

HUBERTY  
& BREYNE

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LOUSTAL

*Ultramarines*

09.12.21  
> 08.01.22  
**PARIS**



*Watching the birds, 2021*  
Oil on canvas, 97 x 146 cm

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Jacques de Loustal is a keen traveller, a talented illustrator and a successful comic book author whose work is imbued with a real atmosphere of exoticism. While he may be best known for his literary illustrations and his travel sketchbooks, Loustal's artistic universe also encompasses painting, and it is Jacques de Loustal the painter who is the focus of this exhibition.

From 9 December 2021 to 8 January 2022, the Huberty & Breyne's gallery in avenue Matignon will be showing Loustal's most recent canvases and reverse glass paintings. These works hover somewhere between the real and the imaginary and are full of references to an "elsewhere", a genuine invitation to dream. Interiors that are somehow familiar, luminous exteriors, sensitive portraits and genre scenes – these works demonstrate the range of the artist's immense talent and the subtle treatment of colour for which he is so justly known. Contemplative scenes emanating a peaceful stillness, cinematic angles, figures outlined in black, a sunlit atmosphere...these are what the viewer can expect from the paintings on show here.



Portrait 4, 2021  
Lacquered paint on glass, 50 x 40 cm

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“That’s freedom.

Freedom to choose your landscape, freedom to compose your images, which amount simply to the pleasure of painting added to the pleasure of travelling.”

**Jacques de LOUSTAL**

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# Jacques de LOUSTAL

Jacques de Loustal is an artist impossible to classify – illustrator, great painter and masterful storyteller. For the last 30 years, he has merely been following his artistic whims. Endlessly curious, drawing his inspiration from the world of jazz, cinema and far-flung places, he has more than 90 published works to date, the product of his highly personal vision.

It was the family library and the exotic memories of his military parents and grandparents that instilled in Loustal a love of travel. An insatiable globetrotter, he never goes anywhere without his sketchbook and his pencils, always combining the pleasure of travelling with the pleasure of drawing.

From the deep-blue oceans of the South to America's wide-open spaces via Asia and Latin America, Loustal travels the world filling up sketchbook after sketchbook, and there are few places which he has not yet drawn. "Every street corner is a new landscape. When I'm travelling, I am fully aware. I sit down and I listen to the sound the pen makes on the paper," he says. Brushes, oils, ink, charcoal, pencil, watercolour – he experiments with every technique available.

In his sketchbooks, Loustal recreates experiences, memories and impressions, sharing his journeys with the viewer. He has published some twenty or so sketchbooks recording his longer journeys, and the sketchbooks themselves have inspired as many paintings. Far-flung destinations, expressively drawn figures, luminous landscapes... all have opened the doors to cultural institutions overseas where Loustal has regularly been invited to exhibit. The last such sketchbook, *Aux antipodes*, was published by La Table Ronde.



Portrait 2, 2021  
Lacquered paint on glass, 50 x 40 cm



Portrait 3, 2021  
Lacquered paint on glass, 50 x 40 cm



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## 4 questions for Jacques de Loustal :

**Jacques de Loustal, we are all familiar with your drawings. What advantage does painting bring you?**

I'm a completely self-taught painter, just as I'm a self-taught comic book writer. What you have to understand is that I have had no real artistic training. I went to Fine Art school to study architecture, and you don't learn much about drawing that way. It's possible to tell from my paintings which artists I like and have been influenced by – Gauguin, Modigliani, Matisse, Beckmann and Hockney, among others. When I'm travelling, I like going to see painters in their studios, and seeing the popular art I've got to know in Africa and in Asia. When I think of an image that I want to make, I know whether it's going to be a charcoal drawing, or a watercolour, or an oil painting. And it's when I'm painting that I surprise myself most. I never know where I am going to end up. I am guided by the materials and the size of the canvas. It's very stimulating work. I got to like it, but it took me a long time! Some of my compositions are based on sketches I made while travelling.

**You favour painting in oils. Why is that?**

I never paint with acrylic, which as far as I'm concerned is a derivative of gouache, a material I loathe. Oil paint is much richer, more alive; it's the continuation of watercolour. It takes longer, certainly, but it enables me to create an impression of relief and to blend the colours.

**You are also showing reverse glass paintings in this exhibition. How do you go about making those?**

Reverse glass painting is another technique that produces a very different finished effect. First, you paint the black on the back of the glass; then you add the areas of colour. I also sign my name on the back. When you turn it over, the painting is beneath the glass, and so brilliant there's really nothing like it! It's a technique I developed some years ago after I'd been to West Africa, where it's fairly widespread. More than anything, it was to replace what I was doing (and really enjoying doing) back then with silk screen printing, a technique that's been abandoned these days in favour of digital printing.

**It's possible to identify certain recurrent motifs in your works. Do you have favourite themes?**

In terms of themes, I alternate between big landscapes, nudes and the odd interior. But the compositions are always very pared back. There are recurring elements in my images. I only ever draw things I find attractive. I am fascinated by the animal world... dogs, birds, fish... Whenever I am by the sea, I go and take a look at the fishermen, and the fish markets. I look at all those extraordinary shapes that are hauled up from the seabed.



*Rue des sables, 2021*  
Oil on canvas, 100 x 81 cm



*La carangue bleue avait sa préférence, 2021*  
Oil on canvas, 73 x 92 cm



*Un livre remarquable, 2021*  
Oil on canvas, 81 x 100 cm



*Un faré à Moorea, 2021*  
Oil on canvas, 73 x 92 cm

## LOUSTAL

*Ultramarines*

### PRIVATE VIEW

Wednesday 08 december 2021 from 5.00 pm to 8.30 pm  
in the presence of the artist

### EXHIBITION

From thursday 9 december 2021  
to Saturday 8 January 2022

36 avenue Matignon  
75008 Paris  
Lundi > Samedi 11h – 19h

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## CONTACT PRESSE

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Visuels HD disponibles sur demande  
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# HUBERTY & BREYNE

The Huberty & Breyne Gallery is a key reference point in the world of Comic Art and has been specialising in original cartoon work for almost 30 years now. Operating out of Brussels and Paris, Huberty & Breyne offers collectors a choice selection of original works by the greatest comic book illustrators of all time - the likes of Hergé, Franquin, Martin, Hubinon and Schuiten. It is the only gallery to represent the work of Milo Manara and also collaborates with contemporary artists such as Philippe Geluck, François Avril, Jean-Claude Götting, Loustal, Miles Hyman and Christophe Chabouté.

The Gallery is closely involved with the international art market scene and a contributor at major art fairs such as Brafa (Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair), 1 – 54 London, Art Paris Art Fair and Drawing Now.

Alain Huberty and Marc Breyne are also advisors to Christie's regarding the sale of works of Comic Art.

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## BRUXELLES | CHÂTELAIN

33 place du Châtelain  
1050 Bruxelles  
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Mardi > Samedi  
11h - 18h

## PARIS | MATIGNON

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75008 Paris  
+33 (0)1 40 28 04 71

Lundi > Samedi  
11h - 19h

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