

JULES DE BALINCOURT

BLUE HOURS

PARIS MARAIS

06 Sep 2014 - 18 Oct 2014



A long-awaited event to start the new season: the third solo exhibition of works by Jules de Balincourt. His show, in our gallery in the Marais, has the beguiling title *Blue Hours* and includes fifteen new paintings. This 'Michel Houellebecq' of painting, as Jean-Marc Bustamante calls him, explores private themes that evoke architecture, travel, human migrations and artificial places, in a floating, idealised and escapist atmosphere with hints of a pervading vulnerability.

Balincourt throws himself directly into his painting without drawing or other preliminaries. He creates whole worlds out of patches of bright colours that he reacts to in a subconsciously primitive state of intuition, constructing universes bathed in a silent, ambiguous reality to which our response is out of kilter with the way that that reality is represented. It is difficult to distinguish what might be an imaginary environment from a landscape by the sea, or a daylight scene from what is perhaps a night view. What remains, though, is a sensation of delight, with intimations of danger in the offing. This French-born American artist has lived in the USA since the age of ten and has worked in New York for around ten years. Very early on, he was noticed in *Greater New York*, PS1/MoMA 2005 and, in Europe the following year, in the exhibition *USA Today* at the Royal Academy, London – an exhibition which thrust him into the international limelight.

Last year Jules de Balincourt had his first monographic exhibition at the Montreal Musée des Beaux Arts, in Canada. This led to a museum presentation last spring at the Musée d'Art Contemporain, Château de Rochechouart (France). He is also preparing a one-man show to take place in November 2014 at the Fort Worth Museum of Modern Art, Texas.