

MOUNTS & WONDERS

Béatrice Pontacq at Manufacture Royale of Montolieu



In Béatrice Pontacq's paintings, there is something that occurs even before the eye names it.

A presence. A slow emergence.

Neither entirely landscape nor entirely abstract, her works reside in that fragile interval where the world still hesitates to reveal itself. A shadow appears—mountain or island—suspended between sky and matter, as if detached from any geography.

It floats, silent, in a space without landmarks, bathed in a muted light.

Nothing is asserted, everything is suggested.

MOUNTS & WONDERS at the Royal Factory of Montolieu
June 21 to October 3, 2026 - 16 Impasse de la Manufacture, 11170 Montolieu
Visits by appointment only: +33 6 32 85 17 85 or www.oneofakind.fr
Opening reception with the artist on June 20 from 4:00 pm.

OΔK







BÉATRICE PONTACQ



Béatrice Pontacq's painting occupies a pivotal position: a point where landscape ceases to be represented and becomes a perceptual experience.

Reduced to essential forms—masses, horizon lines, mineral presences—her compositions defy any identifiable geography. They establish an unstable, suspended space, where the gaze does not recognize but rather experiences.

The manipulation of materials is crucial. Through layers, erasures, and reworkings, Pontacq constructs surfaces traversed by time. Here, painting becomes active memory: it retains as much as it conceals, allowing forms to emerge in tension between appearance and disappearance.

Without succumbing to pure abstraction or figuration, her work belongs to a demanding tradition where the image eludes us in order to better construct itself within the experience of the gaze.

Here, nothing is given. Everything emerges.

Exhibitions (selection):

Mounts & Wonders (2026) - OAK Gallery – Toulouse + Montolieu – France
Suspended Horizons (2025) - Brunswick Gallery Paris - Megève - France
The Divine Comedy (2024) - OAK Gallery – Toulouse – France
Pareidolia (2022) - OAK Gallery – Toulouse – France
A Brief Break in the Clouds (2020/2021) – OAK Gallery – Bordeaux – France
Like Snow in the Sun (2020) – Espace Beaulieu – Bordeaux – France
Journeys – (2020) – OAK Gallery – Toulouse – France
Art and Design (2019/2020) Coutume Studio – Bordeaux, France
Head in the Clouds (2019) – OAK Gallery – Toulouse – France
So Close, So Far (2019) – Château d'Issan / Margaux – Cantenac – France
BB' Berlin (2018) - Ventilator 24 Projektraum – Berlin, Germany
Open Time (2018) – Chateau Climens – Barsac /Sauternes – France

“In Béatrice Pontacq’s work, we are dealing with a theory of the genesis of forms, in which the space of the artwork is far from simply serving as a container for recognizable figures (landscapes, horizons, clouds), in which the backgrounds tell less of a story than they produce the place and time of a mystery. (...) In these «imaginary» landscapes, where the feeling of absence emerges, the horizon appears indeed as a symbol of distance and a beyond of the visible; the edges of the painting are blurred, undefined, as if to open the space to what lies beyond the frame of representation and to place the material within the immaterial.. »

Corinne Szabo, professor of art history in preparatory classes for the Grandes Écoles

French painter Béatrice Pontacq has been developing a unique body of work for several years, situated at the boundary between landscape and abstraction, where painting becomes a field of perceptual and mental experimentation. Trained in pictorial practices, she belongs to a sensitive tradition of contemporary painting that questions not so much the representation of the world as the very conditions of its emergence.

Her work unfolds in a constant tension between presence and withdrawal. Moving away from descriptive figuration, Pontacq favors open, unstable forms, often reduced to essential masses—mountains, islands, horizon lines—which act as visual archetypes. These recurring yet never fixed motifs unfold in indeterminate spaces, where all geographical reference dissolves in favor of an inner experience of the landscape.

The pictorial material plays a central role in this exploration. Through successive superimpositions, erasures, reworkings, and alterations, the artist constructs complex surfaces, traversed by strata and transparencies. The canvas thus becomes a site of sedimentation, where the time of painting—slow, patient, sometimes thwarted—surfaces in every zone. This process lends the works an almost geological density, while maintaining a form of lightness, even of suspension.

Béatrice Pontacq's approach could be situated within a history of painting where landscape ceases to be a motif and becomes an experience. Her works engage in a subtle dialogue with certain traditions—from late Romanticism to lyrical abstraction—without ever explicitly subscribing to them. They evoke a diffuse memory of painting rather than a body of explicit references.

What is at stake here is less about description than about emergence: how does a form appear on the surface? At what point does it shift from the perceptible to the visible? And what remains when painting renounces naming?

In this deliberate economy of motif, the gaze is invited to pay particular attention. It is no longer a question of recognizing, but of experiencing. The image is not immediately apparent: it is constructed in the time of the gaze, in its hesitations, its returns, its projections.

Thus, Béatrice Pontacq's work is part of a demanding contemporary research, where painting, far from any spectacularization, reaffirms its capacity to produce spaces of contemplation, silence and thought.





NUAGES NOIRS SUR FOND BLANC III
Beatrice Pontacq - 2024 - H 130 W 162 cm
Huile, fusain et argile



GRAND NUAGE NOIR SUR HORIZON ORANGÉ
Beatrice Pontacq - 2024 - H 130 W 195 cm Acrylique



NUAGE BLEU
Beatrice Pontacq - 2025 - H 61 W 74 cm
Acrylique, fusain et argile



IMPERCEPTIBLES NUAGES JAUNES
Beatrice Pontacq - 2019 - H 130 W 97 cm
Acrylique et argile



MONTAGNE BLEUE SUR HORIZON OR
Beatrice Pontacq - 2024 - H 110 W 80 cm
Acrylique, dorure et argile



TRIPTYQUE BLEU ET OR
Beatrice Pontacq - 2019 - H 130 W 283 cm
Acrylique, dorure et argile



IMPERCEPTIBLES NUAGES BLEU
Beatrice Pontacq - 2019 - H 130 W 97 cm
Acrylique et argile

La Manufacture Royale, est située à Montolieu dans l'Aude au cœur de l'Occitanie , où l'architecture, le style et la convivialité sont à l'honneur.

The Royal Factory is located in Montolieu, in the Aude department, in the heart of Occitanie, where architecture, style, and conviviality are celebrated.

A protected historical monument of French heritage, built in 1739, the building delights architecture enthusiasts.

A blend of understated industrial architecture and Louis XV classicism. The style is the work of Marieke and Bart, the result of over 20 years of creation: apartments with inventive decor: raw romanticism, in harmony with the building's industrial history, eclectic designer furniture, 1960s pieces, repurposed and cosmopolitan.

The atmosphere is that of a beautiful, open house, with its magnificent park crossed by the Dure River, in a hilly village in the south of France, where culture is present on every corner (17 bookstores)...

The Royal Manufactory building was constructed starting in 1739, on the site of 16th-century mills. It is bordered by a millrace, used for cleaning wool, and by the Dure River, which provided power for the looms. The high-quality cloth produced at the Manufactory was destined for export, via Marseille, to the Levant (Constantinople, Aleppo, etc.). The industrial activity was largely carried out in the workshops upstream from the building on the river, which housed the owner of the operation and served as storage for the cloth.

The building became the Royal Manufactory under Louis XV. This is evidenced by the coat of arms above the entrance door, which was defaced in 1791 during the French Revolution. Three fleurs-de-lis on a globe, surrounded by the collar of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis. The word «Royale» has also been defaced.

The Royal Manufactory of Montolieu is listed as a historical monument, partly due to the excellent preservation of elements such as the majestic Louis XIII-style marble staircase, the period woodwork, and more generally, the classical balance of both the interior and exterior architecture.

Work began in 2019, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, to restore the façade and replace the roof according to historical monument standards. This year also marks the reopening of the Ceres Franco Museum in Montolieu.

Manufacture Royale de Montolieu - 16 Impasse de la Manufacture 11170 Montolieu - www.la-manufacture-royale.fr



OAK Gallery is the new landmark for art and design collectors in Toulouse.

OAK Gallery has opened at 2 Place Montoulieu in Toulouse, in the former kitchens of a listed 17th-century building.

This new location is a showcase for inspiring displays, where artworks selected by Antoine Vignault mingle with pieces from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, patiently sourced by Emmanuelle Vidal.

United by their shared passion for collectible design and unique pieces, Emmanuelle Vidal and Antoine Vignault have been exhibiting since 2020 in a magnificent apartment opposite the Jardin des Plantes. Since March 2023, they have been presenting their selections in a new 80m² showroom on Place Montoulieu, where all the art and design pieces are displayed in artful settings and offered for sale.

Rare, often unique, objects are presented in themed exhibitions that highlight artists from all backgrounds. The decor is constantly evolving, according to their discoveries and the favorites of customers, who are increasingly discovering this new address.

OAK Oneofakind Gallery - 2 Place Montoulieu, 31000 Toulouse - T. +33 6 58 56 86 19 - www.oneofakind.fr

OAK



SCAN ME TO DOWNLOAD THE PICTURES