

TEMLON



Press release

October 7, 2025

FRANÇOIS ROUAN

November 15 – December 31, 2025

Suaires et palimpsestes

Opening on November 15 from 5pm to 8pm



Transi 8, (Diptych), 2021-2023, oil on canvas, 208 × 158 cm

Recently honoured by a major exhibition at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, entitled *Empreintes*, French painter François Rouan is now the subject of a new show at Galerie Templon in Paris. Nearly twenty major works unfold an oeuvre that can be rediscovered, in the words of Alfred Pacquement, as “possessing a density and depth rarely encountered along the pathways of contemporary art.”

From the outset, Rouan was associated with the *Supports/Surfaces* movement, though he never adhered to it fully. His singular approach led him to deepen the pictorial gesture through collage, and, from 1965 onwards, through the invention of weaving (tressage). In the 1980s, his exploration of new media – photography and film – prompted him to broaden the field of painting, deconstructing traditional pictorial structures in order to reinvent them.

The exhibition brings together primarily paintings from the *Transis* and *Recordas* series. In the former, executed in wax, forms emerge from within reiterated motifs like vestiges of memory, transforming each work into an apparition, a kind of indelible shroud. In the latter, Rouan meticulously weaves fragments of canvas, producing a surface both literal and symbolic. Colours interlace with intensity; forms recur with stubborn insistence, even as the painted

Adresse : 28 rue du Grenier Saint-Lazare, 75003 Paris

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surface persistently unravels. Nothing reveals itself at first glance: the work demands a patient, ever-renewed engagement.

Through this interplay of borrowed elements and imprints, François Rouan composes an oeuvre of pronounced palimpsest character – what Daniel Sibony has described as a “magnificent meditation on the texture of existence.” This formal and spiritual rigour situates him among the foremost abstract painters of modernity.

François Rouan has recently been entrusted with the creation of new stained-glass windows for the refectory of the Abbey of Fontevraud.

Biography

Born in Montpellier in 1943, François Rouan moved to Paris in 1961 to study at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts. A resident at the Villa Medici from 1971 to 1973, he was appointed *Commandeur* of the *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* in 1985. His work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions and retrospectives in France – at the Centre Pompidou (1975, 1983, 1994), LaM in Villeneuve-d’Ascq (1995), Les Abattoirs in Toulouse (2006), the Musée Fabre in Montpellier (2017), and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon (2025) – as well as abroad, including the Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf (1979), the Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo (1997), and the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing (2000).

Commented by writers such as Bernard Noël and Jacques Lacan, Rouan’s work was also featured in 2024 in the Centre Pompidou-Metz exhibition devoted to the French psychoanalyst. His paintings are part of many major collections, including the Musée national d’art moderne – Centre Pompidou and the Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain in Paris, as well as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.