

# VILLEPIN

## *The Art of Hope: New School of Paris*

23 November 2020 – 23 April 2021

G-2/F, 53-55 Hollywood Road

Central, Hong Kong

Villepin announces a new exhibition dedicated to the Second School of Paris, showcasing a group of artists who became active following World War Two in Europe. The gallery will present the works of an exceptional and diverse group of painters who created, built, and hoped for a brighter future on the banks of the Seine since the Liberation of Paris in August 1944. Drawing attention to this movement now, the gallery seeks to exhibit, remember, and above all constantly question the relationship between the world and art, bringing together the past and present, the near and far.

After 1945, Paris enjoyed an artistic renaissance where a loose group of non-figurative artists emerged as a counterbalance to the New York School and American Abstract Expressionism. Paris once again became a global cultural center and attracted painters from all over Europe and the world, who contributed to re-shape the city's iconic art scene.

Following major exhibitions and retrospectives that have allowed the public to rediscover the importance of the Second School of Paris, this exhibition will include works from emblematic artists such as Pierre Soulages, Georges Mathieu, Hans Hartung, Nicolas de Staël, Jean Dubuffet, Jean Paul Riopelle, and Zao Wou-Ki whose work was the subject of the gallery's inaugural exhibition in March 2020.

Through a selection of oil paintings created between the 1940s and the 2000s, the exhibition aims to tell the story of each artist, as well as explore the strong bond they shared as a group, from the common experiences and challenges they faced and how it impacted their way of thinking, living and creating, to the intensity of their pictorial quest with the central question of figuration and abstraction.



Georges Mathieu – PENDING HD  
*Complainte silencieuse des enfants de Bogota face aux commandos de la mort, 1989*  
Oil on canvas, 342x152cm

With a strong message that evokes peace and friendship to be fostered among all people, Villepin hopes to welcome this group of artists who share a strong resonance with our evolving and changing world.

*“We would like to offer, within the span of the exhibition, a contemplative time for a shared conversation between collectors and painters, and minds and spirits to make, unmake, and remake the world. We would let the paintings do the talking, and indeed talk amongst themselves. Because today more than ever, in such times when all certainties and habits seem to be called into question, in the hour when we see the world apparently crumbling before our eyes, we need their energy, faith, solidarity, and conviction that the world is yet to be rebuilt, to start anew,” - Dominique de Villepin.*

This show will also mark a new long-term collaboration with PIERRE PAULIN design furniture. Visitors will be able to view selected pieces by the late iconic French designer displayed throughout the three-story gallery space. Pierre Paulin (1927-2009) is celebrated internationally for his unique modern vision and sculptural approach to furniture and design. (<https://paulinpaulinpaulin.com/en/>)



Set of Alpha Sofa and Alpha club, available at Villepin from November 2020

An exhibition catalogue, featuring an essay by Dominique de Villepin will accompany the show.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### ***About Villepin***

Shaped by Dominique and Arthur de Villepin’s passion for art, Villepin is a gallery created by collectors for collectors. Inspired by the founders’ own collections and profound knowledge of the Asian art market, Villepin offers a new gallery concept based on the art of collecting. Through their experience building close friendships with artists, the father-son duo wish to share their expertise with fellow collectors by curating artworks that they themselves would love to collect, ultimately nurturing a unique model of collecting based on long-term relationships with artists and their estates or foundations. With their knowledge of the region’s art scene and strong commitment to the city, the new gallery program will exhibit work by some of the world’s most important artists, focusing on those whose work carries universal messages to demonstrate the power of art to build bridges and change lives. Villepin prioritizes its personal relationships with artists and aspires to tell their personal stories through staging important exhibitions of their work, producing detailed publications and generating dialogue about collecting art with passion.