

PARADE, A FRENCH SCENE. LAURENT DUMAS COLLECTION

Laurent Dumas started collecting art over two decades ago. Throughout the years, he has shifted his focus increasingly on the French scene, particularly that which showcases the renewed vibrancy of pictorial and plastic practices – especially figurative – fostered by several decades of conceptual art and relational aesthetics, but which nonetheless reconnect with the process of depicting of the world or, rather, of reinventing singular worlds. His collection, which features a wealth of monumental formats, has now become the collection of reference for anyone seeking to understand the evolutions of art in France in the past thirty years.

It provides us with an archaeological perspective, going back to the 1960s, which saw art adapting to the new zeitgeist of a society dominated by mass media; then through to the 1980s and '90s, by which point painting and sculpture were considered to have become obsolete if not for artists such as Jean-Michel Alberola, Erik Dietman, Fabrice Hyber, Annette Messager or Jean-Pierre Pincemin breathing new life into them, removed from the infighting and progressive teleologies that had prevailed over prior decades, but also far from the false spontaneity that had surrounded the commercial success of international neo-expressionism. The collection comprises major groups of artists who left a mark on the first decades of the new century in France: Adel Abdessemed, Dove Allouche, Nina Childress, Hélène Delprat, Damien Deroubaix, as well as Bruno Perramant, Georges Tony Stoll, and Claire Tabouret.

The French scene on display in this collection isn't closed in on itself, as it too often appeared to be previously. It includes foreign artists working in France, such as Ulla von Brandenburg and Thomas Hirschhorn. It is constantly updated thanks to the addition of young artists, from whom Laurent Dumas has always sought to acquire large groups of works early on in their careers and whom he has supported since 2014 with the creation of the Bourse Révélations Émerige [Émerige New Talent Grant], named after the real estate company of which he is the founder. Ensembles of works by Paul Mignard and Edgar Sarin are a testament to the collector's visionary dedication.