

PRIX
JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT



PRESS RELEASE

JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT PRIZE 2021 – 10th edition

Paris, october 4th, 2021

ALEXANDRE LENOIR
PRIZEWINNER OF THE JEAN-FRANCOIS PRAT PRIZE 2021



The 10th Jean-François Prat Prize was awarded to the artist Alexandre LENOIR, Thursday September 30th, 2020 at the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art - 53 quai d'Orsay, Paris.

His work was presented to the jury by Marie MAERTENS, independent curator, art critic and journalist.

The Jury was chaired by Charles-Henri FILIPPI, art collector, former president of HSBC Foundations, and current co-president of Lazard Frères (Paris).

This year, the winnings are being divided differently, by suggestion of the prizewinner. Each artist and supporting curator will receive an equal sum.

The two others short listed artists are: Chloë Saï BREIL-DUPONT (born 1990, lives and works in Berlin) and Jean CLARACQ (born 1991, live and work in Paris).

The Selection Committee has chosen to support the **young French scene** which, over the last year, has had only a short-lived opening of galleries and art centres in which to express itself.

An artistic direction can be read in the work of these young emerging contemporary painters: **Millennial Figuration**. These three young millennial artists have engaged a more or less conscious struggle with the ephemeral, the short durations and immediacy of the figurative images engendered by these digital practices, precisely when we might have thought them indifferent to these phenomena of the flight and passing of time (just seen, already gone).

EXHIBITION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL NOVEMBER 14th, 2021

(through on line reservation at <http://www.bredinpratfoundation.org/en/visit-the-exhibitions/>

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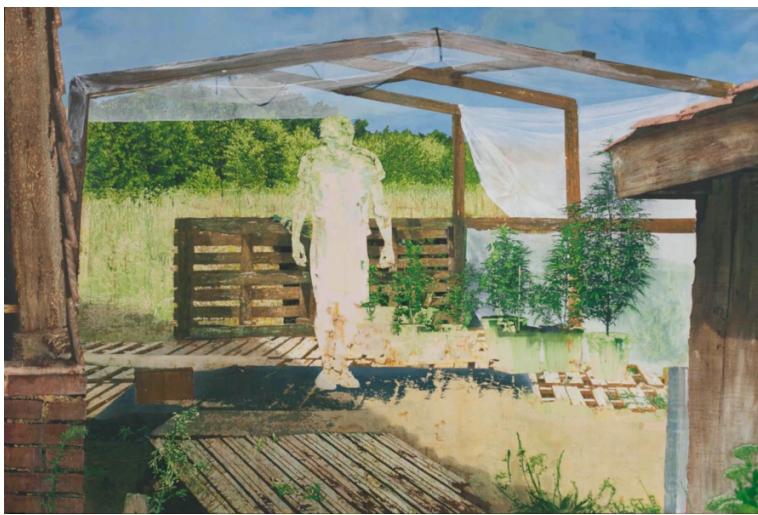


ALEXANDRE LENOIR



© Courtesy de l'artiste et Almine Rech

Representing landscapes, interiors and buildings, the works of Alexandre Lenoir often feature characters as ephemeral as memories. An ambiguous hedonism inhabits these visions, drawing on the multiple identities of the artist himself. His paintings consist of multiple layers of color washes combined with an elaborate stencil technique. In this "tremor of time" that accompanies this complex procedure, the photographic snapshot that presided over it is erased and we search in vain for the exact image that escapes.



Landes, 2016
© Courtesy de l'artiste

Created while terminating Beaux-Arts de Paris, *Landes*, 2016, perfectly fits the beginnings of Alexandre Lenoir's painting in a kind of emancipation from photography, which was at the origin of the work, before becoming a painting. *"I use a lot of the shots that I have taken, but never from a photographic perspective: when I take a picture: I immediately think of what it might look like in painting. I am not trying to have a realistic rendering. Then, I immerse my studio in the*

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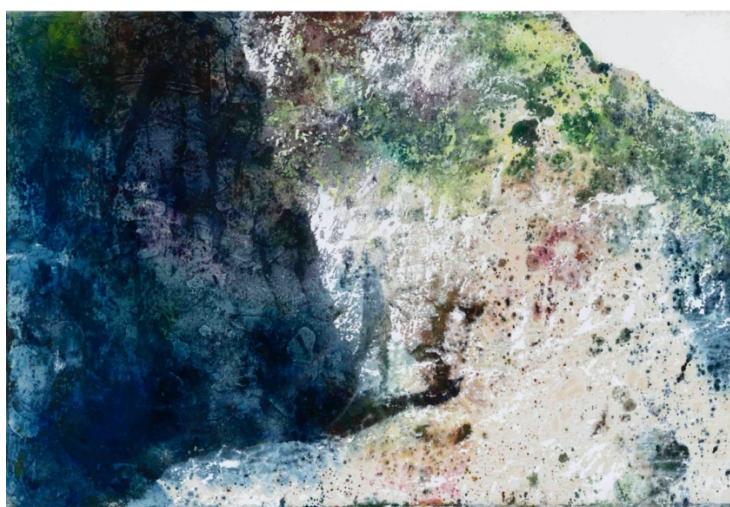
dark and I project the image to the scale of my support on a video projector in order to define an architecture, a base. This leads me to hide several parts of it until some shapes escape me completely. "



Retour à l'ombre, 2018

© Courtesy de l'artiste

Most of Alexandre Lenoir's paintings have something ghostly, diffuse, close to mirage and play with the appearance or disappearance of human beings recalled to him by a memory, often linked to nature. In *Retour à l'ombre*, 2018, they are two characters who seem to blend into the tree trunks on the right. This effect is induced by the work on both sides of the canvas, by the infusion of colors, as well as by washes, creating a latency in the image, the result of which is, on purpose, not controlled.

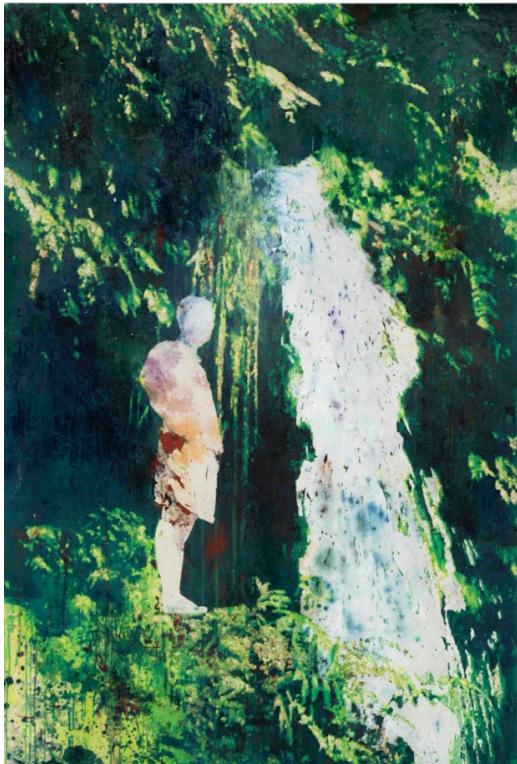
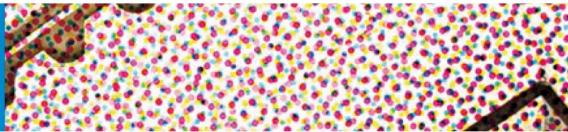


Plage grise, 2020

© Courtesy de l'artiste et Almine Rech

The more recent works of Alexandre Lenoir favor more abstraction and the unspoken with much more ambiguity than in his early days. An uncertainty sought by the artist.

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Sur le bord, 2020

© Courtesy de l'artiste et Almine Rech

The choice of very large formats (most often 118 x 59 in.(3 x 2 m)) responds to the artist's wish "*to provoke an immersion which creates an ambiguity with the object you are looking at. Is it the canvas that is in our space or we who are in the space of the canvas?*" The other advantage of these large formats is that his canvases appear in three dimensions and several planes when you step aside and reveal other plans and details when you approach.

Alexandre LENOIR – Mini bio

Born in 1992 in Chartres, lives and works in Paris

Graduated from the école des Beaux-Arts in Paris (2016), Alexandre Lenoir moved to Casablanca in 2018 to further develop his practice. Back in Paris, he exhibited in solo shows at the Caisse des Dépôts (2021) and the Sisley Foundation (2020), as well as in a group at the Thalie Foundation (2021) and the Lambert Collection in Avignon (2017).



2021 EDITION

SUPPORTING CURATOR PRESENTING THE ARTISTS TO THE JURY OF THE PRIZE

- Julie CRENN, art critic and independent curator (Chloë Saï Breil-Dupont)
- Corinne RONDEAU, art critic and assistant professor at the Université (Jean Claracq)
- Marie MAERTENS, journalist, art critic and independent curator (Alexandre Lenoir)

ARTISTIC SELECTION COMMITTEE 2020

- Marie-Aline Prat, art historian and art collector
- Anaël Pigeat, art critic and editor at large of *The Art Newspaper France*
- Odile Burlaux, curator at the Musée d'art Moderne de Paris
- Frédéric Brière, executive director of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art
- Frédéric Bonnet, art critic and independent curator

THE JEAN-FRANCOIS PRAT PRIZE

To celebrate the memory of Jean-François Prat, who died on 26 March 2011, and who was a contemporary art enthusiast, the partners of the law firm Bredin Prat, which he co-founded, and his family, decided to pay tribute to his name by creating in 2012 a new contemporary art prize.

Each year, a committee of experts made up of personalities from the art world, preselects eight artists and then, after consulting Bredin Prat's associates, selects three finalists. An exhibition of the artworks is hanged at the Foundation, then a mixed composition jury (80% associates of Bredin Prat, and 20% personalities from the art world) hear three supporting curators of the artists, then vote to choose the winning artist. The Chair of the Prize presents the prizewinning artist during an evening bringing together guests from the world of art, business and the press.

The Prize consists of an award of €20,000 for the winner and €2,000 for each of the other two shortlisted artists, as well as the publication of a catalogue presenting the work of the three selected artists and a two-month exhibition of a selection of their paintings at the premises of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art, which organizes the Prize.

The winning artists of the previous editions of the Jean-François Prat Prize are Toyin Ojih Odutola in 2020, Miryam Haddad in 2019, Nicolas Roggy in 2018, Avery Singer in 2017, Janis Avotins in 2016, Raphaëlle Ricol in 2015, Zander Blom in 2014, Matt Saunders in 2013 and Farah Atassi in 2012.

In the past, the Prize has been chaired by NMNM museum director Marie-Claude Beaud (2020), Centre Pompidou – MNAM museum director Bernard Blistène (2019), collector and serial digital entrepreneur Marc Simoncini (2018), former Centre Pompidou curator-at-large Florence Derieux (2017), artist Bertrand Lavier (2016), curator of the Pinault Collection Caroline Bourgeois (2015), President of the Society of Friends of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris Christian Langlois-Meurrine (2014), director of the FIAC contemporary art fair Jennifer Flay (2013) and former Culture Minister Jean-Jacques Aillagon (2012).

THE BREDIN PRAT FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Created in 2017, the purpose of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art is to support and promote contemporary artistic creation by establishing a new contemporary art collection focusing on what makes a "tableau": paintings and photographic works, and through the annual Jean-François Prat Prize. Awarded each year to a French or foreign artist, the Jean-François Prat Prize is the international radar searching new emerging artists in painting worldwide.

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The Foundation hosts free access public tours to this collection and to annual exhibitions of the Jean-François Prat Prize shortlisted artists at its premises on the Quai d'Orsay in Paris (originally the premises of the formerly French State-owned tobacco company Seita), as well as permanent access through its websites.

The Bredin Prat Foundation, a French non-profit entity serving a general public interest, is fully in line with the culture and the values of the law firm Bredin Prat characterized by innovation and creativity.

THE BREDIN PRAT LAW FIRM

Founded in 1966, Bredin Prat's practice areas include Corporate Law (Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity, Capital Markets), Litigation and White-Collar Crime issues, Competition and EU Law, Arbitration, Tax, Employment, Financing, Restructuring and Insolvency, Digital and Public Law.

With offices in Paris and Brussels, the firm now has some 190 lawyers, including 46 partners, committed to the highest standards of excellence, to advise the firm's French and international clients in complex or sensitive transactions or contentious matters. Cross-border matters today represent more than two-thirds of the firm's work.

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To get the best-detailed information about the Jean-François Prat Prize, please check on line:

www.prixjeanfrancoisprat.com/en/ or <http://www.bredinpratfoundation.org/en/>



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