

# HdM GALLERY

## IVAN MESSAC

06/09/2018 – 02/10/2018



But how did he manage, 2015



If you knew how I don't give a shit, 2015



More or less, she doesn't give, 2015

HdM GALLERY is pleased to announce the exhibition of the works of Ivan Messac. Proud to represent Ivan Messac, this new collaboration will be HdM's first exhibition of his work in London.

Born in Caen, in the Calvados region of Normandy in 1948, Messac is widely considered one of the foremost artists of the 'Figuration Narrative' Movement in 1970's, Messac worked alongside noted artists such as Erro, Jacques Monory and Peter Klassen. Leading critics have praised his work, among which are Jean-Louis Pradel and Jose Pierre.

As a splinter of the Pop Art Movement in Continental Europe, with its roots in France, the Figuration Narrative Movement was created in the mid-60's, and can be distinguished from Pop Art mainly by the political commitment of the artists with which it is associated. Believing Pop Art to be too far removed from the societal problems of the 1960's and 70's, these artists sought to highlight key political issues and conflicts, ranging from the Vietnam War and the Carnation Revolution of Portugal to the civil unrest in France during May of 1968.

A polymath, Messac's knowledge of and passion for literature, history and social criticism inspire and enrich the subject of his works. Indeed, throughout his work Messac's inspiration ranges from Greek mythology to contemporary social critique.

His series 'Absolute Minority' is the most notable example of the latter; first exhibiting three paintings in 1971 in memory of the persecuted American Indians, Messac proceeded to spend a further three years producing dozens of works on the same theme. These pieces drew critical acclaim and established Messac as a leading artist within the Figuration Narrative movement.

In medium Messac's work is not totally removed from the Pop Art Movement. Taking his inspiration from photographs and newspaper articles, his use of bold colour, text and contemporary icons such as rock stars and celebrities, calls to mind the work of Andy Warhol. As one of the first artists to use stencil as a primary medium, the aesthetic of Messac's works further cements the link between this most important movement of 1960's and the principle artistic movement in France of the 1970's. Throughout his work, we witness the creative developments happening in France from the late 70's onwards.

In 1983 Messac began experimenting with different mediums from sculpture to marble work, his work gaining considerable acclaim. However, it is his interest in painting that has endured – always returning to it, the pop movement of his youth remaining a consistent and unwavering theme throughout his works.

HdM GALLERY is pleased to be exhibiting Messac's most recent paintings. Taking inspiration from the effect of torchlight upon sculpture, Messac seeks to represent in 2D the additional transformative shapes this effect creates – the influences of the pop movement still rooted firmly in his compositions.

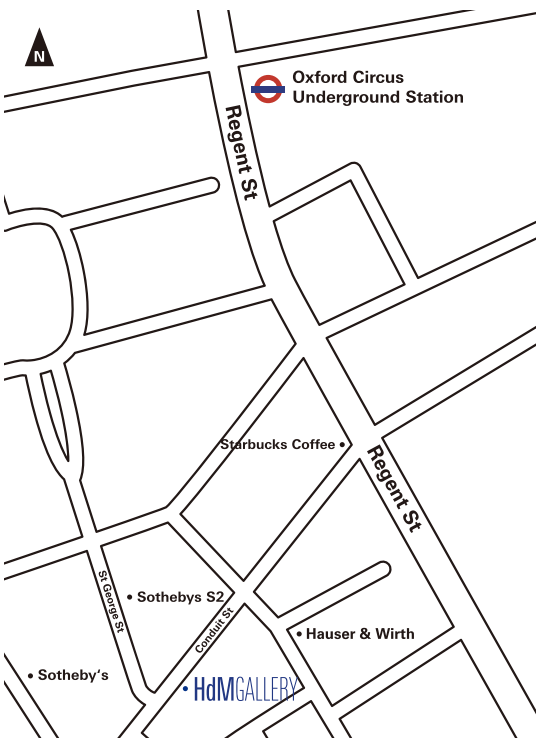
Shown and collected extensively in institutions and galleries, Messac has exhibited his work at the Centre Georges Pompidou, PARIS; the Musée du Quai Branly, PARIS; and La Patinoire Royale, BRUSSELS.



Beijing space



London space



## HdM GALLERY

HdM GALLERY is a leading contemporary gallery with a special focus on Contemporary Chinese Art. Founded on a passion for Chinese art, the first HdM GALLERY was opened in Beijing in 2009 - the success of which leading to a subsequent gallery opening in Hangzhou in 2013. Founders and partners Hadrien de Montferrand, Laurant Dassault, and Olivier Hervet have garnered over 10 years of experience and understanding of the art market in China, witnessing first-hand China's rapidly evolving art ecosystem.

HdM GALLERY proudly represents a wealth of emerging Chinese artists among which are He An, Chen Han, Hao Shiming, and Wang Yi. Having established a reputation as a leading gallery in the field of Chinese contemporary art - working with established Chinese artists such as Mao Yan and Liu Xiaodong - HdM GALLERY is dedicated to using their expertise to nurture and develop the careers of these new artists. Exhibiting regularly at prominent fairs such as Art Brussels, Photo London and Art Basel Hong Kong, HdM introduces contemporary Chinese artists to a worldwide client base and broadens perceptions, understanding and appreciation of these engaging contemporary works.

Though initially specialising exclusively in Chinese Art, the ethos of the gallery has since seen a development. HdM has evolved to work with noted Western artists - often exhibiting their works alongside their Chinese contemporaries, bridging the Chinese and Western art markets through this previously unexplored approach. The result is an exhibition with a unique and thought-provoking fusion of influences and on this topic, founder Hadrien de Montferrand defines the identity of the gallery as 'an international gallery with strong Chinese DNA'. Western artists such as Martin Kollar, Ivan Messac, Romain Bernini, Manuel Mathieu and Barthélemy Togo are currently represented by HdM GALLERY.

## FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than seven years at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and for the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

Laurent Dassault, an entrepreneur to the core, helped to found Arquana, continental Europe's leading horse auction house, in 2006. His entrepreneurial spirit extends to his charitable activities as well: Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for the auction house ARTCURIAL.

Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery's network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China.

## Gallery Contact

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Opening Hours: Monday - Friday from 10 am to 6pm

(By appointment)

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