

## Claudie Bastide



The French artist Claudie Bastide is an international jet-setter. She received formal fine arts training in UCAD Paris (Union Centrale des Arts Décoratifs) and in the eighties and nineties ran fashion design studios in Brussels and Mexico City before she finally settled down in Paris. Following her ten years collaboration with a French haute couture icon Pierre Cardin, Claudie finally decided to give up the glamour of the fashion world and dedicate herself to art. She expresses herself in sculpture, painting and photography.

In 1996 Bastide had her first exhibition, which composed of sculptures constructed from chairs. As she recollects "One of my earliest memories as an artist is when I was looking at an old wooden chair I suddenly saw it transformed into a character. That was some sort of a vision which has never left me".

The works on show will be a mix of paintings from different periods and two "chair sculptures". In her earlier works Bastide experimented with constructivist ideas, blending geometric forms and blocks of colours in search a true of harmony. In more recent works however, Bastide steps aside from the rigorous geometry and leans towards more spontaneous expression. Bastide explains this change of direction "For some years I have let myself go to a recurring geometrical tendency and I ended up feeling somehow trapped in the shapes."

In Bastide's paintings colour is the most important element. It is the starting point and the only planned or preconceived part of a painting "I paint essentially according to my own feelings of a particular colour; I mean that a blue or red or green colour comes over me and I must dive into it until I get saturated with it." The rest builds up naturally when Bastide lets loose the subconscious creative impulse. Bastide associates herself with the movement Abstraction Lyrique, not only because she often applies the lessons of Kandinsky in her paintings, but also because of the emotional forces and poetical touch which drive her creativity.

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions:**

- 2009 - Exposition des "Agents perturbateurs": Fondation Taylor, Paris
- 2008 - "Man in the Urban Geometry" Gallery ExArte, Geneva
- 2006 - "Rencontre avec Claudie Bastide" gallery Arte Viva, Levallois - Perret, Paris
- 2005 - "Ecriture de chaises" Halle Saint Pierre, Paris
- 2004 - "Histoires de zinc" Galerie Saint-Pierre, Limoges
- 2003 - "Venez avec moi vous asseoir sur les toits" Galerie Arte Viva Levallois - Perret, Paris
- 2001 - "Rêves de chaises" at CPP ad agency, Paris
- 2000 - "Le Bihan" Quartier Bastille, Paris
- 1999 - Chairs and sculpted paintings, Espace Richelieu, Paris

### **Awards:**

- 2007 - Gold Prize for the André Parinaud Prize at Espace Châtelet-Victoria
- 2005 - City Prize from Avon-Fontainebleau for the sculpture-chairs, Contemporary Art Fair, Boisle – Roi
- 2004 - Silver Medal for the "Arts-Sciences-Lettres" prize.
- 1998 - Winner of a competition for chair designers and creators organised by Aktuel