstraction, focusing in particular on the effects of structures, textures and colors drawn from the urban environment. My gaze has focused on insignificant details and yet very present in our daily life. *Urban Traces Project* are detailed images of pedestrian crossings or ground markings of megacities around the world (New York, Paris, Brussels, London, Barcelona, Shanghai ...). At first glance, these traces on the ground may seem very similar and yet by looking more closely at these urban footprints, I tried to unveil a great variety of colours and shapes related to their wear, abrasion or gap, disappearing little to little in the movement of the urban density. These successive layers in asphalt then appear as an archaeological mirror of our urban lives. A spiritual connection with the journey of my grandmother, Marie-Thérèse Ullens, who was a traveler, photographer, filmmaker and archaeologist.

I have been working on the *Urban Traces Project* series since 2005 in parallel to my abstract photographic work. In this series, abstraction is no longer obtained thanks to the movement of the camera but by the subject himself. Always looking for light and colour, I compose my images in reference to painting. The series of traces is particularly reminiscent of the art brut and especially the poetic experiments of Jean Dubuffet in the 50s. A poetry picking from the ephemeral textures of our daily lives. Through this exhibition, I invite you to dream and let your imagination and your emotions wander into the abstract urban forms unveiled on a large scale.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication.



**MM GALLERY**

Marc Minjauw & Sylvie Morel  
ont le plaisir de vous inviter

le jeudi **16 novembre** à partir de **17h30**,  
en présence de l'artiste, au vernissage  
de l'exposition «**URBAN TRACES PROJECT**»  
des œuvres photographiques de

**Yves ULLENS**  
qui se tiendra jusqu'au 3 décembre 2017

à la **MM GALLERY**  
Cour de la place du Jeu de Balle, 68  
1000 Bruxelles

Ouvert le jeudi, vendredi, samedi & dimanche,  
11:00 > 17:30 ou sur rendez-vous

Reponse souhaitée à : [marc@mmgallery.be](mailto:marc@mmgallery.be)  
Grand parking gratuit : place du Jeu de Balle

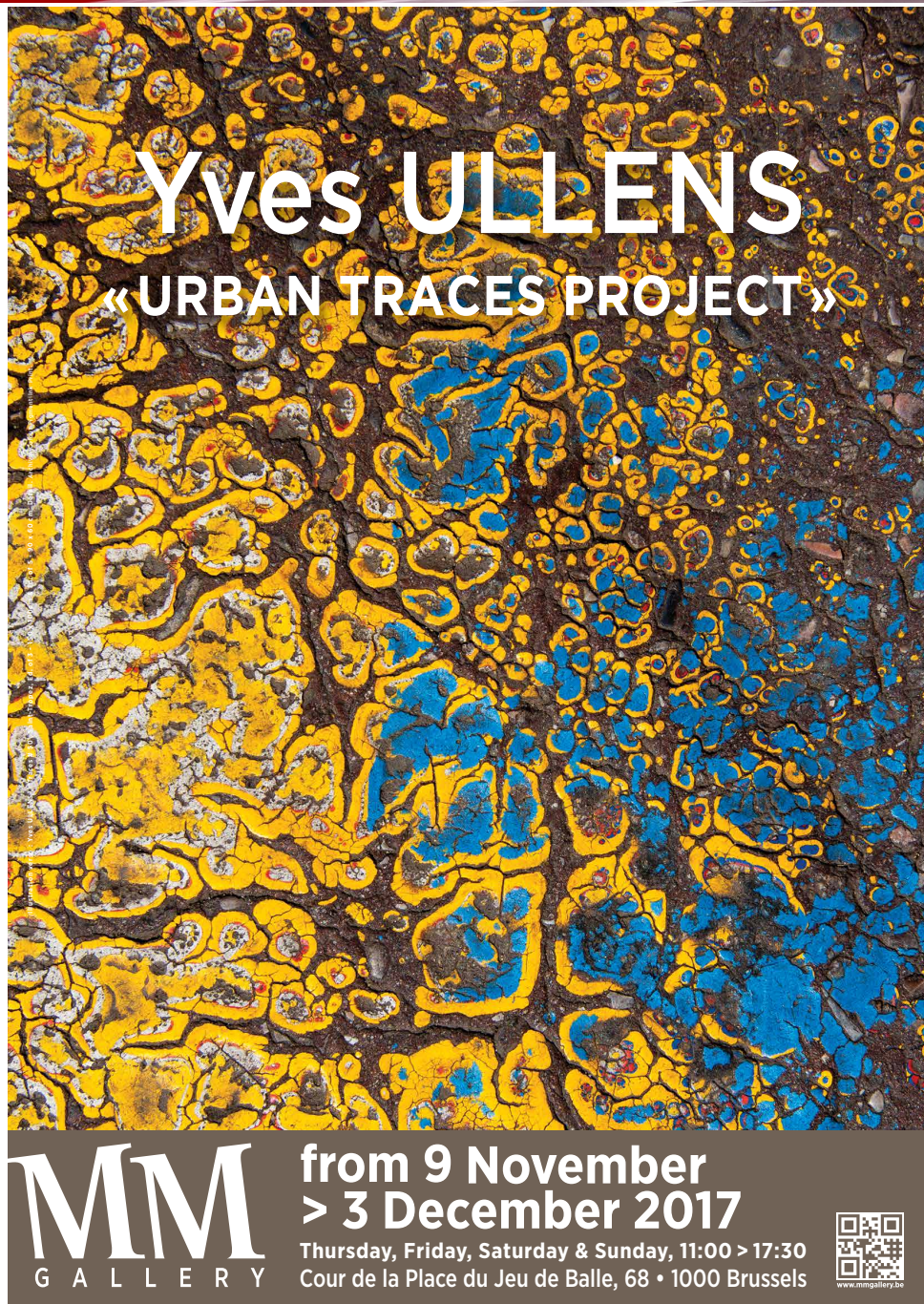
Belgium vno: Yves ULLENS - Place du Jeu de Balle 68 - 1000 Brussels - Belgium - Belgium  
www.mmgallery.be

T: +32(0)484.501.043 • [www.mmgallery.be](http://www.mmgallery.be)

epost  
PB-PP  
BELGIËN - BELGIQUE

The invitation of the exhibition *Urban Traces Project*





The poster of the exhibition



The prints



## ORDERS

A Belgian architectural firm contacted me as part of an exclusive and innovative property project. They entrusted me with the dressing of the wall of the main entrance which serves three large luxurious lofts in a building made of revolutionary materials. The dominant tones of the building are gray, black and white. For this project, I created an entirely exclusive work in bright colours with predominantly red and orange which contrast with the sobriety of the tones of the architecture of the building. And the vertical rhythm of the image fits in with the clean lines of the entrance. To my credit, the title of the work *Balanced Rainbow* became, at the request of the contractor and the architect, the name of the residence.

Another more monumental and outdoor project is under construction for another housing building in Brussels. To follow in my next newsletter ...

I want to develop this activity related to architecture and interior decoration, with the help of my new assistant, Alexia Van de Velde, who has just joined my team and with whom I started working on different projects .



*Balanced Rainbow*, Berlin (Germany), 2014  
Chromaluxe, unique  
66.9 x 43.3 inches



Alexia Van de Velde, my new assistant



## WHEN THE ART SUPPORTS ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

de Duve Institut  
[www.deduveinstitute.be](http://www.deduveinstitute.be)

In 2015, I was honoured to have participated in the charity auction organized by the Institut de Duve to support basic biomedical research by donating one of my works. This year, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor Christian De Duve, I had the great pleasure of donating a work for their charity gala on October 5th.

This marvelous evening was honored by the presence of Princess Astrid and her husband, the Prince Lorenz. On this occasion, an auction was organized to support the research of the Institute of Duve. One of my works was proposed to this sale and it was a great success !

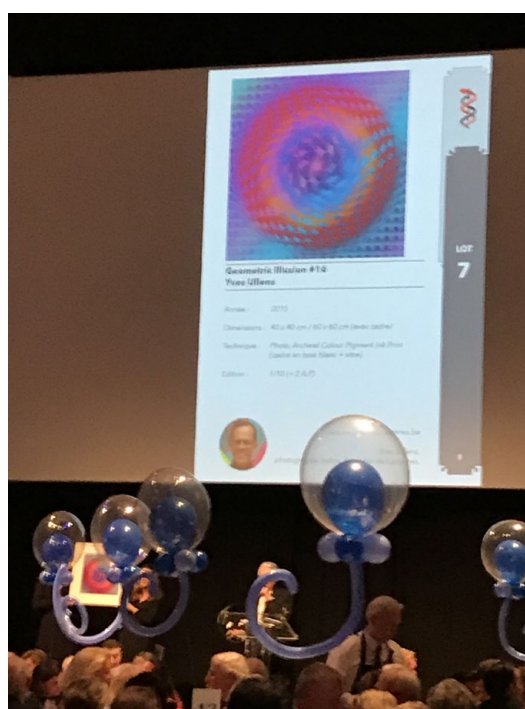
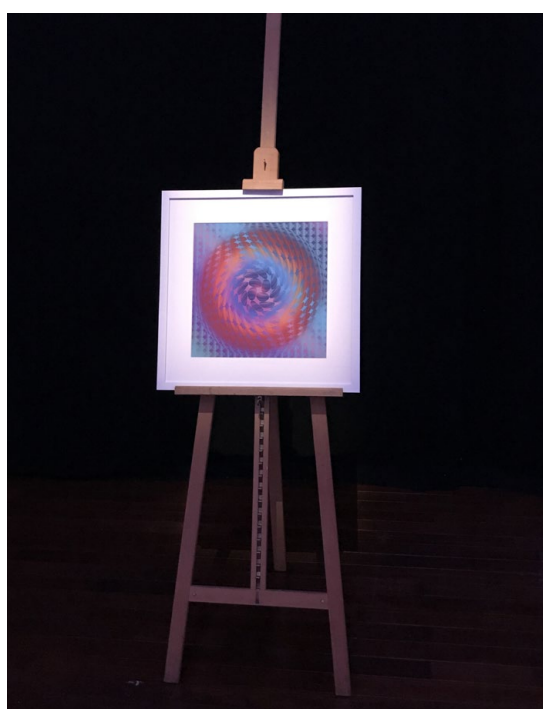


**Geometric Illusion #16**  
Yves Ullens

Année : 2015  
Dimensions : 40 x 40 cm / 60 x 60 cm (avec cadre)  
Technique : Photo, Archival Colour Pigment Ink Print  
(cadre en bois blanc + vitre)  
Edition : 1/10 (+ 2 A.P.)

<http://www.traqueurdelumieres.be>  
Yves Ullens,  
photographe belge.

LOT 7



**Group Exhibition *Kids'Hope* Art Fair**

**Faïenceries de Gien**

**Rue des Sablons 1**

**1000 Brussels**

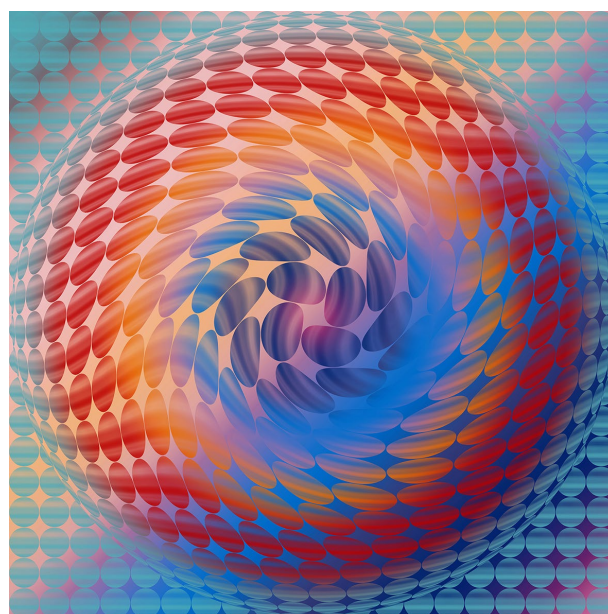
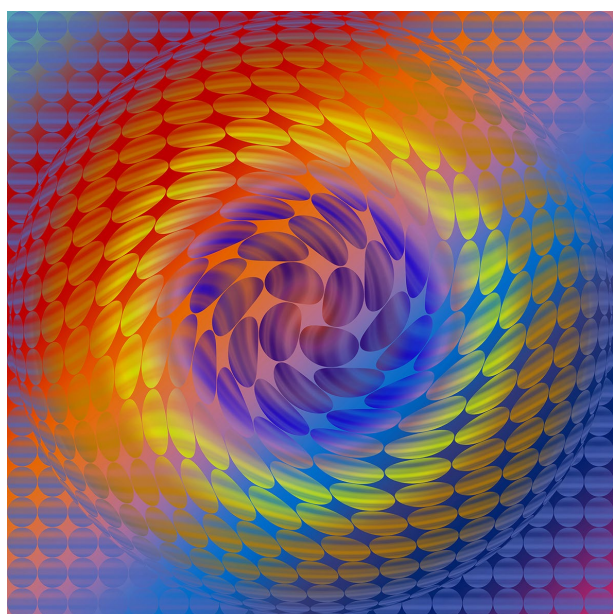
**[www.kidshope.be](http://www.kidshope.be)**

**From thursday November 9th until monday November 13th 2017**



This year, the *Kids' Hope* association is organizing a charity exhibition for the benefit of Cité Joyeuse - the orphan's home, which welcomes children in difficulty. A very nice initiative to which I am very pleased to participate with the exhibition organized at the Faienceries of Gien in Sablon from 9 to 13 November 2017.

To find out more: L'Asbl *Kids'Hope* was founded in 1990 to provide direct assistance to La Cité Joyeuse - Le Foyer des Orphelins, Center Arnaud Fraiteur. La Cite Joyeuse was founded in 1914 by Ovide Decroly, Nicolas Smelten and Charles de Gronckel, pioneers of the new school, to give a home to the orphans of the 1914-18 war. Over time, the population of men has changed by force of circumstances, welcoming children disrupted by inadequate family situations, morally or emotionally abandoned, delayed, traumatized. More than 250 children, aged 2 to 18, occupy seven family-owned lodges in a seven-hectare park on the Osseghem plateau in Molenbeek-Saint-Jean.



*Geometric Illusion #14 and #16*



## PAST EXHIBITIONS

### Abstraction Group Show, MM Gallery, Brussels, from June 16th until September 3rd 2017.

I am pleased to announce my new collaboration with MM Gallery. The line of the gallery of Marc Minjauw, situated on the charming *Place du Jeu de Balle* in Brussels, is the colour and the contemporary abstract art in painting. This summer, the MM Gallery presented a collection of works by artists represented by the gallery, mostly painters or sculptors: Kiro Urdin, Valerie Lenders, Claudie Laks, Jacques Bage, Gérard Stricher, Pascal Courcelles, Luis Salazar, Angelo Vullo, Richard Lauret, Marc Renard, Philippe Huart, Sixteen Happywallmaker and some of my photographs. A step before my personal exhibition which will be presented from November 9th to December 3rd, 2017. Photography is a new medium that makes its entry in the MM Gallery. A new and rewarding adventure for the gallery owner and myself!



Square Variation #1



#### Abstraction Group Show - Summer 2017

Opening 15 June

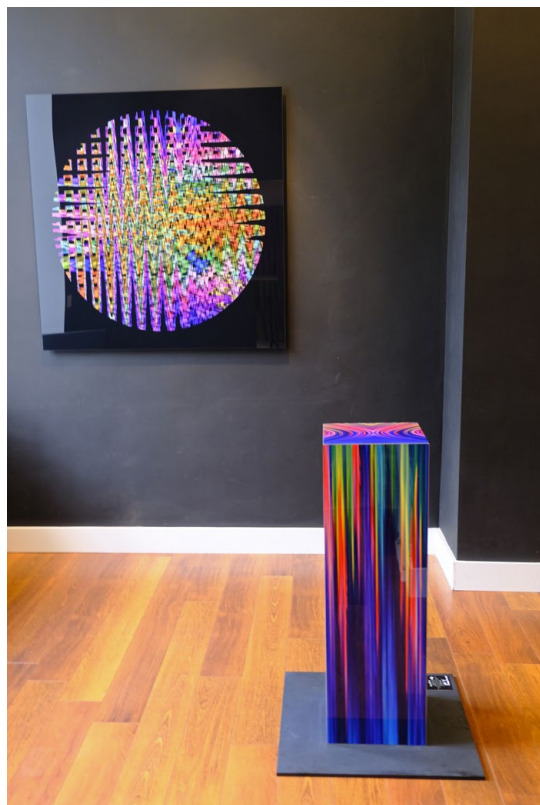
16 JUN - 3 SEP 2017

Kiro URDIN  
Valérie LENDERS  
Claudie LAKS  
Jacques BAGE  
Gérard STRICHER  
Pascal COURCELLES  
Luis SALAZAR  
Angelo VULLO  
Richard LAURET  
Marc RENARD  
Philippe HUART  
Seize HAPPYWALLMAKER  
Yves ULLENS



Yves Ullens. *Cosmic illusions*, LE 13, Brussels, from 20th until 30th of April 2017.

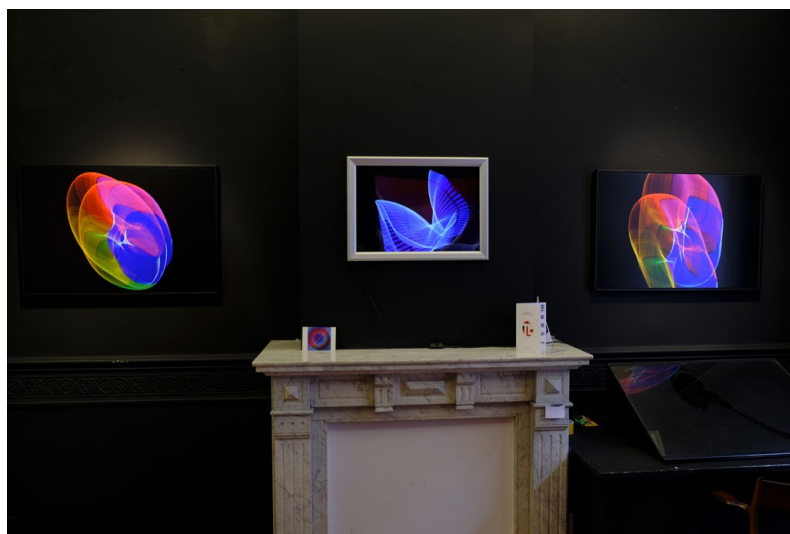
The exhibition organized and curated by ALVARI at 13 rue Africaine in Brussels was a great success. I am very touched by the warm welcome of many visitors at the discovery my new series of photographs optics. Here are some views of the exhibition.



*Coloured Constellation #7 and Triple Pi*



*Blue Floating Shapes Into Red #1*



*Cosmic Lights #1 et #3 enclosing the Butterfly of Light #3*



*With ALVARI in front of Geometric Illusions #6, #15 and #9*



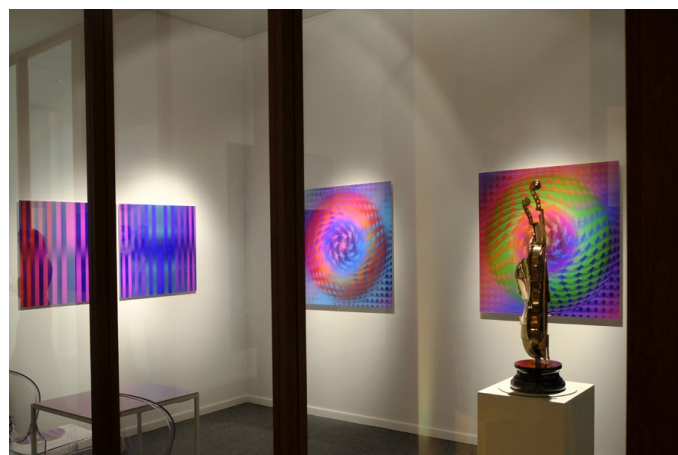
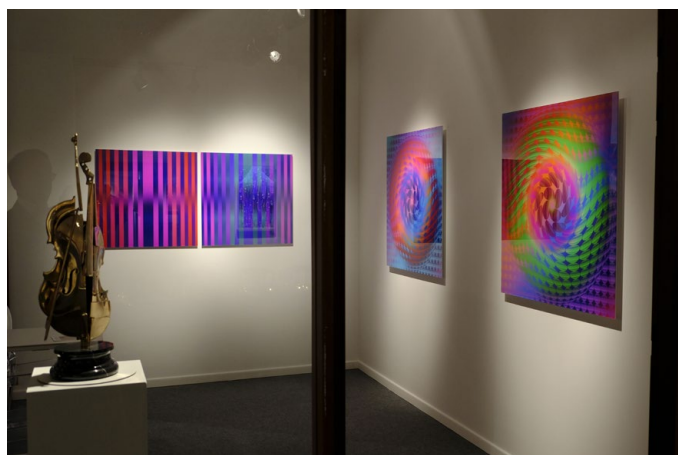
## ART FAIRS

The second edition of the Belgian fair Cube took place in Brussels mid-October. Mark Hachem, my gallery owner from New York, Paris and Beirut, showed 3 works of my recent series of optical art.

**Cube Art Fair**  
**The American Art Fair**  
142 Rue de Stalle  
1180 Uccle  
[www.cubeartfair.com](http://www.cubeartfair.com)  
October 12th - 15th, 2017



The invitation

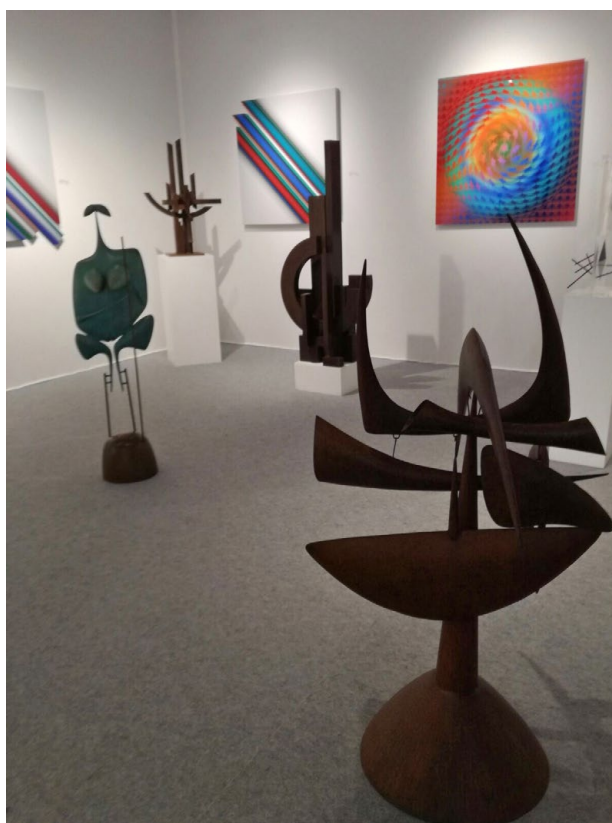


Partial view of the Mark Hachem Gallery stand - Armand and Yves Ullens  
(*Square Variation* & *Geometric Illusions* #15 & #6)

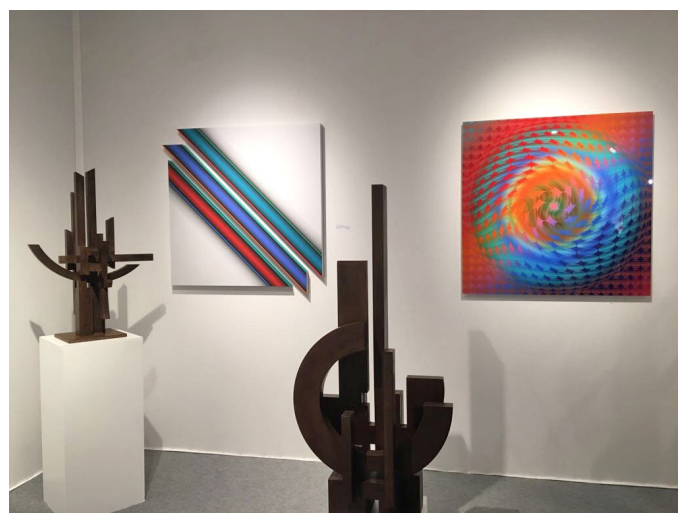
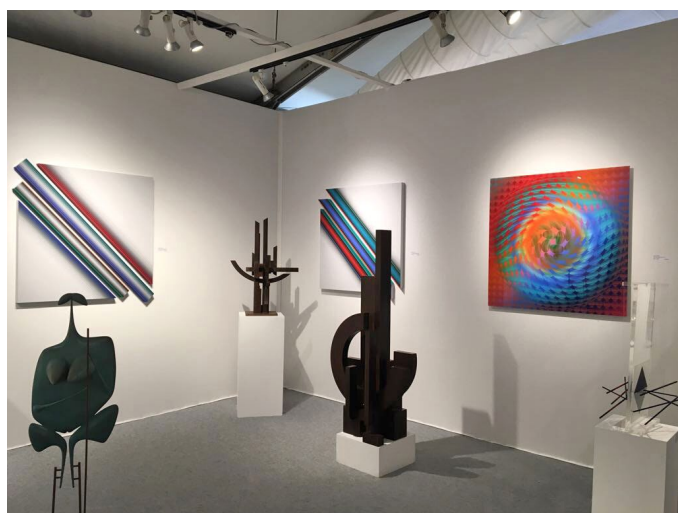
From October 19th to 23rd, ART ÉLYSÉES - Art & Design rediscovered, for its eleventh edition, the Avenue des Champs-Élysées and brought together under three ephemeral pavilions nearly 100 galleries, presenting a wide panorama of the modern art of the contemporary art and twentieth century furniture design. On the stand of the Mark Hachem gallery, you could discover beautiful works by Philippe Hiquily, Dario Perez Flores and my photography *Geometric Illusion # 10*.

## ART ÉLYSÉES

Pavilions, avenue des Champs-Elysees, Paris 8th  
from Place Clemenceau to Place de la Concorde  
<http://www.artelysees.fr>  
October 19 - 23, 2017



Views of the Mark Hachem gallery's stand





## EXHIBITIONS TO SEE

### *L'expérience de la Couleur*

National Museum of ceramic, Sèvres, France

October 13th 2017- April 2nd 2018

[www.sevresciteceramique.fr](http://www.sevresciteceramique.fr)

This exhibition is a Must for lovers of colour!

"This exhibition tackles the fundamental question of artists' perception of colors, from an essentially sensorial point of view. Source of pleasure, symbol of power, catalyst of memory, color is for the artist a powerful tool that affects our emotions, well beyond our thoughts. The 400 works presented are mainly from the collections of the National Museum of Ceramics in Sèvres and exceptional loans from large public collections, in particular the National Museum of Modern Art - Center Pompidou (about fifty works), Decorative Arts, the National Arts Center, the Mobilier National and the CIRVA. Many loans artists, galleries and collectors complete the selection of works presented in the exhibition."

