

# alpha | gallery

23 Cork Street London W1S 3NJ

+44(0)20 7494 9272

contact@alphagalleryuk.com

## Patrice Valota

Valota was born in Compiègne (Northern France) in 1950.

At the age of 15, after seeing reproductions of works by Georges Rouault and Bernard Buffet in a book, Valota got hold of some gouache, tore a bed sheet apart, grabbed a kitchen knife, his father's pipe and painted his first picture. The call of art had begun. His father, of Italian descent, was a mushroom farmer. Valota would accompany him as a young boy and was amazed by the white mushrooms that appeared like magic in the dark ancient quarry. The stone walls lit only by the flame of a torch revealed naturally sculpted figures and shapes setting his imagination alight. These strong images surged back to him some 30 years later during a visit to Jean Cortot's atelier. Thus, at the age of 38 he finally decided to become a painter and three years later had his first one-man show at the Lavignes Gallery in Paris.

Valota has chosen wax as his main medium. He paints with the flame of a blowtorch, mastering the fusion of melted matter and pigments to obtain a glowing surface. Wax sets off a very special light and gives unique depth of colour to his work. With both classical and contemporary influences, he plays on contrast, offers abstract and figurative works, mixes natural references and geometric lines.

Valota shares his time between his studios in Paris and in Normandy. He has exhibited both painting and sculpture in 10 solo shows and 20 group shows. His work is part of many reputable art collections including that of Alain-Dominique Perrin (Founder of the Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art) and John Travolta.

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions:**

- 2008 "Accords & Âmes" - painting and sculpture (Riff Art Projects gallery, Strasbourg)
- 2007 "Des arbres et des âmes" - painting and sculpture (Maison des Arts d'Evreux)
- 2005 "Arborescence" (Lavignes Bastille Gallery)
- 2000 "Hors Corps" - painting and sculpture (Valérie Cueto Gallery, Paris)

### **Group Exhibitions:**

- 2009 "Traverses" - Maison des Arts, Le Vigan
- 2008 "Le Temps au Temps - Vanités" (Riff Art Projects Gallery, Strasbourg)  
Show-Off Fair, Paris (Riff Art Projects Gallery, Strasbourg)  
Strasbourg Art Fair (Riff Art Projects Gallery, Strasbourg)
- 2003 "L'Art Emmêlé" (Paris Townhall)
- 2001 "Blanc", Valérie Cueto Gallery, Paris  
"Tempête sous un crâne", Valérie Cueto Gallery  
"Impressions", Beckel Odille Boïcos Gallery, Paris  
Art Paris (Beckel Odille Boïcos Gallery)
- 2000 "Rouge", Valérie Cueto Gallery, Paris

# alpha | gallery

23 Cork Street London W1S 3NJ

+44(0)20 7494 9272

[contact@alphagalleryuk.com](mailto:contact@alphagalleryuk.com)

Valota is a multi-faceted artist. In addition to painting, he is also a successful actor and has appeared in international films : "The Tenth Man" with Anthony Hopkins and Kristin Scott Thomas, "House of Elliot" with Louise Lombard, "Bergerac" with John Needle, "John Adams" with Tom Wilkinson and Paul Giamatti, "The Vintner's Luck" by New Zealand movie Director, Niki Caro with Vera Farmiga , Gaspard Ulliel and Jérémie Renier ... He has also played in over 50 French movies and TV films with directors such as Claude Lelouch, Claude Faraldo, Hervé Palud and Gerard Mordillat.