

# FABIENNE VERDIER

## Energy Fields

### Preview

**Saturday 21st September 2013**

10am - 12.30pm 53 rue de Seine, Paris 6ème

15pm - 19pm 5 & 7 rue de Saintonge, Paris 3ème

### Exhibition

**From 21st September to 2nd November**



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**Press Relation**  
Sofia Caputo  
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Fabienne Verdier in her studio working on the series Walking-Painting, 2013 © Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris. Photo : G.Baizeau

The Gallery is pleased to announce a new exhibition of **Fabienne Verdier's** works entitled **Energy Fields** which will take place **from 21<sup>st</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> November** in our **Marais spaces Rive Droite** and our **space in St Germain, Rive Gauche**. This exhibition follows an earlier exhibition of her works at the **Groeninge Museum in Bruges** and the **St Jean Hospital / Memling Museum** as well as an exhibition at the **Erasmus House** in Brussels as a tribute to the Flemish masters Van Eyck, Van der Weyden, Marmion, Memling and Van der Goes. The curator of both exhibitions is Daniel Abadie.



Margareta. *La Pensée Labyrinthique II*, 2011, ink, pigments and glazing on canvas, 180 x 356 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris. Photo : Inès Dieleman

### The Spirit of Painting - Tribute to Flemish Masters

Having immersed herself for ten years in another culture and learned the importance of intuition in artistic creativity, Fabienne Verdier re-discovered western painting after returning to France. She was especially drawn to the graceful, abstract forms of the great 15<sup>th</sup> century Flemish Masters. Close study of their works has shaped her own way of seeing, yet her paintings are original creations where she conveys the sacrality of the real in its most infinite movements and its incandescence. They reveal in the flow of ink aspects of the real which animate our universe and the freedom *necessary to perceive its vital motions*. In the draping of the Virgin she discerns natural arborescent forms; in the Canon of Paele by Van der Weyden, the form of a monolithic rock. From the circular figures against a blue sky in the stained glass window of the Virgin she transposes into a masterful polyphony of twelve circles, a plenitude of furrowing waves. The headdress in Van Eyck's portrait of his wife Margareta is transformed into a *graphic labyrinth of bee-hives*--- interpreting her soul or perhaps corresponding to the meanderings of the earth's great rivers.



Jan Van Eyck  
*Portrait de Margareta Van Eyck*, 1439  
Musée Groeninge, Bruges

Each of **Fabienne Verdier's** paintings is a full experience lived out on a canvas that connects us to our inner nature. This exhibition **Energy Fields** is a double presentation in the spaces of the Gallery and will be on view from **21st September to 2nd November 2013**.

## Labyrinthine Thoughts - Meanders

Marais Space, Rive Droite

One of the two spaces in the **rue de Saintonge** will be dedicated to a meticulous study of the headdress in **Van Eyck's** portrait of his wife **Margareta**, one of the earliest European artworks to portray an artist's wife. This portrait, which occupies an important place in Fabienne's notebooks, inspired her to create a whole constellation of paintings called **La Pensée Labyrinthique** (*Labyrinthine Thought*) or **Méandres** (*Meanders*) in thick pastels or in ink on paper and canvas. A symbol of the stream of consciousness and the flow of thought, the labyrinth evokes a *spiritual topography, the movement of thought from the visible to the invisible*. The intricate meanders of Margareta's veil crown her sinuous headdress, a fashionable head piece worn by high-ranking women in the 15th century. Van Eyck seems to be contemplating the mystery of the human soul, what is both universally human and unique to Margareta. A maze of thought, similar to the honeycomb of a bee-hive, Margareta's thought opens onto the unknown, onto the "*esse in anima*," the inner realm where the will to live, the breath of life, resides. In her notebooks the artist reminds us that the word for soul in French (âme) comes from the Latin anima, meaning Breath. In following the meanders of Margareta's thought in its infinite interpretations, Fabienne Verdier encourages us to delve into our own souls in search of this vital inner core. The labyrinth is both an image of natural forms (honeycombs, corals and fossils) and of human anatomy (brain, viscera). In this maxim written down in her notebooks the artist reveals to us the precept that grounds her belief:

“Plunge into the heart of mutations  
Do not fear to face the unknown”

The magic of the paintings presented in this exhibition lies in their evocation of the correspondences between natural and spiritual labyrinths.



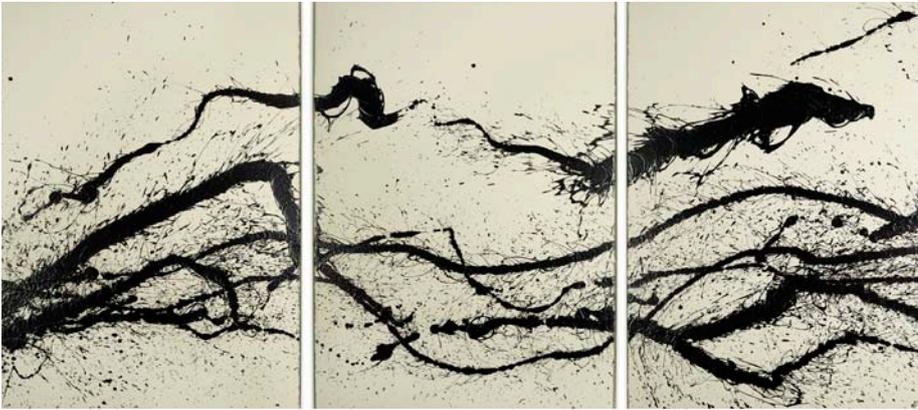
© Fabienne Verdier

To give birth to these *Meanders* Fabienne Verdier does not hesitate to shorten her paintbrush and graft a bicycle handlebar onto it so as to acquire greater speed in the conquest of space. **The use of white ink** happens for the first time, which she obtains by mixing *titanium white*, a very hydrophilic substance found everywhere in the earth's crust. It spreads easily, she says, and has a physical density and hardness as well as a luminescent quality due to a high refraction index. A quotation from the Renaissance architect Leon Battista Alberti sheds light on her use of this substance.

“The pinnacle of art is to know how to use white and black.”

## Walking-Paintings - Recent works

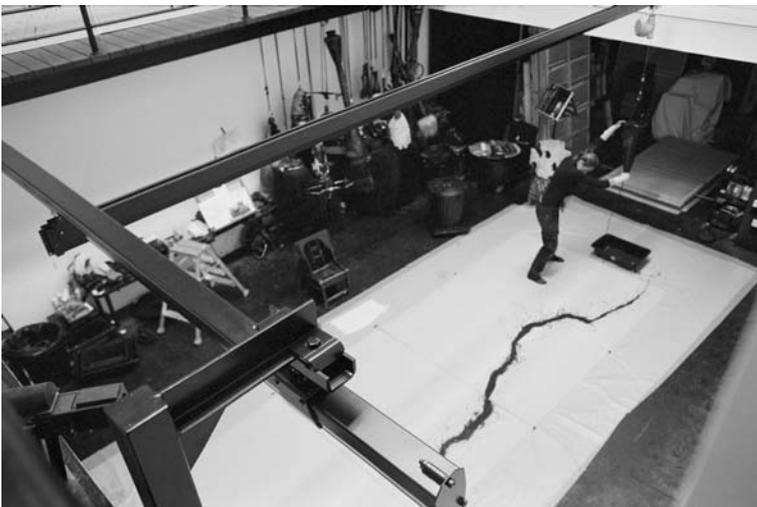
Marais Space, Rive Droite and Seine, Rive Gauche



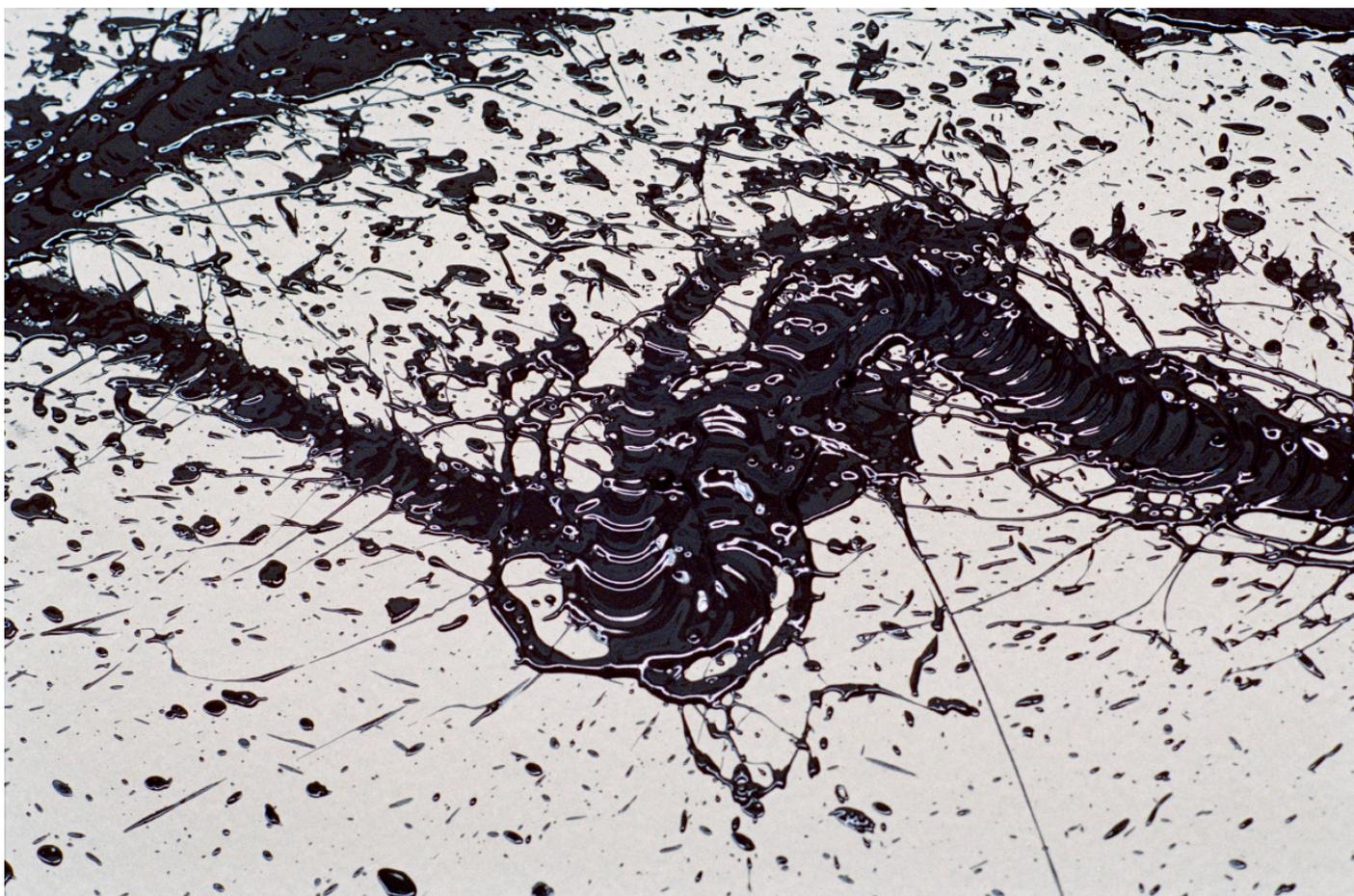
Série *Walking-Painting* V. A, B, C, 2012, black ink on Moulin du gué paper, 198 x 402 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris. Photo : Inès Dieleman

The Marais space as well as 53 rue de Seine will both be devoted to a vast installation of innovative works by Fabienne Verdier: The *Walking-Paintings*.

With this series of works in black and white, the artist abandons her usual paintbrush composed of several horse tails for a funnel she fills with ink to create an effect similar to what is normally obtained with a paintbrush. Walking rapidly over sheets of paper layed out over the floor, while guiding the funnel that blotts large quantities of ink, she draws lines that criss-cross and ramify in all directions. By experimenting with different heights, walking at different speeds and pouring different densities of ink, these *Walking-Paintings* are a kind of stroll of the artist through a landscape created by her body movement, a landscape in total unison with the universe's fundamental electro-magnetic and gravitational forces so that Painting can translate the Invisible. The wave-like lines generated by the splattering of ink allow one to discover a density similar to the complexity of reality (billowing clouds, swarming insects, creeping plants, swirling liquids). It is as if we were lying on the floor and discovering all the life teeming beneath our feet or observing the motions of waves spreading out over the surface of water.



Fabienne Verdier in her studio working on the series *Walking-Painting*, 2013  
© René Burri / Magnum Photos



Detail of a work from the series Walking-Painting © René Burri / Magnum Photos

Tirelessly in search of the vital spirit as well as the creative energy of matter, this new series of works entitled *Walking-Paintings*, as well as *Meanders* and *Labyrinthine Thought*, captures of the characteristic “trait” of Fabienne Verdier (in French a “trait” is a line drawn): influx, vehicle, revelation. They embody to the primeval rhythms and forms of nature, capturing in ink all the various forms of life. By working on different layers of complexity and focusing her attention on the fundamental structures of reality, Fabienne Verdier comes ever closer to the inner life of matter, to the melody that binds matter and mind. She teaches us to see the world anew in the labyrinth of its forms, in the complex mazes of its whirling and swirling motions. For it is precisely in the heart of this world in eternal flux that the work of Fabienne Verdier reveals its richness. This new exhibition can thus be seen as a continuation of earlier series *Ligne-Espace-Temps (Line-Space-Time)*, *Arborescences* and *Incandescences* on display at the autumn 2009 show at the gallery.

## Selected biography

**1962** Born in Paris.

**1983** Graduated from Ecole des Beaux-arts de Toulouse.

**1984** Awarded a post-graduate scholarship at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, China.

**1984–1993** Studied painting, aesthetics and philosophy at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, China, with some of the last great traditional masters.

**2003** Publication of *Passagère du silence, dix ans d'initiation en Chine* (Passenger of Silence: Ten Years of Initiation in China), Albin Michel, Paris — a memoir of her years of apprenticeship with Master Huang Yuan.

Entered permanent collection of Musée Cernuschi, Paris.

**2005** Solo exhibition at Galerie Alice Pauli, Lausanne, Switzerland.

**2007** Publication of monograph *Between Heaven and Earth and Entretien avec Charles Juliet* (Albin Michel, Paris).

Four large works commissioned by Hubert Looser Foundation to dialogue with selected American abstract and minimalist artists from the collection (John Chamberlain, Donald Judd, Willem de Kooning, Ellsworth Kelly and Cy Twombly).

Entered permanent collection of Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris.

**2008** Group exhibition, “*Expansion Résonance*,” Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris.

**2009** Group exhibition, “*Elles@Centre Pompidou*,” Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Pompidou, Paris. Solo exhibition, “*Peinture*,” Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris.

**2010** Commission of two monumental works for the Palazzo Torlonia, Rome. Documentary film by Philippe Chancel: *Fabienne Verdier: Flux*, on the creation of the commissioned works. Publication of *Fabienne Verdier Palazzo Torlonia*, by Corinna Thierolf, chief curator of Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (Editions Xavier Barral, Paris).

**2011** Group exhibition, “*Art of Deceleration from Caspar David Friedrich to Ai Wei Wei*,” Kunstmuseum, Wolfsburg, Germany.

**2012** Group exhibition, “*My Private Passion – Foundation Hubert Looser*,” Kunstforum, Vienna, Austria.

Group exhibition at Waddington Custot Galleries, London.

Publication of *Fabienne Verdier–Painting Space*, by Doris von Drathen (Edizioni Charta, Milano/New York).

**2013** Documentary film by Mark Kidel: *Fabienne Verdier, peindre l'instant* (Fabienne Verdier: Painting the Instant) (Les Films d'Ici with the participation of France Télévisions and CNC, 2012) broadcast on France5 on 1 February 2013 within the Empreintes series.

Solo exhibition at Art Plural Gallery, Singapore, curated by Michael Pepiatt

Solo exhibition “*Fabienne Verdier, L'esprit de la peinture, hommage aux Primitifs Flamands*” (The Spirit of Painting: A Tribute to the Flemish Renaissance) at Groeninge Museum and Memling Museum (St. John Hospital), Bruges, Belgium, curated by Daniel Abadie and Till-Holger Borchert. Solo exhibition “*Fabienne Verdier, Eloges, notes et études*” at Erasmus House, Brussels, curated by Daniel Abadie.

Group exhibition, “*The Hubert Looser Collection*” at Kunsthaus Zürich, curated by Philippe Büttner

Solo exhibition, *Fioretti* at Patrick Derom Gallery, Brussels.

Solo exhibition, *Energy Fields* at Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris.



Fabienne Verdier lives and works in France.

## During the exhibition ...

### Screening of the film *Fabienne Verdier Peindre l'Instant* by Mark Kidel

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Produced by Les Films d'Ici 2 with the participation of France 5 and broadcasted for the series *Empreintes* on French television in February 2013, the documentary *Fabienne Verdier Peindre l'Instant* by Mark Kidel (52 min.) **will be screened at the gallery during the exhibition.**

### Book Signing at the Flammarion Library of the Centre Georges Pompidou

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Saturday 5th October 2013

Fabienne Verdier will be the guest of the Flammarion Bookshop at the Centre Georges Pompidou on **Saturday 5th of October 2013.**

Introduced by an interview between Fabienne Verdier and Daniel Abadie, curator of the exhibition, the catalogue is divided in six sections, reflecting the six Flemish masterpieces analysed by Fabienne Verdier, along with essays by art historians and critics such as Pierre Daix, Yves Peyré and Germain Viatte.

*L'esprit de la peinture, hommage aux maîtres flamands*, edited by Daniel Abadie, Albin Michel, Paris

### Fiac 2013

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From October 24 to 27, 2013 / STAND O.C27

The Gallery will participate at the 2013 edition of FIAC **from October 24 to 27** at the Grand Palais. Like each year, we will be pleased to present a selection of seminal works of the artists of the gallery, both modern and contemporary.

## Publications

### *Painting Space*, an essay by Doris von Drathen

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The distinctive brushstroke that the artist has made the center of her work is not a painterly gesture, but a manifestation of the reality of space. The author's fundamental insight is that these paintings do not represent space, but are essential embodiments of spatial energy-atemporal dialogues with telluric forces that immerse the viewer in their gravitational field.

*Painting Space*, Doris von Drathen, Charta, Milan/New York

### *Notes et Carnet* by Alexandre Vanautgaerden

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The Erasmus House in Brussels presented a series of pastels, ink drawings and sketches made by Fabienne Verdier concurrently with her paintings shown at the Grøeninge Museum in Bruges. Every page of the notebook is a living thought and painting in the making. Her notebooks will also be published by Albin Michel in a book written by Alexander Vanautgærden. The catalogue presents images and texts gradually intertwining like in the notebooks of the great Chinese Masters.

*Fabienne Verdier et les Maîtres Flamands, Notes et Carnets*, Alexandre Vanautgaerden, Albin Michel Paris

## Upcoming events

### **Matter and Memory : The House of the Patriarch**

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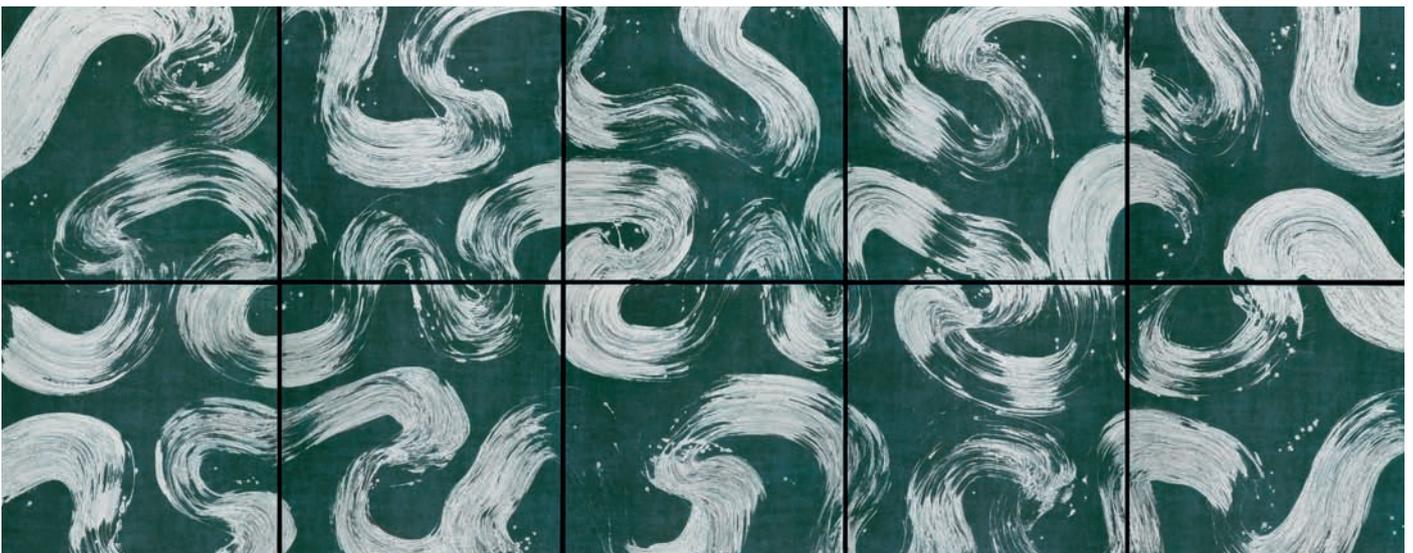
On the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jean-François Jaeger, the Gallery organises an exhibition celebrating his **66 years of activity as art gallerist**. This exhibition will be the occasion to discover several seminal artworks by artists who have marked the history of the gallery and to discover a significant part of the artistic creation from the 1950s until now. The exhibition will take place from **November 19, 2013 to January 25, 2014** in all the spaces of the gallery, Rive Gauche et Rive Droite.

**IMPORTANT**

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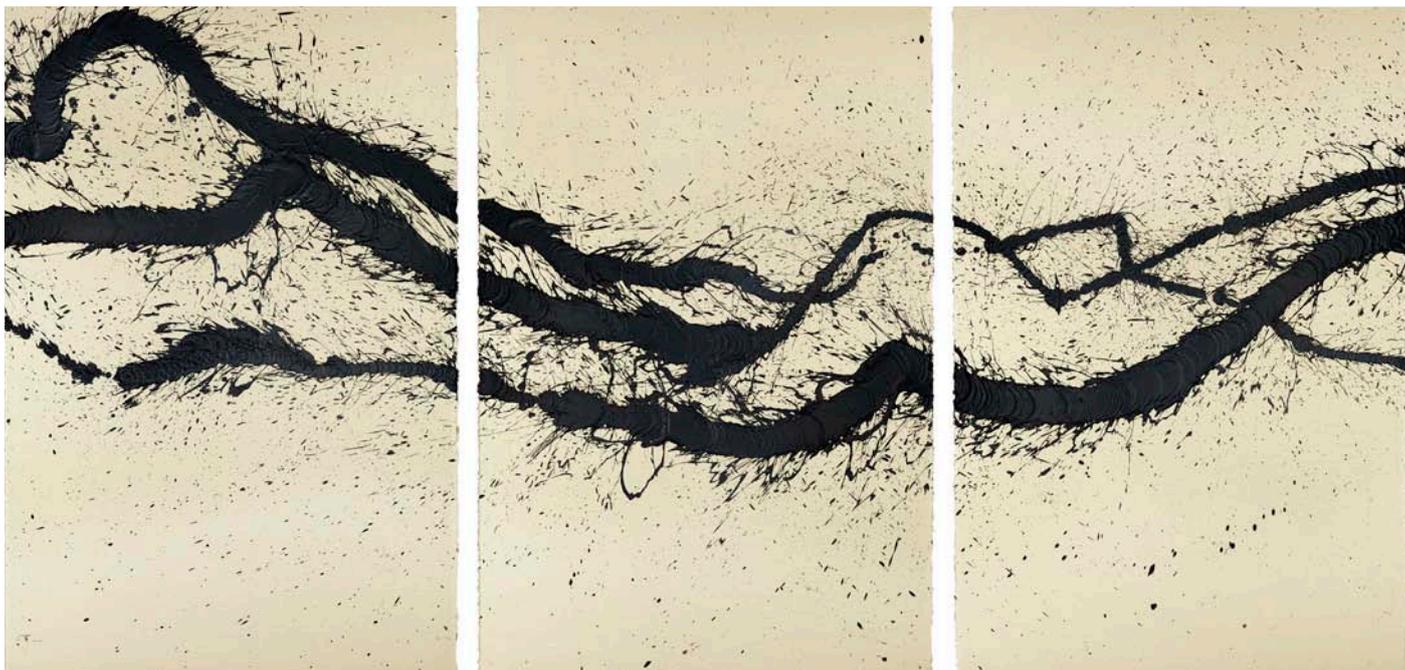


Fabienne Verdier in her studio, 2013 © René Burri / Magnum Photos



*Poème d'adieu au monde. Hommage au Japon après le tsunami du 11 mars 2011 à 14:46, 2011, pigments et encre sur toile, 252 x 633 cm*  
© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher. Photo : Inès Dieleman.

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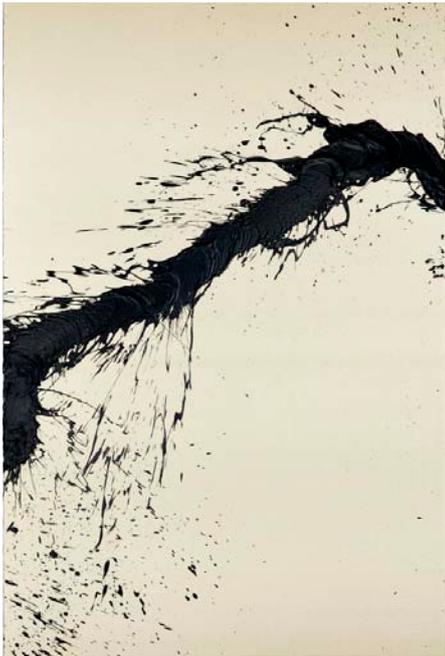


*Série Walking-Painting, Triptyque No. 1*, 2013, black ink on Moulin du Gué paper, 198 x 402 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris. Photo : Inès Dieleman



*Série Walking-Painting Triptyque No. 5*, 2013, black ink on Moulin du Gué paper, 198 x 268 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris. Photo : Inès Dieleman

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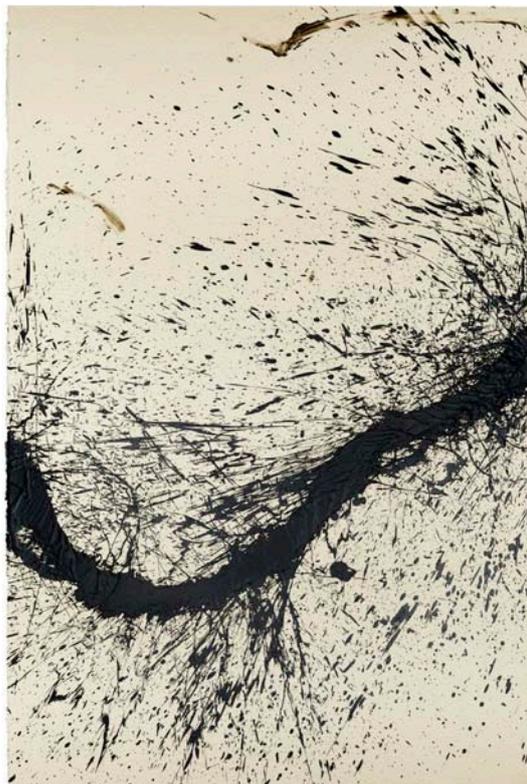
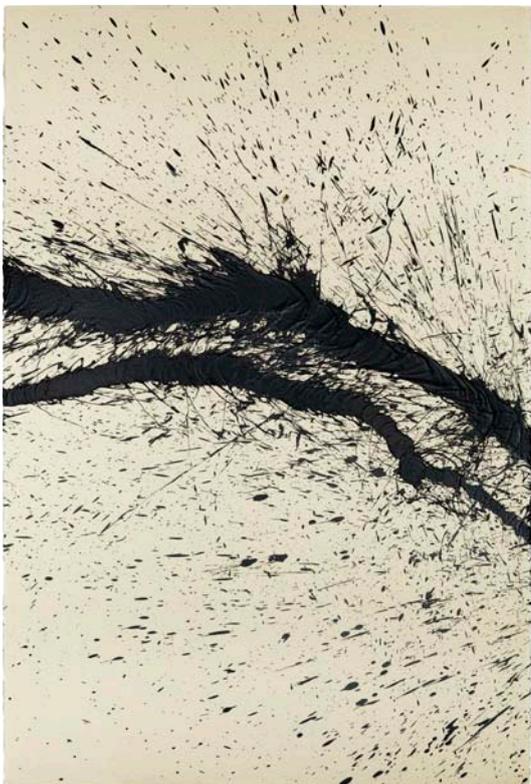
*Série Walking-Painting Solo No. 2, 2013*  
Black ink on Moulin du Gué paper  
198 x 134 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier.  
Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris.  
Photo : Inès Dieleman



*Série Walking-Painting Solo No. 8, 2013*  
Black ink on Moulin du Gué paper  
198 x 134 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier.  
Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris.  
Photo : Inès Dieleman



*Série Walking-Painting Solo No. 10, 2013*  
Black ink on Moulin du Gué paper  
198 x 134 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier.  
Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris.  
Photo : Inès Dieleman



*Série Walking-Painting Diptyque No. 2, 2013*, black ink on Moulin du Gué paper 198 x 134 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris. Photo : Inès Dieleman

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Méandres. *La pensée labyrinthique I*, 2011, ink, pigments and glazing on canvas, 198 x 402 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris. Photo : Inès Dieleman



Margareta. *La pensée labyrinthique II*, 2011, ink, pigments and glazing on canvas, 180 x 356 cm  
© Fabienne Verdier. Courtesy Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris. Photo : Inès Dieleman

GALERIE JAEGER BUCHER

GALERIE JEANNE-BUCHER

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

# FABIENNE VERDIER

## Energy Fields

From 21<sup>st</sup> September  
to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

Gallery Jaeger Bucher / Jeanne-Bucher  
Véronique Jaeger - Jean-François Jaeger

**Press Relation**  
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Tuesday to Friday : 10:00 - 18:00  
Saturday : 10:00 - 12:30 / 14:30 - 18:00