

BRUSSELS EXPO | 25 JAN – 1 FEB 2026

BRAFA ART FAIR

GUEST OF HONOUR: THE KING BAUDOUIN FOUNDATION

Galerie BA - Berthet Aittouarès - booth 79 ***Painting writing from 1960 to nowadays***

Press release

The galerie BA-Berthet-Aittouarès, directed by Odile Aittouarès, has been participating in Brafa for twelve years, sharing a stand with the galerie AB run by her sister Agnès Aittouarès.

This year, the gallery Berthet-Aittouarès is focusing on a resolutely gestural abstract expression. True to its interest in line, gesture, and calligraphy—from Michaux to Zao Wou-Ki, Mark Tobey to Hans Hartung, Vera Molnar, and Yann Bago— **the galerie Berthet-Aittouarès has always explored the richness of “sign expression,” a form of painting in which gesture becomes language and meditation**

Henri Michaux, an unclassifiable figure born in Namur in 1899 and who died in Paris in 1984, perfectly embodies this dialogue between poetic writing and painting. Rejecting any form of “easy fulfillment,” he favored experimentation and constantly broke new ground. A great traveler, he discovered the Far East in 1930, a seminal journey that would inspire his story *Un Barbare en Asie* (*A Barbarian in Asia*, 1931). In 1949, his encounter with **Zao Wou-Ki** would prove equally decisive. In 2004, for *Chine Occident ou l'aventure du signe* (*China West or the Adventure of the Sign*), Michèle and Odile Aittouarès personally invited Zao Wou-Ki to engage in a dialogue with the work of his friend Michaux. The galerie Berthet-Aittouarès has already devoted several exhibitions and publications to the French-Belgian painter.

...Who has never wanted to grasp more, grasp better, grasp differently, both people and things, not with words, nor with phonemes, nor with onomatopoeia, but with graphic signs? Henri Michaux

In this rapprochement between Asia and the West, the indispensable **Mark Tobey** (1890–1976) was the only one missing. A major American artist, exhibited at MoMA as early as 1929 and often considered to have influenced Jackson Pollock, Tobey studied Chinese calligraphy and Zen painting in the 1930s. After spending time in China and Japan, he finally chose to settle in Europe. His work, often described as musical, finds particular resonance in the painting presented this year by the galerie Berthet-Aittouarès at Brafa, from the collection of Swiss pianist François Gaudard, who in 1967 performed the *17 piano pieces* composed by Mark Tobey.

From calligraphic gestures to dripping, we naturally arrive at **Hans Hartung**, whom the gallery has represented for many years. The 1957 work presented this year bears witness to his friendship with Zao Wou-Ki: Hartung uses a Chinese brush that Zao Wou-Ki gave him.

Drawing was also reinvented by **Vera Molnar**, a pioneer of digital art, who created the first computer drawings on a plotter in the 1960s. She was celebrated in 2024 with a major solo exhibition at the Centre Pompidou, on the eve of her 100th birthday.

Finally, the exhibition concludes with the youngest artist featured, **Yann Bagot** (born in 1983). His work, in which he becomes one with the seascape, explores the reactions of ink, salt, and water to “paint” or “write” the sea.

Henri Michaux
(1899-1984)



1964

Indian ink on paper

75 x 105 cm

Monogrammed lower right

This artwork is registered in the Henri Michaux Archives under number HM5891

Provenance:

Galerie Daniel Cordier, Paris

Private collection, Paris

Exhibition:

Henri Michaux, Musée national d'Art Moderne, Paris, 1965

Zao Wou Ki
(1920-2013)



1960

watercolor and ink on paper

47 x 35 cm

Signed and dated lower right

Provenance:

Galerie La Hune - Bernard Gheerbrant

Private collection

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BA GALERIE BERTHET-AITTOUARES

14-29 rue de Seine, 75006 Paris +33 (1) 43 26 53 09 contact@galerie-ba.com

Membre du Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art

Siret n°339 137 94 000 10 APE 47.78C T.V.A ID FR 06 339137994

Mark Tobey
(1890-1976)



Landscape, 1967

Tempera on paper

26,5 x 48,6 cm

Signed and dated lower right

Stamp on the back

Provenance :

François Gaudard, pianist and Mark Tobey's friend

Certificate of authenticity dated February 8th, 2007

Hans Hartung
(1904-1989)



1957

mixed technique on paper mounted on canvas

12 x 17,5 cm

Signed and dated lower right

Registered in with the Hartung Bergman Foundation under number HH3379

Provenance:

Private collection

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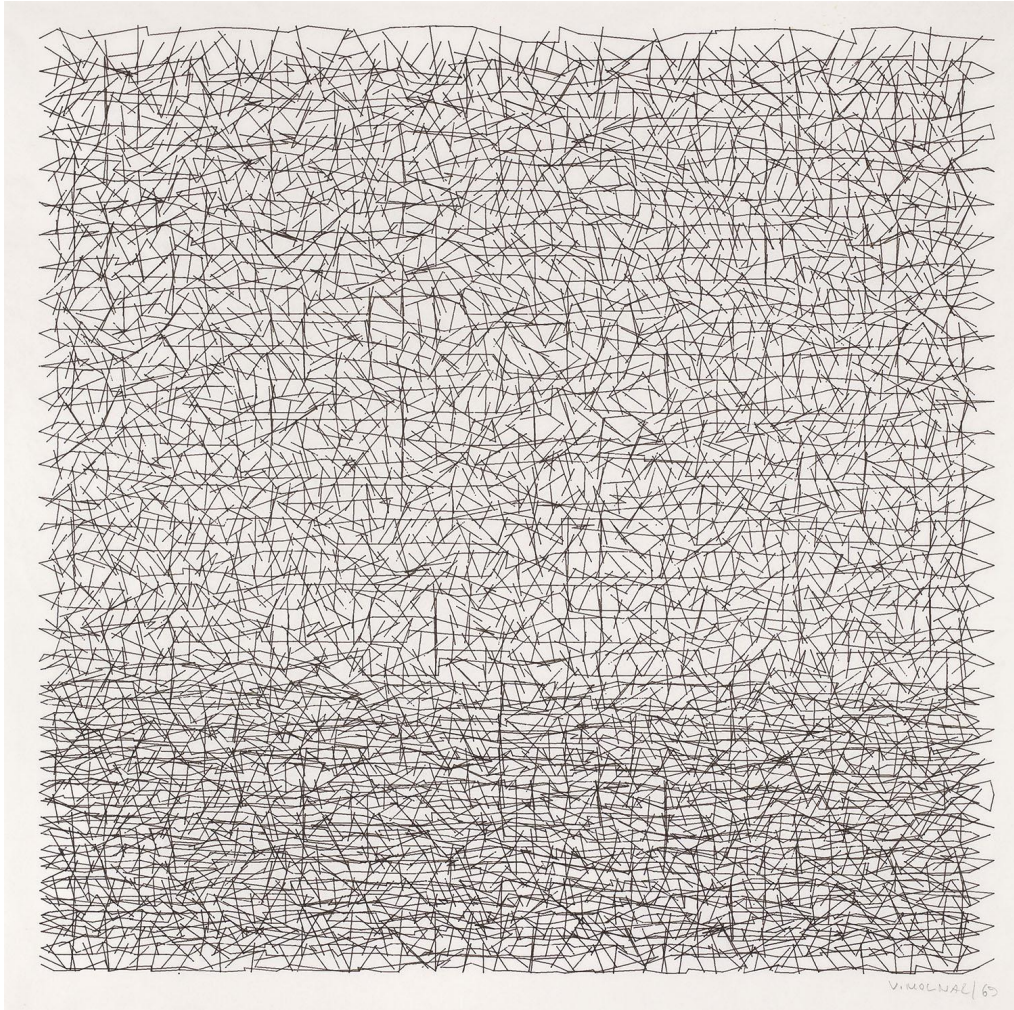
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Vera Molnar
(1924-2023)



Structure + Horizontales, 1969

drawing on plotter on Benson France paper

31 x 31 cm

Signed and dated bottom right of the design in pencil

Signed and dated on the back in pencil

Provenance :

Artist's studio

Exposition :

Le Monde selon l'IA, Jeu de Paume - from April 11th to September 21st, 2025

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Yann Bagot
(born in 1983)



Myriades #23.04, 2023

Indian ink and sea salt on paper

76 x 56 cm

Signed and dated lower right

Provenance:

Artist's studio