

# MODERNISM

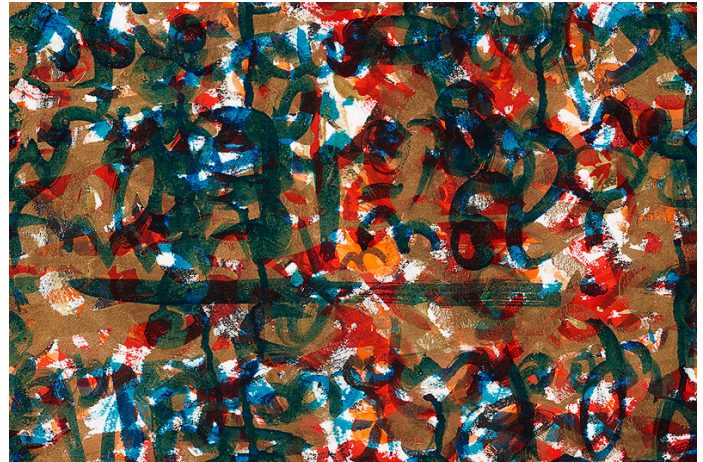
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Gallery Exhibition Schedule

**STÉPHANE ZAGDANSKI**  
*Jouissance du temps (Enjoyment of Time)*  
January 18 – March 3, 2018

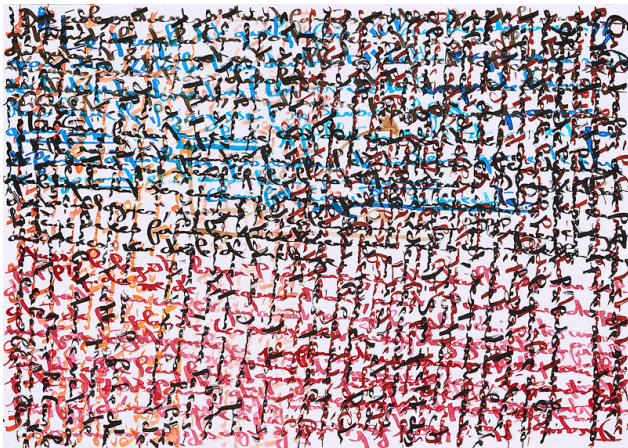
**MODERNISM WEST @ FOREIGN CINEMA**  
2534 Mission Street · San Francisco

Modernism is pleased to present the first U.S. exhibition of artworks by Stéphane Zagdanski.

*Jouissance du temps (Enjoyment of Time)* is a series of twelve recent paintings and drawings composed by Stéphane Zagdanski in 2016 and 2017. Each painting is an abstract calligraphic work comprised of the exact text of a short story from a collection that Zagdanski wrote in 2005, published in Paris by Éditions Fayard under the title of the opening short story: *Jouissance du temps*. The words are handwritten in such a way that the initial short story cannot be read. Zagdanski's purpose consists of dissolving the frontier between literature and art through what he calls "Word Mandalas," which are inspired by Tibetan sand mandalas that are erased and dissolved as soon as they are composed.



detail of: *Detachment (Détachement)*, 2017, mixed media on paper, 51 1/5 x 79 inches



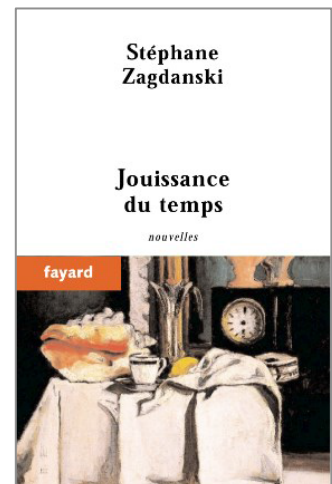
*La Can*, 2017, ink on paper, 11 5/8 x 16 1/2 inches

For twenty-five years, Stéphane Zagdanski has pursued a central theme in his novels and essays that he defines as "the Dialectic of Word and Image in Western Civilization." In 2013, the French author brought a new dimension to his literary art with an ambitious project named *RARE*, an autobiographic novel made of 100 unique pieces of art (exhibited in 2016 at Galerie Éric Dupont in Paris). In a new visual and aesthetic form, Zagdanski explored the same purpose as he had explored in a literary and theoretical form with his books: engaging a

reflection about the hybrid essence of handwriting, material and spiritual, and

making visible what he called "the invisibility of writing."

His new series, *Jouissance du temps (Enjoyment of Time)*, goes one step further in displaying the paradoxical dialogue between word/image and literature/art through the disappearance of the meaning of text into its own graphic representation. Although the words cannot be understood any



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longer, they are all there, a whole short story taking place on each painting and drawing, expressing the pure materiality of the text.

Therefore, the appearance of each painting depends on how many words the short story contains as much as on the colors and painting tools used by Zagdanski. The number of words in each short story determines the visual density of its resulting painting and, at the same time, the artist plays with the writing tools he chooses (brushes, nibs, chalks, pencils, pastels, acrylic, etc.).

A video of the complete handwriting process, from the first to the last word, is recorded for each painting. The twelve resulting videos of the series (some last more than 15 hours) become a part of the process. They can be edited, time-lapsed, and eventually subtitled in order to make the short story readable again.

Stéphane Zagdanski is a contemporary artist and writer, born in Paris in April of 1963. He has written about twenty books published by Gallimard, Fayard, Le Seuil, etc.

## Essays

*L'Impureté de Dieu: Souillures et Scissions dans la pensée juive*, Éditions du Félin, 1991 (rééd. revue et augmentée, 2005); *Céline seul*, Gallimard, 1993; *Le Sexe de Proust*, Gallimard, 1994; *De l'antisémitisme*, Julliard, 1995 (rééd. revue et augmentée, Climats Flammarion, 2006); *La Mort dans l'œil: Critique du cinéma comme vision, domination, falsification, éradiction, fascination, manipulation, dévastation, usurpation*, Maren Sell Éditeurs, 2004; *Debord ou la Diffraction du temps*, Gallimard, 2008

## Novels

*Les Intérêts du temps*, Gallimard, 1996; *Miroir amer*, Gallimard, 1999; *Pauvre de Gaulle!*, Pauvert, 2000; *Noire est la beauté*, Pauvert 2001 (rééd. Le Livre de Poche, 2003); *Chaos brûlant*, Le Seuil, 2012

## Plays

*Autour du désir*, Le Passeur, 2001

## Studies

*La Vérité nue, dialogue*, Pauvert, 2002; *Fini de rire, Études*, Pauvert, 2003; *Les Joies de mon corps*, Florilège, Pauvert, 2003; *Paysage avec Don Quichotte* (avec Ph. Fretz, St. Fretz et St. Zaech), art&fiction, 2005

## Memoirs

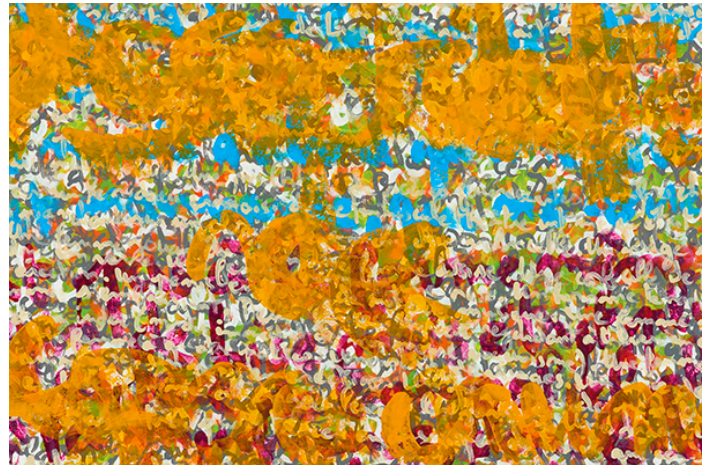
*Mes Moires*, Julliard, 1997

## Short-stories

*Jouissance du temps*, Fayard, 2005

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HI-RES IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

**LOCATION: MODERNISM WEST / FOREIGN CINEMA, 2534 MISSION, SAN FRANCISCO**  
**GALLERY HOURS: M-F 6-10PM, SAT-SUN 11AM-10PM, CALL 415-648-7600 TO CONFIRM ACCESS**



detail of: *The art matrix (La matrice d'art)*, 2017, acrylic on cotton, 59 3/4 x 43 inches