

An abstract painting by Jean Charles Blais. The composition features several dark, silhouetted figures against a background of light blue and grey tones. The figures are rendered with thick, expressive brushstrokes and some red and white highlights. The overall style is gestural and layered.

JEAN CHARLES BLAIS

OPERA GALLERY

JEAN CHARLES BLAIS

24 JANUARY — 16 FEBRUARY 2024

OPERA GALLERY



FOREWORD

Opera Gallery Geneva proudly presents a solo exhibition featuring recent works by French artist Jean Charles Blais.

Jean Charles Blais, an artist with a poetic and painterly sensibility to all he sees, found a unique way to navigate through the infinite dimensions of space, material and time.

Throughout his artistic journey, Blais has experimented with all sorts of recycled materials but since 1982, he has embraced torn advertising posters, cherishing their irregular and weathered surfaces as his canvas. The layers, marked by exposure and chance tears, serve as guiding elements in his artistic process. Starting with no preconceived subject, Blais molds a pictorial language that transcends the surface-level messages. His focus delves into the space beneath, shaped by the material's layers, creases, and incidental edges, forging evocative connections.

Figures emerge serendipitously, melding with the torn shapes of the layered posters, reflecting his process devoid of specific intentions and revealing the progression of emotion within the material. His intuitive painting unfolds, marked by a restrained palette dominated by black and blue, creating compelling contrasts that evoke both visual and psychological depth. Enigmatic and sensual shadows, faceless silhouettes, frequently portrayed from behind, traverse his canvases, evoking feelings of melancholy and hope, hinting at tenderness, companionship, and at times, loss or absence.

In every painting by Jean Charles Blais, an intricate narrative unfolds quietly, its essence concealed within its very structure. It beckons one to look beyond the surface, for within lies more than meets the eye. Clarity often demands multiple glimpses, each unveiling new layers of significance nestled within the form itself.

JORDAN LAHMI
Director
Opera Gallery Geneva



ARTWORKS

Sombre

2022

Oil and charcoal on torn posters
160 x 130 cm | 63 x 51.2 in





Idylle (Double vue)

2022

Oil and chalk on torn posters
108 x 152 cm | 42.5 x 59.8 in

Ensemble

2022

Oil, charcoal and gouache on torn posters
150 x 122 cm | 59.1 x 48 in



Danslesbois

2022

Oil, charcoal and gouache on torn posters
160 x 116 cm | 63 x 45.7 in



Spring

2023

Oil, charcoal and gouache on torn posters
212 x 154 cm | 83.5 x 60.6 in



In&Out

2023

Oil and pencil on torn posters
45 x 58 cm | 17.7 x 22.8 in



Paysage

2023

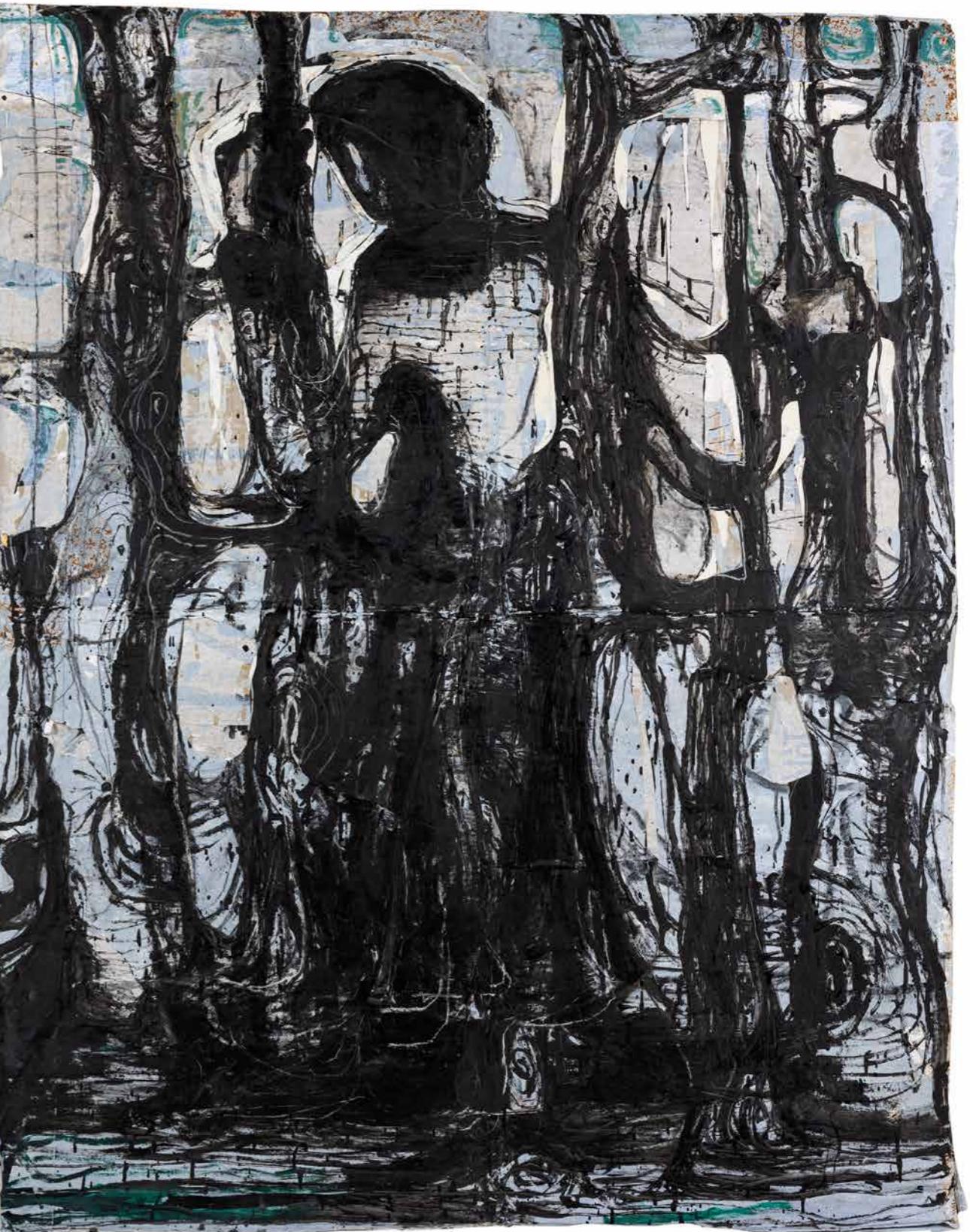
Oil, charcoal and chalk on torn posters
113 x 82 cm | 44.5 x 32.3 in



Boisombre

2023

Oil, charcoal and chalk on torn posters
160 x 125 cm | 63 x 49.2 in



Woodcut

2023

Oil, charcoal and chalk on torn posters
185 x 130 cm | 72.8 x 51.2 in



Springing

2023

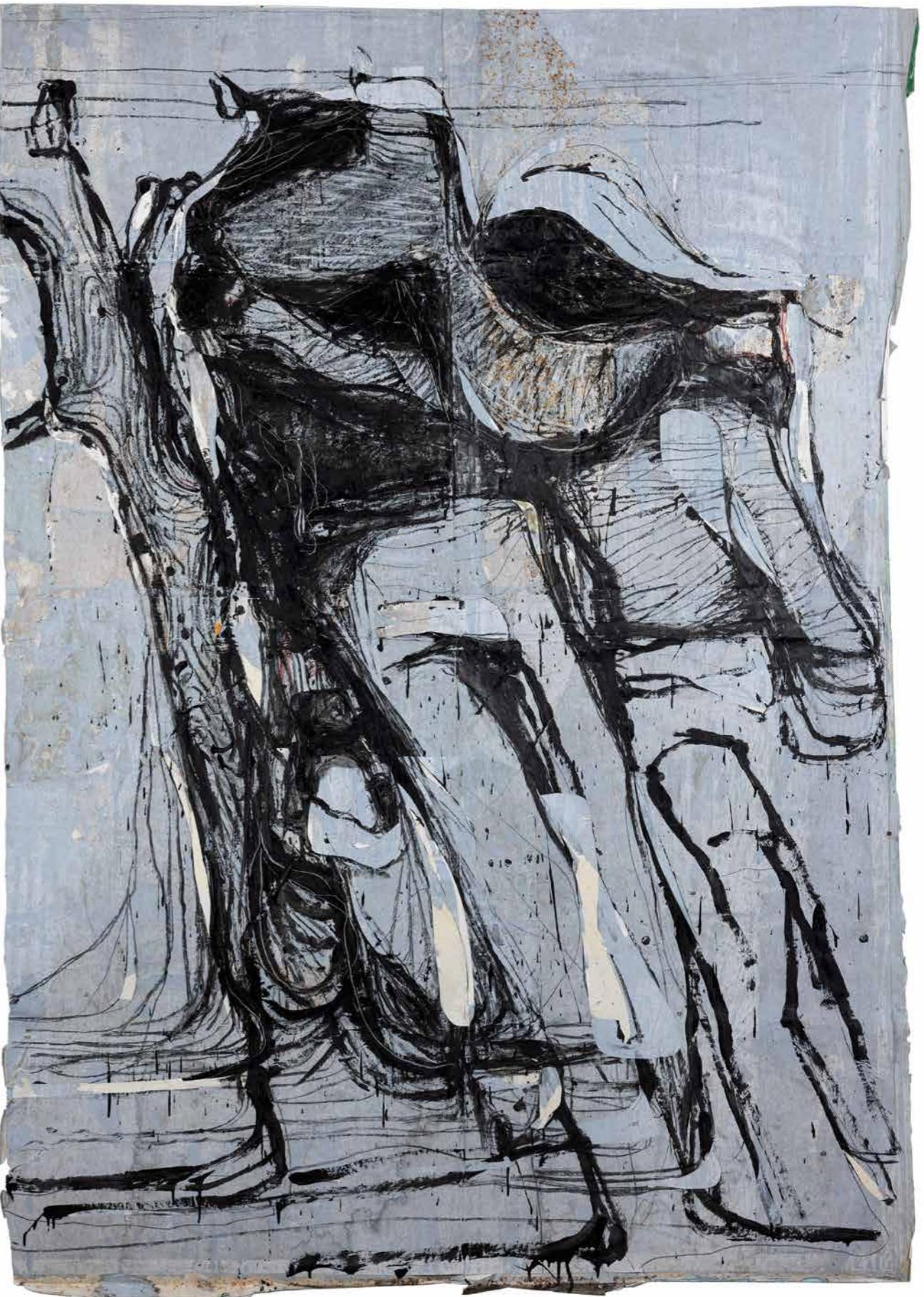
Oil, charcoal and chalk on torn posters
205 x 168 cm | 80.7 x 66.1 in



Summer

2023

Oil and charcoal on torn posters
214 x 158 cm | 84.3 x 62.2 in





Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB 6 23' on the lower left

55 x 45 cm | 21.7 x 17.7 in



Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB 23' on the upper right

67.5 x 71 cm | 26.6 x 28 in



Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB 10 23' on the lower right

90 x 75 cm | 35.4 x 29.5 in



Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB / 11 23' on the lower right

46 x 79 cm | 18.1 x 31.1 in



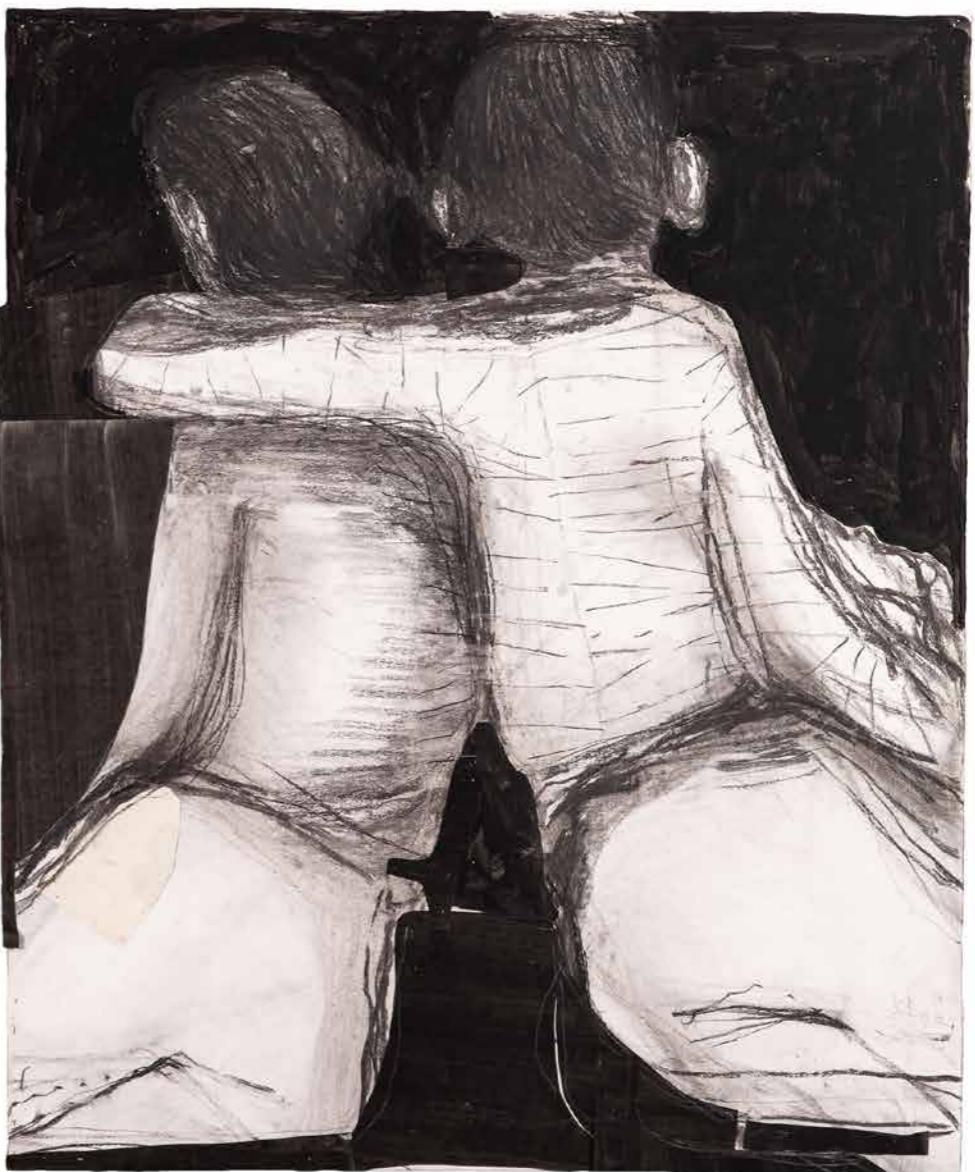
Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB / 8 5 23' on the center left

100 x 70 cm | 39.4 x 27.6 in



Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB 9 / 23' on the lower right

89,5 x 74 cm | 35,2 x 29,1 in

Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB 10 23' on the center left

81 x 48.5 cm | 31.9 x 19.1 in





Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB / 6 23' on the lower right

61,5 x 50,2 cm | 24,2 x 19,8 in

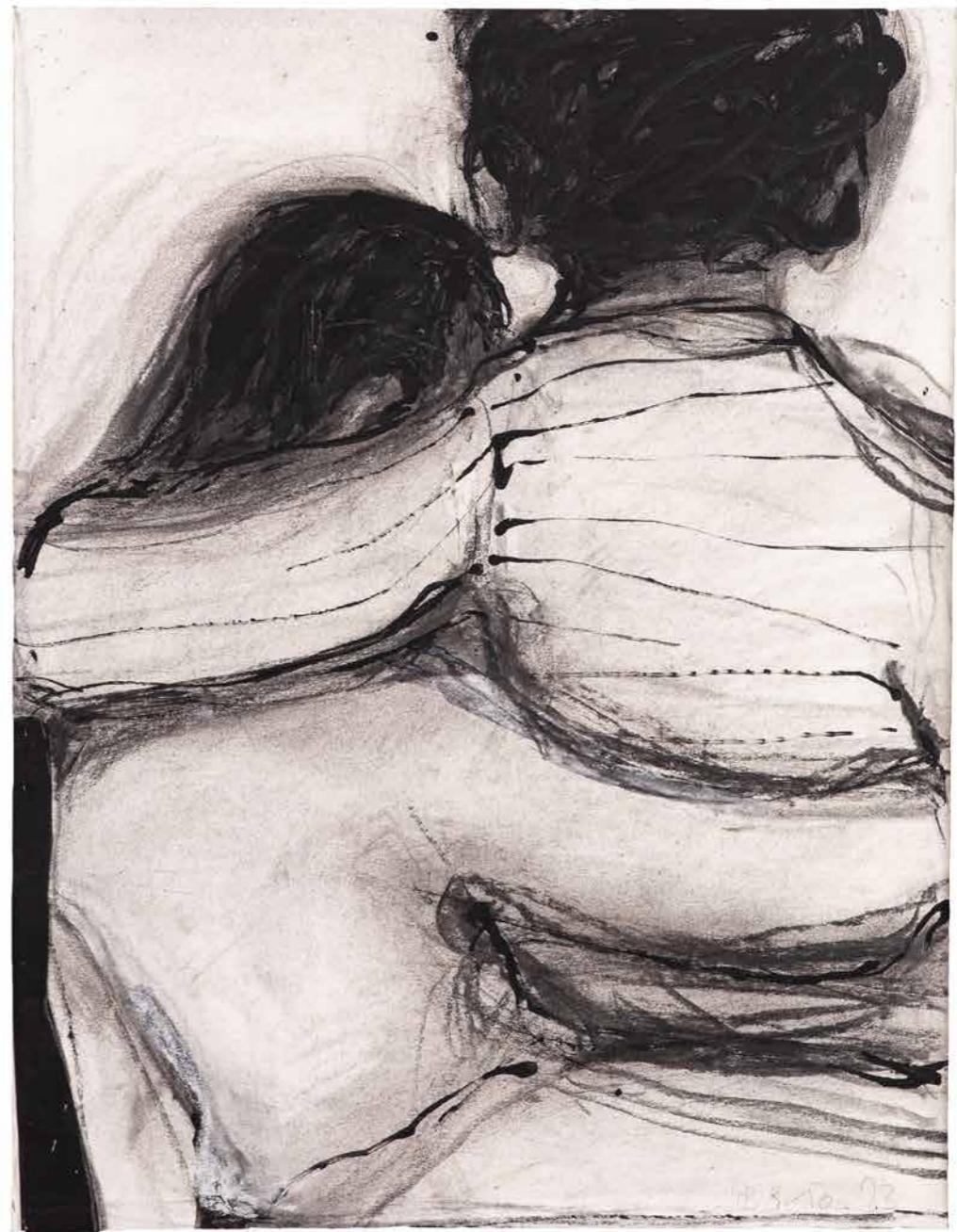
Untitled

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB 8 10 23' on the lower right

55 x 42 cm | 21.7 x 16.5 in



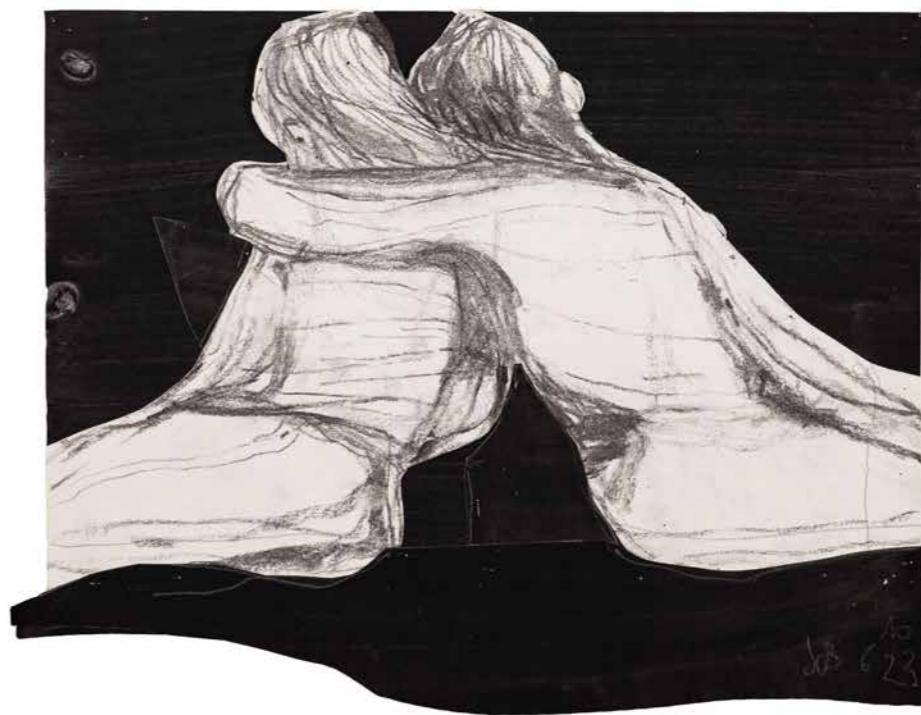
Paysage

2023

Gouache, charcoal and paper pinned on paper

Signed and dated 'JCB 6 23' on the lower right

24 x 31 cm | 9.4 x 12.2 in



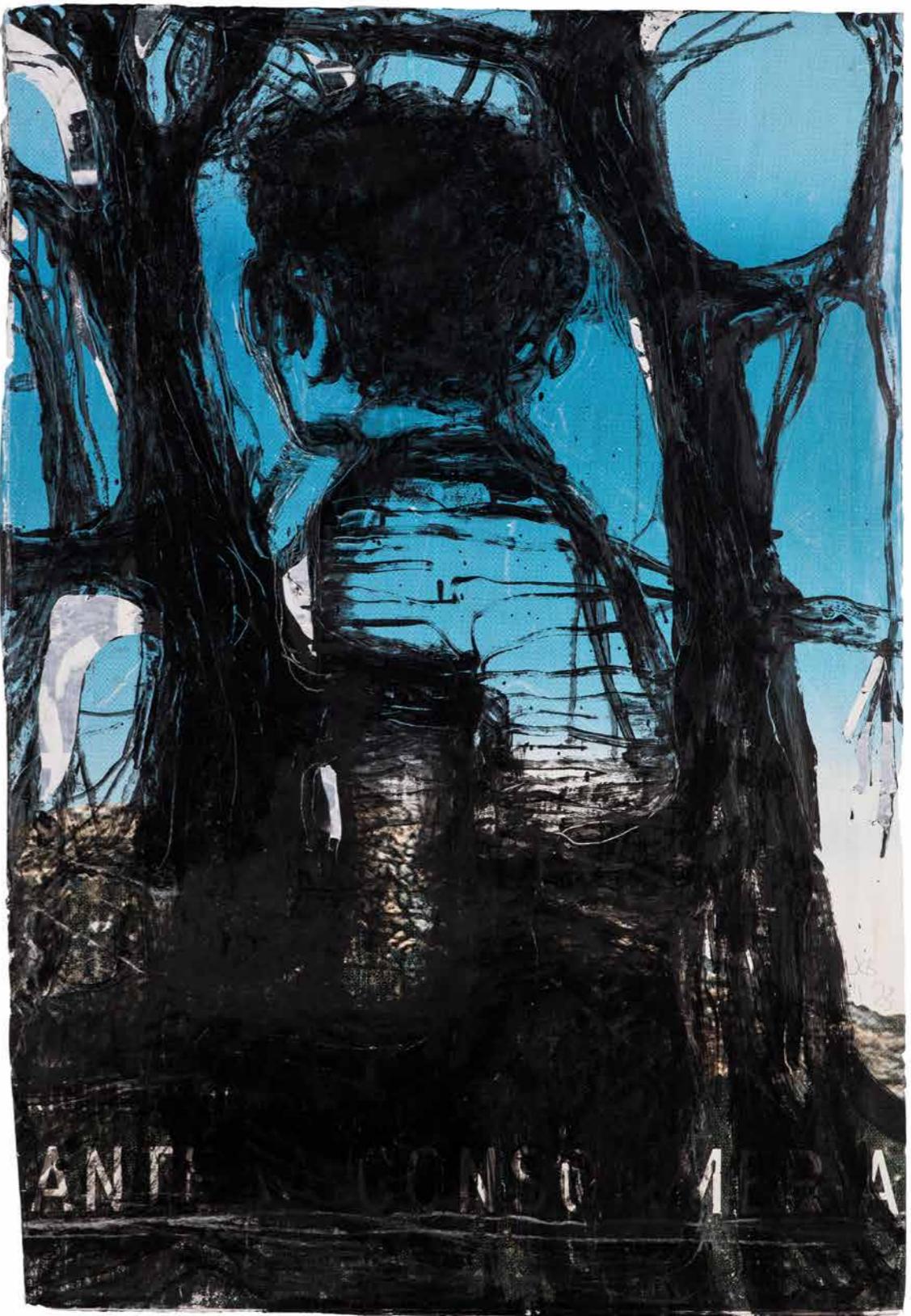
Danslesbois

2023

Oil, chalk and charcoal on torn posters

Signed and dated 'JCB / 23' on the lower right

115 x 79 cm | 45.3 x 31.1 in



Bleu

2023

Oil, chalk, pencil and charcoal on torn posters

Signed and dated 'JCB 23' on the upper left

116 x 155 cm | 45.7 x 61 in



Pris dans les arbres

2023

Oil, chalk and charcoal on torn posters

Signed and dated 'JCB 23' on the lower right

122 x 104 cm | 48 x 40.9 in





Paysage (Color)

2023

Oil and charcoal on torn posters

Signed and dated 'JCB / 23' on the upper left

123 x 160 cm | 48.4 x 63 in

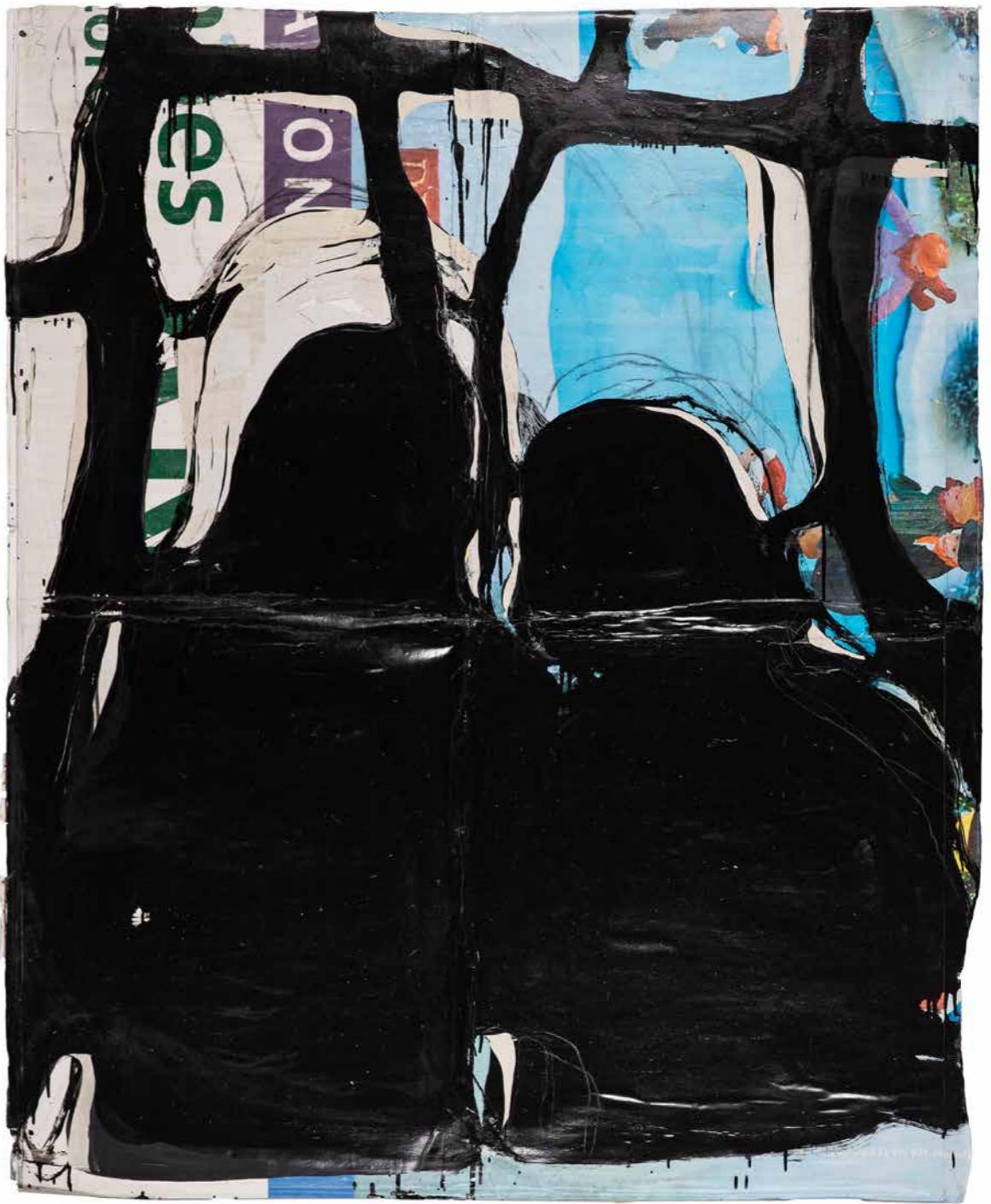
Demémoire

2023

Oil, chalk and charcoal on torn posters

Signed and dated 'JCB / 23' on the upper left

152 x 125 cm | 59.8 x 49.2 in



Octobre

2023

Oil, chalk and charcoal on torn posters

Signed and dated 'JCB / 23' on the upper right

153 x 108 cm | 60.2 x 42.5 in



Imitation (Nomoretrees)

2023

Oil, chalk and charcoal on torn posters

Signed and dated 'JCB 23' on the upper left

158 x 93 cm | 62.2 x 36.6 in



Paysage

2023

Oil and charcoal on torn posters

Signed and dated 'JCB 23' on the lower left

178 x 149 cm | 70.1 x 58.7 in



BIOGRAPHY

Jean Charles Blais, born in Nantes in 1956, is an artist known for his unique artistic practice. He studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Rennes from 1974 to 1979. In the early 1980s, Blais started creating artworks on recycled materials, particularly torn up posters. His debut solo exhibition took place at the CAPC in Bordeaux in 1982, and since then, he has had numerous shows in galleries around the world such as Yvon Lambert in Paris, Leo Castelli in New York, Buchmann in Basel, Catherine Issert in Saint-Paul-de-Vence and Satani in Tokyo. In 1987, the Centre Pompidou launched a solo exhibition dedicated to the artist's work.

Blais describes his artistic practice as a "combination of circumstances". When he moved to Paris in 1981 and began collecting materials from the street and using them to create artwork on posters, this material quickly became his preferred medium. His method of working with materials is rooted in necessity, expanding from the materials themselves to the images on the chosen support. His paintings are created and constructed in action, blurring the boundaries between figuration and abstraction, considering a work complete when it has achieved a sense of balance through the accumulation of gestures that contribute to its creation. The public's interpretations of Blais' work vary greatly, reflecting his boundary-pushing approach. He is driven by impulse and tends to favor blurred figures created through his dynamic creative process.

Throughout his career, Blais has explored various mediums and techniques. In 1990, he designed the Assemblée Nationale metro station in Paris, featuring a monumental frieze made of posters that were periodically printed and renewed until 2014. This project marked the beginning of his experimentation with practices beyond traditional painted pictures.

In 1994, he presented a series of suspended fabric pieces at the Chapelle de la Salpêtrière in Paris. These pieces, described as half-figures and half-shadows, were part of the Festival d'Automne. In 1998, the Bawag Foundation in Vienna exhibited a series of fabric works titled "sur mesure," created in collaboration with a sewing studio. During this period, he also explored digital technologies through his involvement with the Art-Netart Studio. In 2002, several institutions screened his "graphic films," including Modernism in San Francisco, Catherine Issert in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, and the Lambert collection in Avignon. In 2013, a collection of his digital works titled *Die digitale Linie* was presented at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich.

Blais was commissioned to create graphic projects for the posters of the 2008/2009 season at the Grand Théâtre de Genève. These projects inspired a series of large gouaches on paper, incorporating photographic sources, collages, and paper cuts, which reintroduced the use of the painted figure in his work. In 2013, the Picasso Museum in Antibes held an exhibition that showcased Blais' recent paintings alongside works dating back to the early 1980s. His work has been exhibited in prestigious institutions and museums worldwide.

From then on, he once again deemed painting on torn up posters an essential practice to generate new forms in his work.





PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2011** Germany, Düsseldorf, Galerie Am Stadtmuseum, "Jean Charles Blais, Neue Arbeiten"
- 2010** United States, New York, 100 Eleventh Avenue, a collaboration with Jean Nouvel
Germany, Munich, Florian Sundheimer Kunsthändler, "Jean Charles Blais, Neue Arbeiten"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "Jean Charles Blais"
- 2008** Switzerland, Geneva, Grand Théâtre, de Genève, "douze dessins pour le programme du Grand Théâtre"
- 2007** Germany, Munich, Florian Sundheimer Kunsthändler, "Jean Charles Blais, Arbeiten auf Papier"
- 2005** Japan, Tokyo, Kenji Taki Gallery, "Empty Words"
- 2004** France, Arles, Musée Réattu, "Miracle"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Station de métro Assemblée Nationale, "La chambre double"
- 2003** Japan, Tokyo, And-A Store, "Double vue"
Japan, Tokyo, Kenji Taki Gallery, "Double vue"
Japan, Nagoya, Kenji Taki Gallery, "Double vue"
Germany, Munich, Florian Sundheimer Kunsthändler, "Jean Charles Blais, Arbeiten aus den 80er und 90er Jahren"
- 2002** France, Chalon-sur-Saône, Espace des arts, "Double vue"
France, Paris, Magasin FNAC / Les Halles, "Double vue"
France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, studio, "Double vue"
France, Meyzieu, Rez d'Art Contemporain / Médiathèque, "Projection"
- 2001** Germany, Cologne, Galerie Buchmann, "Face"
- 2000** Germany, Hanover, Galerie Sandmann Haak, "Jean Charles Blais"
Japan, Tokyo, Kenji Taki Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais"
Japan, Nagoya, Kenji Taki Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais"
United States, San Francisco, Modernism, "Getting Bigger"
France, Châtellerault, Franck Bordas édition, Paris & Galerie de l'école des Beaux-Arts, "Panoply"
- 2023** France, Paris, Opera Gallery, "Spring/Summer"
Germany, Munich, Florian Sundheimer Kunsthändler, "Jean Charles Blais, Wanderschaft"
- 2022** France, Avignon, Collection Lambert, Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Jean Charles Blais, Idylles"
- 2021** France, Bages, Maison des Arts, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Yvon Lambert, "Jean Charles Blais « Summer Camp »"
Germany, Munich, Florian Sundheimer Kunsthändler, "Jean Charles Blais, Arbeiten auf und mit Papier aus vier Jahrzehnten"
- 2020** Luxemburg, Galerie Zidoun & Bossuyt, "Jean Charles Blais, Leiko Ikemura"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "Jean Charles Blais, Voilà"
- 2019** Germany, Berlin, Buchmann Galerie, "Jean Charles Blais, Neue Arbeiten"
- 2017** China, Beijing, HdM gallery, "Jean Charles Blais X Wang Keping, Silhouettes"
- 2016** Germany, Berlin, Buchmann Galerie, "Superposition"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "Jean Charles Blais, Double"
Austria, Vienna, Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art, "Gleichzeitig"
Austria, Salzburg, MAM Contemporary, "Jean Charles Blais, Simultaneous"
Japan, Tokyo, Kenji Taki Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais, Inandscape"
- 2014** France, Paris, Jean Nouvel Design, "Sechs songs d'amour, Un livre"
- 2013** Bulgaria, Sofia, Un cabinet d'amateur, "Sechs songs d'amour, A Book"
France, Antibes, Musée Picasso, "Jean Charles Blais 17.3, 9.6.13"
Germany, Munich, Florian Sundheimer Kunsthändler, "Jean Charles Blais, Découpé, assemblé, épingle"
- 2012** Germany, Munich, Pinakothek der Moderne, "Schaustelle, Die digitale Linie (mit Christoph Brech)"

- 1999** Austra, Vienna, Galerie Ernst Hilger, "Jean Charles Blais, Zeichnung"
France, Martigues, Musée Ziem, D'ici,Là, "Jean Charles Blais, un projet pour Martigues"
- 1998** France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "Jean Charles Blais, Sur mesure"
Austria, Vienna, The Bawag Foundation, "Jean Charles Blais"
Luxemburg, Galerie Erna Hécey, "Patrons & sur mesure"
The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Galerie Farber & Jurka, "Jean Charles Blais, New Works"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "Sur mesure"
- 1997** Finland, Helsinki, Galerie Forsblom, "Jean Charles Blais"
Austria, Salzburg, Galerie Academia, "Jean Charles Blais"
Portugal, Lisbon, Galerie Joao Gracia, "Pintura"
- 1996** Thailand, Bangkok, Galerie Kyoko Chirathivat, "Jean Charles Blais, Recent Works"
Luxemburg, Galerie de Luxembourg, "Encore"
South Korea, Won Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais"
South Korea, Seoul, Nabis Gallery, "Prints & Reliefs"
Germany, Frankfurt, Galerie Meyer Ellinger, "Plakat – Abrisse"
United States, New York, Tony Shafrazi Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais, Prints"
United States, New York, Museum of Modern Art, "The Telephone Booths"
United States, San Francisco, Modernism, "Jean Charles Blais, Paintings on Paper"
- 1995** Switzerland, Basel, Galerie Buchmann, "My Tailor Is Rich"
Germany, Cologne, Galerie Buchmann, "What?"
France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "Déjà vu"
- 1994** The Netherlands, The Hague, Palais Lange Voorhout, Haag Geemente Museum, "Jean Charles Blais, L'Affiche"
The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Galerie Barbara Farber, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Chapelle Saint Louis de la Salpêtrière, "Jean Charles Blais, le Festival d'Automne à Paris"
Germany, Hanover, Galerie Sandmann & Haak, "Blais"
United States, New York, Tony Shafrazi Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais"
- 1993** France, Paris, Espace Fondation Orcofi, "Jean Charles Blais, une scénographie pour le marteau sans Maître en collaboration avec Richard Alston et Régine Chopinot"
The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Galerie Barbara Farber, "Jean Charles Blais"
Australia, Sydney, Annandale Gallery, "Drawings and Prints"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "Jean Charles Blais, Sculptures, céramiques et dessins"
Germany, Munich, Galerie Jaspers, "Graphics und Linolschintt"
- 1992** France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "Jean Charles Blais"
Japan, Tokyo, Wako Works of Art, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Amiens, Fond régional d'Art Contemporain de Picardie, "Suites"
United Kingdom, Colchester, Essex University Gallery
Germany, Dortmund, Dortmunder Kunstverein
Switzerland, Basel, Galerie Buchmann, "Jean Charles Blais"
- 1991** The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Galerie Barbara Farber, "Jean Charles Blais"
Japan, Tokyo, Satani Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais"
Germany, Munich, Staatgalerie Moderner Kunst, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "12"
United Kingdom, London, Grob Gallery
United States, New York, John Cavaliero Fine Arts, "Prints & Reliefs"
- 1990** Japan, Tokyo, PS gallery, "Jean Charles Blais"
Italy, Naples, Institut culturel Français, "Incisioni"
Switzerland, Basel, Galerie Buchmann, "Moreno"
Finland, Pori, Porin Taidemuseo ; Estonia, Tallinn, Eesti Riiklik Kunstmuseum; Denmark, Aalborg, Nordjylland Kunstmuseum, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Metro station Assemblée nationale
- 1989** Austria, Vienna, Museum Moderner Kunst, "Jean Charles Blais, Druckgraphik"
Germany, Ludwigsburg, Kunstverein, Villa Franck, "Tilimbom"
Sweden, Stockholm, Galerie Olsson, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "Le coup de Tanger"
Switzerland, Basel, Galerie Buchmann, "Jean Charles Blais"
- 1988** The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Galerie Barbara Farber, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Nîmes, Musée des Beaux-Arts, "Jean Charles Blais, Dessins-Zeichnung"
France, Mulhouse, Musée des Beaux-Arts
Switzerland, Basel, Galerie Buchmann, "Jean Charles Blais"
Japan, Tokyo, Satani Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "88"
Germany, Hamburg, Galerie Harald Behm, "Jean Charles Blais"
- 1987** Switzerland, Basel, Galerie Buchmann, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne, "Jean Charles Blais, Œuvres 1985-87"
United States, New York, Leo Castelli Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert
Germany, Heidelberg, Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken, Sarrebrück & Kunstverein, "Jean Charles Blais, Zeichnung-dessins"
- 1986** Germany, Hamburg, Galerie Harald Behm, "Jean Charles Blais"
Germany, Hanover, Kestner-Gesellschaft, "Jean Charles Blais"
Canada, Montreal, Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Jean Charles Blais"
Italy, Rome, Galerie Ugo Ferranti, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Toulouse, Les Abattoirs – Frac Occitanie Toulouse, "Jean Charles Blais, Estampes"
France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "Jean Charles Blais"
- 1985** Switzerland, Basel, Kunsthalle Basel, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "Jean Charles Blais"
The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Galerie Barbara Farber, "Jean Charles Blais"
Germany, Düsseldorf, Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, "Jean Charles Blais, Arbeiten 1985"
- 1984** Switzerland, Basel, Galerie Buchmann, "Jean Charles Blais"
United States, New York, Leo Castelli Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais, Paintings"
United States, New York, Castelli Graphics, "Jean Charles Blais, Works on Paper"
Switzerland, Geneva, Halle Sud, "Jean Charles Blais, Peintures"
Switzerland, Fribourg, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, "Jean Charles Blais, Dessins"
France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Jean Charles Blais, tout l'atelier de mars à octobre 1984"
- 1983** Switzerland, St. Gallen, Galerie Buchmann, "Reviens!"
France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "Jean Charles Blais"
Germany, Hamburg, Stellt Aus Bei Max Marek, "Jean Charles Blais, Zeichnungen"
Italy, Rome, Galerie Ugo Ferranti, "Jean Charles Blais, dessins"
- 1982** France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Jean Charles Blais"
France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "Blais"
Belgium, Ghent, Galerie Baronian Lambert, "Blais"
Italy, Rome, Galerie Ugo Ferranti, "Jean Charles Blais"

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019** Switzerland, Basel, Kunstmuseum Basel, "Schau, Ich Bin Blind, Schau - Hohepunkte Der Sammlung Hans Und Monika Furer"
 Switzerland, Vevey, Musée Jenisch, "Vernissage Friends, etc, La Collection Pierre Keller"
 France, Les Sables d'Olonne, Musée de l'abbaye Sainte-Croix, "Aux sources des années 80 – Eighties & Echœs"
 Finland, Tampere, Sara Hildénin Tademuseo, "Out of Office"
 France, Cæn, Musée des Beaux-Arts, "XXL-Estamps monumentales"
 France, Antibes, Musée Picasso, "Chemins de Traverse"
 France, Vézelay, Fondation Christian et Yvonne Zervos, "Une affaire de passion – La Collection Nina & Jean-Claude Mosconi"
 Germany, Munich, Florian Sundheimer Kunsthändler, "Highlights"
 France, Rennes, FRAC de Bretagne, "Sans réserve, plongée dans une collection d'art contemporain"
 Germany, Koblenz, Ludwig Museum im Deutschherrenhaus, "The Known and the Unknown"
 France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, collaboration with CLAIR by Kahn, "Déclics analogiques"
- 2018** France, Rennes, Musée des Beaux-Arts, "Construire une collection - Art contemporain 2013-2018"
 Austria, Salzburg, Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art, "Black Mirror"
 Austria, Vienna, Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art
 France, Marseille, FRAC PACA, "Histoire de la collection - chefs d'œuvres et documents 1983-1999"
 United States, Little Rock, Arkansas Arts Center, "Independent Vision - Modern and Contemporary Art from the Martin Muller Collection"
 France, Rennes, FRAC Bretagne, "Les Ambassadeurs – portrait et identité"
 France, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, "Épreuves d'imprimeur- les estampes de l'atelier Franck Bordas"2
- 2017** Germany, Magdeburg, Kunstmuseum Kloster Unser Lieben Frauen, "SEHT, da ist DER MENSCH / BEHOLD the MAN"
 France, Paris, Item éditions, "Propositions inédites"
 Spain Madrid, CaixaForum, "Arte y cine- Cinema and Art. 120 años de intercambios"
 France, Avignon, Collection Lambert, "La Figuration Libre dans la Collection Lambert"
 France, Paris, Drawing Now, "À fleur de peau"
 Japan, Nagoya, Kenji Taki Gallery, "Jean Charles Blais, Sakuji Yoshimoto, Yumiko Okui, Leiko Ikemura, Wolfgang Laib - Works on Paper"
 France, Montpellier, La Panacée, "Dessin – Destin - Collection Jean-Charles de Castelbajac"
 France, Paris, Musée du Louvre, "Point de lendemain, en hommage à Bob Calle"
 China, Shenzhen, HdM Gallery, "Art Shenzhen - Barthélémy Toguo, Jean Charles Blais, Chen Han, Lu Chao, Wang Yi, Wang Keping"
- 2016** Japan, Yokohama, Yokohama Museum of Art, "Takashi Murakami's Superflat Collection - From Shōhaku and Rosanjin to Anselm Kiefer"
 Austria, Vienna, HilgerBROTKunsthalle, "The Hilger Collection. Part 2: Painted Surfaces"
 France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "La possibilité d'une collection"
 France, Vence, Musée de Vence - Fondation Emile Hugues, "De Warhol à Basquiat, les chefs d'œuvre de la Collection Lambert"
 United States, Orlando, The Orlando Museum of Art, "Highlights from the James Cottrell and Joseph Lovett Collection"
 France, Nîmes, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Nîmes – Carré d'art, "La Collection - Hommage à Bob Calle"
 Austria, Salzburg, Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art, "Decoding Scripture & Picture"
 France, Clermont-Ferrand, FRAC d'Auvergne, "Retour au meilleur des mondes"
 Spain, Barcelona, Fundación La Caixa, "Arte y cine. 120 años de intercambios - Cinema and Art. 120 Years of Exchanges"
 France, Arles, Musée des Beaux-Arts et d'Art Contemporain, "Revoir Réattu"
 Germany, Berlin, Buchmann Galerie, "Zeichnung- drawings"
- 2015** France, Paris, La Cinémathèque Française, "Antonioni aux origines du pop"
 France, Angers, Galerie 5 & Arthothèque, "Video-Project"
 Switzerland, Basel, Schaulager - Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation, "Future Present - Contemporary Art From Classic Modernism to the Present Day"
 France, Antibes, Musée Picasso, "Chemins de traverse"
 France, Perpignan, Musée d'art Hyacinthe Rigaud & Centre d'art Walter Benjamin, "Narcisse, une histoire de l'autoportrait"
 France, Sète, Musée Paul Valéry, "Figuration Libre, historique d'une aventure"
 France, Annecy, Fondation Salomon pour l'Art Contemporain, "Collection Piguet - une passion pour l'art"
 France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Hors texte, Collection-bibliothèque"
- 2014** France, Nice, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, "Autour du legs Berggreen"
 France, Amiens, FRAC Picardie, "Des mondes dessinés, Face à Face"
 Portugal, Lisbon, Museu Coleção Berardo, "Coleção Berardo (1960-2010)"
 France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Procession, une histoire dans l'exposition"
 France, Marseille, Centre de la Vieille Charité, "Visages, Picasso, Magritte, Warhol"
 Japan, Tokyo, Kenji Taki Gallery, "Selected Works: Jean Charles Blais, Alfredo Jaar, Wolfgang Laib, Dock-Yong Kim"
 Belgium, La Louvière, Centre de la gravure et de l'image imprimée, "De la pierre à l'écran"
 France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Fondation Maeght, "This Is Not A Museum - Quand les arts visuels dialoguent avec la danse, la poésie, la musique"
 Germany, Esslingen, Bahnhofstrasse - Villa Merkel, "Obsessionen und surreale Welten, Arbeiten aus der Graphischen Sammlung"

- 2013** Germany, Munich, Pinakothek der Moderne, "Schaustelle"
 France, Arles, Analogues, "L'île à ramification – Books & Works"
 Bulgaria, Sofia, Un cabinet d'amateur, "Usual Suspects"
 Austria, Salzburg, Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art, "Flowers and Beauty"
 France, Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne, "Donation Florence et Daniel Guerlain, dessins contemporains"
- 2012** Belgium, Brussels, Maison Particulière, "Struggle(s)"
 France, Avignon, Collection Lambert, "Mirages d'orient, grenades et figues de barbarie"
- 2011** Portugal, Lisbon, Museu Colecção Berardo, "Observadores, Revelações, Trânsitos e Distâncias"
 France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "L'insoutenable légèreté de l'être"
 Germany, Waiblingen, Galerie Stihl, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, "Phantasie an die Macht, Politik im Künstlerplakat"
 France, Montreuil, Maison Populaire, "Vidéo Salon - une œuvre à soi"
 Belgium, La Louvière, Centre de la gravure et de l'image imprimée ; Switzerland, Moutier, Musée jurassien des Arts, "CHEMIN FAISANT ... à travers les collections du Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée"
 France, Nice, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, "La couleur en avant"
 France, Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne, "De Antonin Artaud à Tatiana Trouvé, Nouvelles acquisitions"
- 2010** France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "CAPC, ou la vie saisie par l'art"
 France, Avignon, Collection Lambert – Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Je crois aux miracles"
- 2009** France, Paris, Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, "Dans l'œil du critique, Bernard Lamarche Vadel et les artistes"
 France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Où sont passées les fées"
 France, Nancy, Musée des Beaux-Arts, "Beauté Monstre"
- 2008** Italy, Rome, Villa Médicis, "Le Grand Tour"
 United States, New York, Cultural Services of the French Embassy, "Collection Florence et Daniel Gerlain, Contemporary Drawings"
 France, Avignon, Collection Lambert, "Retour de Rome/ After Roma"
- 2007** United States, Charleston, Clay Center - Avampato Discovery Museum, "James Cottrell and Joseph Lovett Collection"
- 2006** France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Fondation Mæght, "Le noir est une couleur"
 United States, New York, The Museum of Modern Art, "Eye on Europe: Prints, Books & Multiples, 1960 to Now"
 Monaco, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, "Acte 2 : Lumière, Transparence, Opacité du XVIIIe à nos jours"
- 2005** France, Lyon, Institut d'Art Contemporain, "Un peu d'histoire et de peinture"
 Japan, Tokyo, Résidence de l'ambassade de France, "Art français contemporain"
 Spain, Barcelona, Institut Français, "Loop"
 United States, San Francisco, Modernism, "25 years"
 France, Mouans-Sartoux, Espace de l'Art Concret, "Le monde est rond !"
- 2004** France, Avignon, Collection Lambert, "A fripon fripon et demi"
 Germany, Munich, Florian Sundheimer Kunsthändler, "Drucksache"
 France, Paris, Musée du Luxembourg, "Moi ! Autoportraits du XXe siècle"
 France, Nice, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, "Intra-Muros"
 United States, Orlando, Museum of Art; New York, Chelsea Art Museum ; New Platz, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art "Co-conspirators Artist and Collector"
- 2003** Germany, Dortmund, Dortmunder Kunsthalle, "20 Jahre"
 France, Amiens, FRAC de Picardie, "Le fait accompli"
 Italy, Rome, Villa Médicis, "Incontri"
 France, Chambéry, Musée des Beaux-Arts, "La Fin des histoires"
 Germany, Cologne, Galerie Buchmann, "Trickfilm"
 Austria, Linz, LENTOS Kunstmuseum, "Meisterwerke der grafik"
- 2002** Switzerland, Vevey, Musée Jenisch, "Uniques"
 Italy, Biella, Museo del Territorio, "Premio Biella per l'incisione 2002"
 Austria, Vienna, M.A.K, "Un jeu d'enfants"
 France, Lille, Galerie(s) Intérieur Laigle
- 2001** The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Barbara Farber Gallery, "Flash-back"
 France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Collection"
 Belgium, La Louvière, Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée, "Corps à Corps"
- 2000** France, Avignon, Collection Lambert, "Rendez-vous"
 Germany, Dortmund, Museum am Ostwall
 Dortmund ; Germany, Erfurt, Kunsthalle Erfurt im Haus zum Roten Ochsen ; Germany, Freiburg, Kunsthalle Freiburg im Marienbad, "Zeitgenössische Französische Zeichnungen aus der Sammlung des FRAC Picardie"
 France, Blois, Musée de l'objet, "Un jeu d'enfants"
 France, Marseille, Musée de la Faïence, "De la couleur et du feu"
- 1999** Japan, Kyoto, The National Museum of Modern Art; Tokyo, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, "Visions of the Body"
 Austria, Graz, Landesmuseum Joanneum, "Les Couleurs Noires"
 France, Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, "Face à Face"
 United States, North Adams, Mass MoCA, "Billboard Art on the Road, a Survey"
 Germany, Frankfurt, Museum für Moderne Kunst, "Save The Day!"
 Austria, Linz, LENTOS Kunstmuseum - Neue Galerie der Stadt, "Lineamente International - Von der Linie zur Zeichnung"
- 1998** United States, Seattle, Henry Art Gallery, "Thinking Print Books to Billboards, 1980–95"
 Japan, Yokohama, Yokohama Museum of Art, "œuvres sur papier et photographies – la Collection Yvon Lambert"
 France, Paris, Espace Electra, "Jeux de genres"
 The Netherlands, Groningen, Groninger Museum, "What remains"
 Egypt, Cairo, Musée des Arts, "7th International Cairo Biennale"
 France, Nice, Villa Arson - Centre National d'Art Contemporain, "Tableaux d'une histoire"
- 1997** France, Paris, Espace Electra, "Dialogues de l'Ombre"
 France, Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne, "Made in France : 1947-1997"
 United States, Cleveland, Center for Contemporary Art, "Thinking Print -Books to Billboards, 1980–95"
 France, Paris, Galerie de France, Antonin Artaud, "Tête à tête"
 Luxembourg, Galerie Erna Hécey, "A Vendre"
 Mexique, Mexico, Museo Rufino Tamayo ; Mexico, Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Colombia, Bogota, Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, Casa de Exposiciones, "Entorno a la Figura: Cuatro décadas de pintura francesa"
 France, Nice, Musée Matisse, "Artists and Books"
- 1996** The Netherlands, Rotterdam, Museum Boymans van Beuningen, "1946 Bouwfonds-1996"
 Australia, Bathurst, Regional Art Gallery, "New Prints: Eight Contemporary Artists"
 Germany, Regensburg, Galerie Peter Bäumler, "America meets Europe"
 France, Paris, Musée du Luxembourg, "Monument et Modernité"
 United States, New York, The Museum of Modern Art, "Thinking Print - Books to Billboards, 1980–95"
 The Netherlands, Almere, De Paviljоens, "Rik Gadda-Picaron Editions"
 United States, New York, Brooke Alexander Gallery, "Artists Books"
- 1995** Luxembourg, Galerie du Luxembourg, "Confluences"
 France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "450 Nord et Longitude 0°"
 France, Paris, ARC, Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris, "Passions Privées"
 Germany, Berlin, Linden Corso, "Art Project"
- 1994** France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Même si c'est la nuit"
 France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain, "Pour les chapelles de Vence"
 United States, Sun Valley, Center for the Arts, "Paper Under Pressure"

- 1993** Spain, Madrid, Centro Cultural Conde Duque, "Colección Fundación Arco"
 Ireland, Dublin, The Irish Museum of Modern Art ; United Kingdom, London, Institut Français de Londres, "Four Artists from France"
 Germany, Remscheid, Galerie-Theater der Stadt, "Confluences"
 The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Galerie Barbara Farber, "Let's Face It"
 France, Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Cabinet d'art graphique, "Noir Dessin"
- 1992** France, Villeneuve d'Ascq, LaM Musée d'Art Moderne ; Tourcoing, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tourcoing, "Yvon Lambert collection"
 Spain, Seville, Pavillon Français, "Exposition Universelle"
 United States, New York, Tony Shafrazi Gallery, "A Passion for Art"
 France, Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne, "Manifeste"
 Germany, Oberhausen, Städtische Galerie, "Aufforderung zum Tanz"
- 1991** Switzerland, Basel, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, "Emmanuel Hoffmann Stiftung 1980-1990"
 The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum, "Peter Stuyvesant Collection"
 France, Nice, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, "Les Années 80"
 France, Lyon, Halle Tony Garnier & Musée des Beaux-Arts, "L'Amour de l'Art - Biennale de l'art contemporain"
 France, Paris, Gare d'Austerlitz, "La bagarre d'Austerlitz"
 Switzerland, Basel, Galerie Buchmann, "Auf papier, su carta"
- 1990** Belgium, Charleroi, Palais des Beaux-Arts, "Collection Stéphane et Georges Uhoda"
 France, Saint-Paul-de-Vence, Galerie Catherine Issert, "Bernard Pagès, Jean Charles Blais"
 Germany, Landschaftsverband Rheinland, FRAC ; Mülheim, Städtisches Museum ; Siegburg, Stadtmuseum ; Düren, Leopold-Hoesch Museum
 Switzerland, Zürich, ETH, "Peter Kneubühler Graphik-Sammlung"
- 1989** France, Jouy en Josas, Fondation Cartier, "Nos années 80"
 Switzerland, Basel, Kunsthalle Basel, "150 Jahre Basler Kunstverein"
 France, Paris, Centre National des Arts Plastiques, "Estampes et Révolution 200 ans après"
 United States, Washington, National Gallery of Art, "The 1980's: Prints of the Collection of Joshua P. Smith"
 The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum, "Drawings since 1960"
- 1988** United States, Santa Barbara, University Art Museum States; Austin, University of Texas; Cleveland, Cleveland Museum of Art, "Collaboration in Monotype"
 Ireland, Dublin, The Royal Hospital Kilmainharn, "Rosc 88- The Poetry of Vision"
 Germany, Nürnberg, Kunsthalle Nürnberg, "4 Internationale Triennale des Zeichnung"
 France, Marseille, Centre de la Vieille Charité, "L'art moderne dans la collection du Musée Cantini"
 Switzerland, Basel, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, "Farbe Bekennen"
 The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum, "De kunst collectie van het Bouwfonds"
- 1987** Spain, Madrid, Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo ; Valencia, Sala Parpalló ; Portugal, Lisbon, Fondation Gulbenkian, "9 artistas Franceses '87"
 Mexico, Mexico City, Centro cultural Arte Contemporáneo, "Leo Castelli y sus artistas"
 Germany, Aachen, Sammlung Ludwig; Koblenz, Haus Metterich; Germany, Düren, Leopold-Hoesch Museum, "Kunst heute"
 France, Paris, Galerie Yvon Lambert, "L'art contre le sida"
 Germany, Hamburg, Galerie Harald Behm, "Waswarwaswird"
 United Kingdom, London, Mayor Rowan Gallery, "Six Young French Artists from Yvon Lambert"
- 1986** Spain, Madrid, Círculo de Bellas Artes, "Pintar con papel"
 France, Villeurbanne, Le Nouveau Musée, "Collection souvenir"
 Germany, Frankfurt, Frankfurter Kunstverein, "Prospect 86"
 The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum, "Correspondentie Europa"
 France, Grenoble, Le Magasin – Centre national d'art contemporain; Italy, Naples, Academia delle Belle Arti, "Uno Sguardo"
- 1985** United States, New York, Castelli Graphics, "Colour Drawings"
 France, Paris, Grand-Halle du Parc de la Villette, "Nouvelle Biennale de Paris"
 Japan, The Seibu Museum of Art;
 Japan, Kurashiki, Ohara Museum of Art; Korea, Walter Hill Seoul, Foundation, "Twelve Artists in Space"
 United Kingdom, Edinburgh, Royal Scottish Academy; France, Nantes, Musée des Beaux-Arts; Denmark, Humlebæk, Louisiana Museum
 Belgique, Bruxelles, Palais des beaux-arts, "Colours since Matisse"
 France, Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain & Musée des Beaux-Arts, "Aimer les Musées"
- 1984** France, Paris, Galeries Nationales du Grand Palais, "Anciens et Nouveaux"
 Austria, Vienna, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig ; Germany, Frankfurt, Frankfurter Kunstverein ; Germany, Kassel, Kasseler Kunstverein, "Von Zeichnen- Aspekte des Zeichnung 1960-1985"
1983 United States, New York, The Museum of Modern Art, "An International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture"
 The Netherlands, Anvers, ICC, "Biennale van de Kritieken"
 Italy, Venice, Biennale di Venezia, "Aperto 84"
 United Kingdom, London, Robert Fraser Gallery, "Paris-New York"
 Austria, Vienna, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, "Images de la France"
 Switzerland, Lausanne, Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts ; Germany, Heidelberg, Heidelberg Kunstverein
 Austria, Innsbrück, Galerie Krinzinger; Germany, Frankfurt, Frankfurter Kunstverein, "Bilder aus Frankreich"
 United Kingdom, London, Riverside Studio ; Oxford, Museum of Modern Art ; Southampton, John Hansard Gallery ; Edinburgh, Fruitmarket Gallery, "New French Painting"
- 1982** France, Nice, Galerie d'Art Contemporain des Musées de Nice, "L'Air du temps"
 France, Paris, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, "XII Biennale de Paris"
- 1981** France, Paris, Rue Fondary, Bernard Lamarche Vadel, "Finir en beauté"

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTIONS FRANCE

Museums and Institutions France
Antibes, Musée Picasso
Arles, Musée Réattu
Avignon, Collection Lambert
Bordeaux, CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain
Marseille, Musée Cantini
Nice, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain
Nîmes, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Nîmes – Carré d'art
Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France
Paris, La Cinémathèque Française
Paris, Musée des Arts Décoratifs
Paris, Musée National d'Art Moderne
Rennes, Musée des Beaux-Arts
Strasbourg, Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain
Toulon, Musée d'Art

Amiens, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain de Picardie
Clermont-Ferrand, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain
Limoges, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain
Marseille, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain PACA
Paris, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain
Paris, Fonds Municipal d'Art Contemporain de la ville de Paris
Paris, Fonds National d'Art Contemporain
Rennes, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain de Bretagne
Seine-Saint-Denis, Collection départementale d'Art Contemporain de la Seine-Saint-Denis
Sélestat, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Alsace
Toulouse, Les Abattoirs – Frac Occitanie Toulouse
Villeurbanne, Institut d'art contemporain

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS EUROPE

Austria, Linz, Lentos Kunstmuseum
Austria, Vienna, M.A.K
Austria, Vienna, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien
Belgium, La Louvière, Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image imprimée
Finland, Tampere, Sara Hildénin Taidemuseo
Germany, Aachen, Neue Galerie–Sammlung Ludwig
Germany, Berlin, Artothek–Neuer Berliner Kunstverein
Germany, Esslingen am Neckar, Graphische Sammlung der Stadt
Germany, Koblenz, Ludwig Museum
Germany, Munich, Pinakothek der Moderne
Luxemburg, EIB Institute
Monaco, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco
Portugal, Lisbon, Museu Coleção Berardo
Spain, Madrid, ARCO Foundation
Spain, Barcelona, MACBA
Switzerland, Basel, Kunstmuseum
Switzerland, Geneva, Fondation du Grand Théâtre de Genève
Switzerland, Geneva, La Musicale, Bibliothèque de Genève
Switzerland, Geneva, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire
Switzerland, Lausanne, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts
Switzerland, Munchenstein-Basel, Schaulager–Laurenz Stiftung
Switzerland, Sion, Musée d'art du Valais
Switzerland, Vevey, Musée Jenisch
The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Peter Stuyvesant Foundation
The Netherlands, Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum
The Netherlands, Hœvelaken, Bouwfonds Kunstcollectie
The Netherlands, The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek
United Kingdom, London, Tate Modern

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS AMERICA, ASIA AND AUSTRALIA

Australia, Sydney, Art Gallery of New South Wales
Australia, Sydney, Museum of Contemporary Art
Australia, Canberra, National Gallery of Australia
Canada, Montréal, Musée d'art contemporain
Japan, Kochi, The Museum of Art
Japan, Tokyo, Murakami SuperFlat Museum
Korea, Seoul, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art
United States, Santa Barbara, AD&A Museum UC Santa Barbara
United States, Cleveland, The Cleveland Museum of Art
United States, New York, Museum of Modern Art
United States, Washington, National Gallery of Art

INDEX



p. 8
Sombre. 2022



p. 10
Idylle (Double vue). 2022



p. 12
Ensemble. 2022



p. 14
Danslesbois. 2022



p. 16
Spring. 2023



p. 18
In&Out. 2023



p. 20
Paysage. 2023



p. 22
Boisombre. 2023



p. 24
Woodcut. 2023



p. 26
Springing. 2023



p. 28
Summer. 2023



p. 30
Untitled. 2023



p. 50
Danslesbois. 2023



p. 52
Bleu. 2023



p. 54
Pris dans les arbres. 2023



p. 32
Untitled. 2023



p. 34
Untitled. 2023



p. 36
Untitled. 2023



p. 56
Paysage (Color). 2023



p. 58
Demémoire. 2023



p. 60
Octobre. 2023



p. 38
Untitled. 2023



p. 40
Untitled. 2023



p. 42
Untitled. 2023



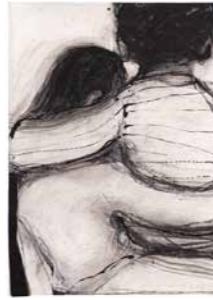
p. 62
Imitation (Nomoretrees). 2023



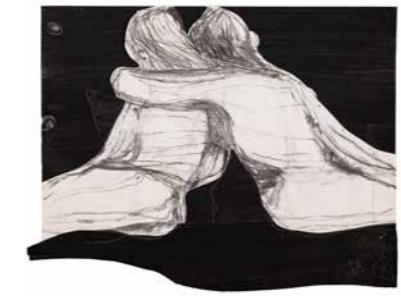
p. 64
Paysage. 2023



p. 44
Untitled. 2023



p. 46
Untitled. 2023



p. 48
Paysage. 2023



This publication was created for the exhibition *Jean Charles Blais*.
Presented by Opera Gallery Geneva, 24 January — 16 February 2024

COORDINATION

Louise BASSOU

Samia RABEH

PROOF READING

Louise BASSOU

Anaïs CHOMBAR

Andréa DUBOIS

Samia RABEH

RESEARCH AND TEXT

Louise BASSOU

DESIGN

Willie KAMINSKI

PICTURES OF ARTWORKS & ARTIST STUDIO

Philippe FITTE

COVER

Ensemble, 2022

All rights reserved. Except for the purpose of review, no part of this book should be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

OPERA GALLERY

Place de Longemalle 10-12, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland | T.41 (0)22 318 57 70 | geneve@operagallery.com | operagallery.com

New York Miami Bal Harbour Aspen London Paris Madrid Monaco Geneva Dubai Beirut Hong Kong Singapore Seoul

operagallery.com