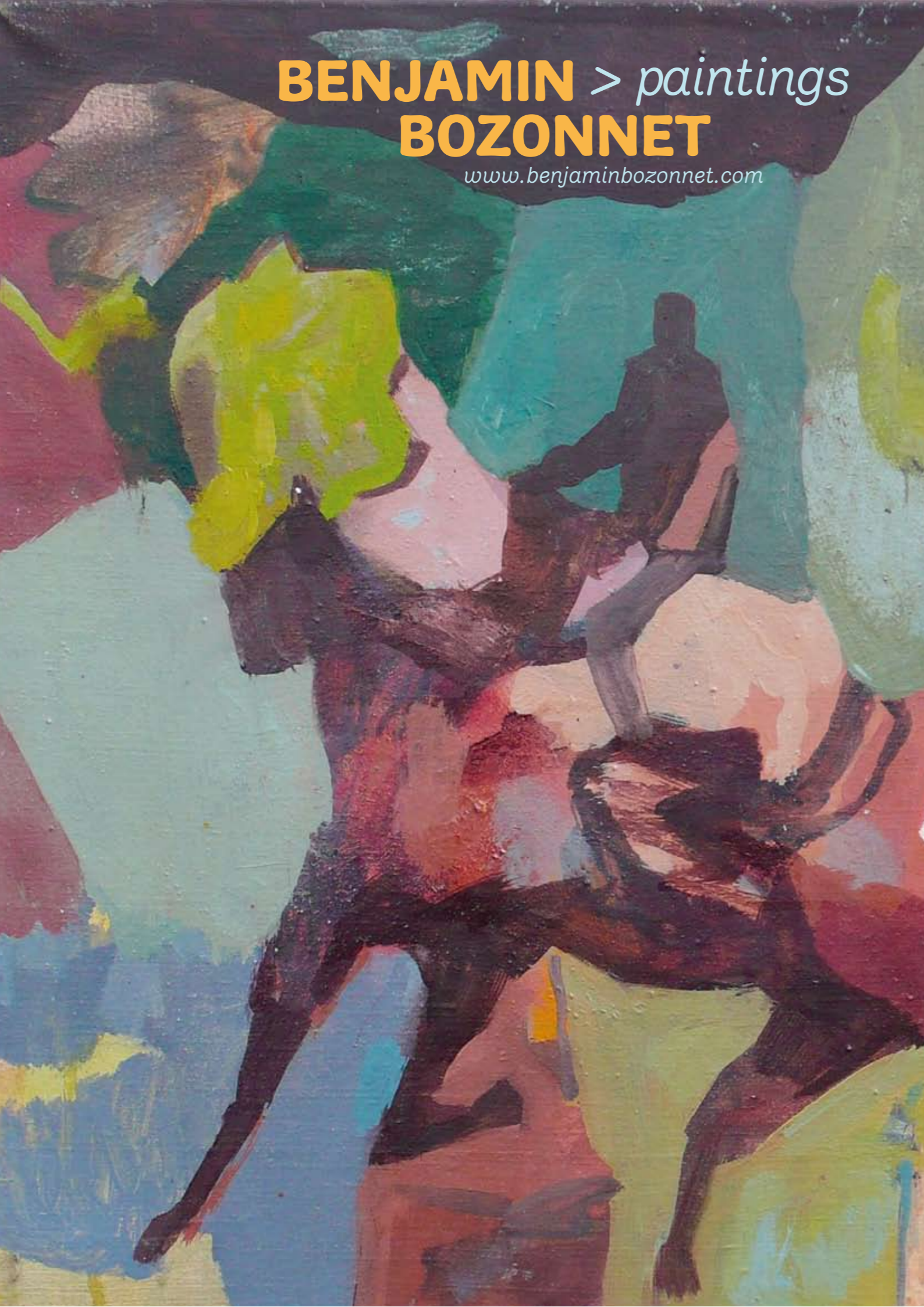


# BENJAMIN > paintings BOZONNET

[www.benjaminbozonnet.com](http://www.benjaminbozonnet.com)



Front cover picture: Delacroix au Maroc



La guerre des Mondes

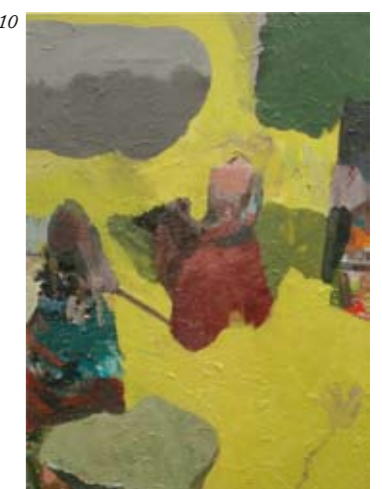
## Exhibitions

- 2008 *Le nouveau bout du monde*, solo exhibition, Galerie Le-trou-de-la-vente - Montigny sur Loing  
*Les malheurs de Sophie*, group exhibition, Galerie Nivet-Carzon - Paris  
*Oeil pour Dent*, Correspondence with J-P Girard, *Printemps de Haute-Corrèze* - Egletons, Meymac  
*Vendanges de printemps*, group exhibition, Chamalot-Résidence - Corrèze
- 2007 *Sans carte, ni boussole*, solo exhibition - Médiathèque, Montreuil  
Galerie M, solo exhibition - Paris  
Chamalot-Résidence d'artistes, Chamalot-Résidence - Corrèze  
*Vivre et laisser Mourir*, group exhibition, Espace d'art contemporain E. Baudouin - Antony  
*See you there*, exhibition with Y. Robardey, Gallery Périf - Beijing, China
- 2006 *Peintures et Publicités*, solo exhibition presented by V. Boissière-art contemporain, Atelier Oz - Paris  
*Le Geste*, group exhibition by V. Boissière-art contemporain, Galerie Pax, Knokke le Zoute - Belgium  
*Accrochage de printemps*, group exhibition - Hotel de Ville, Montreuil
- 2005 *Oui, non, peut-être*, group exhibition, Gallery Périf - Beijing, China  
*Peinture et Bande Dessinée*, group exhibition - Mas Génégals - Vingrau  
*Exceptions contemporaines*, group exhibition, Centre culturel F. Villon - Enghien-Les-Bains  
*Le Transbordeur Térébenthine*, solo exhibition, Château de la forêt - Livry-Gargan
- 2004 *Salon Européen des jeunes créateurs* - Montrouge
- 2003 *Biennale de Valognes*, group exhibition - Valognes  
*Résidence*, (Prix J-F. Millet) - Ile de Tatihou (Manche)
- 2002 *Galerie L'œil vagabond*, solo exhibition - Meung sur Loire  
*Les accrocs du croquis II*, performance and group exhibition, La Coupole - Paris
- 2001 *La sieste*, group exhibition, open day - Strasbourg  
*Les accrocs du croquis*, performance and group exhibition, La Coupole - Paris
- 2000 *Centre d'art contemporain de St Cyprien*, exhibition with R. Théobald,  
by G. de Montauzon - Pyrénées-orientales
- 1999 *Master of Arts 1998*, highly commended, E.N.S.B-A - Paris  
*Villa vincelli-centre*, Centre d'art contemporain, group exhibition - Fécamp  
*Les 4 photographes du Docteur March*, group exhibition, Espace Confluences - Paris
- 1998 *Spring exhibition*, group exhibition, Royal Academy of Fine Arts - Stockholm, Sweden

Abba







## NO MAP NO COMPASS

Benjamin Bozonnet explores the realms of painting like an adventurer, without models or subjects, maps or compasses. Seizes a stretcher from the pile of canvases lying ready: what will it be? A figure? A land or seascape? When it comes to the choice of support, size, shape and proportions don't matter: from postcard intimacy to monumental fresco, the Montreuil studio offers its possibilities like a pedlar spreading out his wares. Benjamin rummages, weighs up, values, lets his hands wander, then finally makes an arbitrary choice. It's to be a square, of about forty centimetres, and he fastens it onto the easel. He'll live with it for a few hours, a few days, often several months before the painting is finished. Right now, nothing is certain, nothing fixed. He grabs a few colours at random from the heap of tubes on a table, to make up his palette. Some of them match, others clash, creating tension and unlikely pacts. Chance becomes a means of opening up new routes. The painter allots himself the task of finding origins deep in chaos, a hidden order within the fertile magma. The first flat tints brushed onto the canvas set up the contrasts; the paintbrush tries to cover the surface and transpose the palette. At first, nothing is clear, just a moving world of splashes placed side by side, a mineral universe of sorts enlarged through a microscope. Yet a picture exists, potentially; several pictures even, appearing from one day to the next, replacing each other right up to the final version. And what will this be? A carp swallowing the bait, perhaps; a cat with an umbrella; a letter written at the foot of a tree; or some other incongruous and ironic vision...For Benjamin Bozonnet's real talent lies beyond his sophisticated ideas on theory, hiding the slow ripening of his work behind unexpected humour, and masking original painting with burlesque

characters. A woman feeds her spineless companion with "Space Cake" while "Un Amour Vrai" (True Love) has the lover's face crushed by a shoe. At this moment in time, nothing counts except the palette: exploring, then breakthrough! - or maybe regrets, a few problems that may never be solved. Several pictures are waiting in the workshop. Oil painting sets a certain rhythm, curbs enthusiasm, requires patience. Only a few slight touches can be added while the canvas is drying, and the painter suffers agonies. Here, a clearing appears, there, in the foreground, a horse resists its rider. Further on, a "Guerre des Mondes" (War of the Worlds) is played out in 'small' format, as an oppressive typhoon thrusts out of the abstract. Each painting must 'stand alone' in that mysterious state of autonomy where it has its own life, quite independent of the collective work. In spite of this, all the paintings do not spring from the same creative void; the method can stand a few exceptions. Genuine landscapes featuring Tuscany, the Channel or the Alps; collages like the "Fiancée de Bruce Lee", or travel diaries can introduce a subject. Yet the artist is first and foremost concerned with the pictorial material and its infinite variety of textures and transparencies, eternally renewed. At 32, Benjamin Bozonnet has had around twenty exhibitions in France and abroad. He moves on from one new experience to another, from one exchange to the next, with the same enthusiasm, returning from his travels in Africa and China rich in sketches, book illustrations, comic strips and teaching. Painting is his life, and it takes pride of place at the very heart of his work.

**Pascal Corseaux**

- 1 Double sieste à Shaolin
- 2 Opium
- 3 M'art
- 4 Peut-être là
- 5 Panoramique
- 6 L'orpheline
- 7 Jos
- 8 La lettre
- 9 La pierre
- 10 Hagakuré
- 11 La rebute