

MANHU

Unpublished works 1986 - 1992

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Time had stood still for forty years in the dim light of the family warehouse. Today, the rediscovered works of the French artist MANHU (Manuel Volanis) are brought back to life in the light of La Fab. This tribute has been made possible thanks to the passionate commitment and trust of his sister Ariane, her husband Sylvain Pelly, and his daughter Lili Ullmann, to whom we extend our warmest thanks.

Born in Paris in 1961 and tragically lost in 2007, this avant-garde painter left behind a body of work brimming with vibrant pictorial energy. His work draws inspiration from Street Art and Figuration Libre – a movement that champions the right to draw upon all forms of inspiration without any hierarchy. On the canvas, an explosion of colours and sharp, sweeping strokes collide; a raw rhythm whose power gives rise to exhilarating forms, the true hallmark of MANHU.

MANHU was a member of the collective Les frères Ripoulin, a major movement within the alternative art scene of the 1980s, whose name was inspired by the combination of the paint brand Ripolin and the term ‘ripou’, derived from a slang word in Verlan. Originally, the Ripolin poster, designed in 1898 by the poster artist Eugène Vavas seur, depicted three men painting each other’s backs, one after the other, creating a comical situation. The medium left a lasting impression on the collective: in turn, they created posters which they stuck directly onto walls.

In 1987, at an exhibition dedicated to the Ripoulin brothers at the Galerie du Jour, agnès b. stated the following:

“ Because I love them ! I think everyone has their own role within the group and enriches the others through their presence, with everyone working in their own unique way. ”

Building on these enduring historical ties, we now invite you to rediscover these works, in keeping with the history of the Galerie du Jour and thanks to the invaluable support of the agnès b. Endowment Fund.

On this occasion, Ariane spoke about her brother’s work:

“ Her painting is distinguished by a chromatic virtuosity that creates dynamic spaces of astonishing depth. Through highly technical acrylic work and intense colours, she explores the body, transformation and the vitality of the contemporary world, whilst offering a visual experience of moving complexity; between bursts of energy and metamorphoses, her paintings invite us to immerse ourselves in a universe that is both rich and instinctive, whose formal power, narrative and colours move us. ”

Today, nearly twenty years after his death, the Volanis family and La Fab. are working together to bring this unique body of work back into the spotlight. The exhibition also invites visitors to discover a selection of images of works preserved by his daughter Lili in the painter’s former studio in Nuremberg, Germany. These hidden treasures are just waiting to be brought to light to finally honour the memory of MANHU.

List of works



Untitled - MANHU (undated)

73 x 100 cm
Stretched on a frame
Signed



La Griffe - MANHU (1989)

100 x 100 cm
Stretched on a frame
Signed



Untitled - MANHU (1985)

96 x 170 cm
Flag fabric
Unsigned



Ça coule - MANHU (1991)

202 x 207 cm
Stretched on a frame
Signed



***Le nez dans l'herbe* - MANHU (1992)**

150 x 200 cm
Stretched on a frame
Signed



***Merde dorée* - MANHU (1991)**

81 x 100 cm
Stretched on a frame
Unsigned



***La Normandie sous la boue* - MANHU (1991)**

100 x 120 cm
Stretched on a frame
Signed



***Tremblement de toile* - MANHU (1992)**

200 x 300 cm
Stretched on a frame
Unsigned



***Cocktail Molotov* - MANHU (1986)**

140 x 156 cm
Stretched on a frame
Signed