



Constant

Frieze Masters 2022

BorzoGallery - The Mayor Gallery



Bommen op Ziekenhuis / Bombs on Hospital, 1972
 Watercolor, chalk, newspaper clippings, paper
 91 x 103 cm
 Signed and dated "Constant 23.12.'72" center right in pencil on sanguine fond

Constant

(1920-2005)

Radical Changes

Constant is one of Holland's most important and innovative artists from post-war times. He was co-founder of the international CoBrA movement, he was initiator and inventor of his visionary New Babylon projects in the fifties and sixties, a revolutionary artist in the seventies during the Vietnam war, but also a vibrant, almost romantic colourist in his major late paintings.

After his time as co-founder of the painters' movement CoBrA (1948-1952) Constant leaves for London. Here he witnesses the urban development challenges and also the solutions for this war-ravaged city. He meets Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth, Victor Pasmore, among others. His London residency remains crucial for his future work in which architecture plays a key role.

Back in the Netherlands he works with the architects Aldo van Eyck and Gerrit Rietveld. He likewise fosters and maintains his many international contacts, which also include those with the Danish artist Asger Jorn. Constant becomes ever more convinced that a new social and cultural order will advance the cause of humanity. His visionary spirit anticipates that the automation of production will provide mankind with increasing amounts of free time (thereby creating scope for the "Homo Ludens", the man who is playful and creative) and that this futuristic view would become feasible in what, from 1960, is to be known as New Babylon.



This vision is what will dominate his oeuvre from that moment on. He makes drawings, models, photo collages, plans, constructions and paintings. In addition, he substantiates New Babylon with numerous written works, talks and lectures in various countries.

The social and political turbulence of the sixties threatens to turn New Babylon into a utopia: the New Babylon project stops in 1974.

Like so many artists worldwide, Constant was deeply concerned by the Vietnam war, changing his artistic direction into a more revolutionary and political way. He creates collages and works on paper, as well as impressive paintings which he will continue to do during the Balkan war of the early nineties.

In his late years he turns towards a very colourist way of painting, sometimes even romantic with series of impressive gouaches.

'Radical Changes' could be Constant's life motto.

Detail cover:
Observatorium / Observatory [II] / Construction in green and white, 1956
 Brass, Perspex
 52 x ø 48,5 cm
 Signed "Constant" on the inside foot, bottom center,
 scratched with black ink on white fond



Nixon musste etwas tun / Nixon Has to Do Something, 1972
Newspaper clippings, paper
38,9 x 26,8 cm
Signed and dated "Constant 4.12.'72" bottom right in pencil on white fond

Die kleinen Freuden / The small Pleasures, 1972
Newspaper clippings, paper
41,9 x 30,9 cm
Signed and dated "Constant 4.12.'72" bottom right in pencil on white fond

Sind Sie bei der nächsten / Are You Next, 1972
Newspaper clippings, paper
41,9 x 30,3 cm
Signed and dated "Constant 1.12.'72" bottom right in pencil on white fond

Das Leben / Life, 1972
Newspaper clippings, paper
38,8 x 26,8 cm
Signed and dated "Constant 1.12.'72" bottom right in pencil on white fond



Happening, 1973
Oil paint, linen
139,8 x 130 cm
Signed and dated "Constant '73" bottom center in white paint on black fond



De Labyrist / The Labyrist, 1963
Oil paint, linen
185 x 162 cm
Signed and dated "Constant '63" bottom right in white paint on black fond



Kat / Cat, 1949
Oil paint, linen
99,7 x 60,5 cm
Signed and dated "Constant '49" top left in redbrown paint on black fond



Junkies, 1994
Oil paint, linen
185 x 194 cm
Signed and dated "Constant '94"
bottom left in green paint on green ochre fond



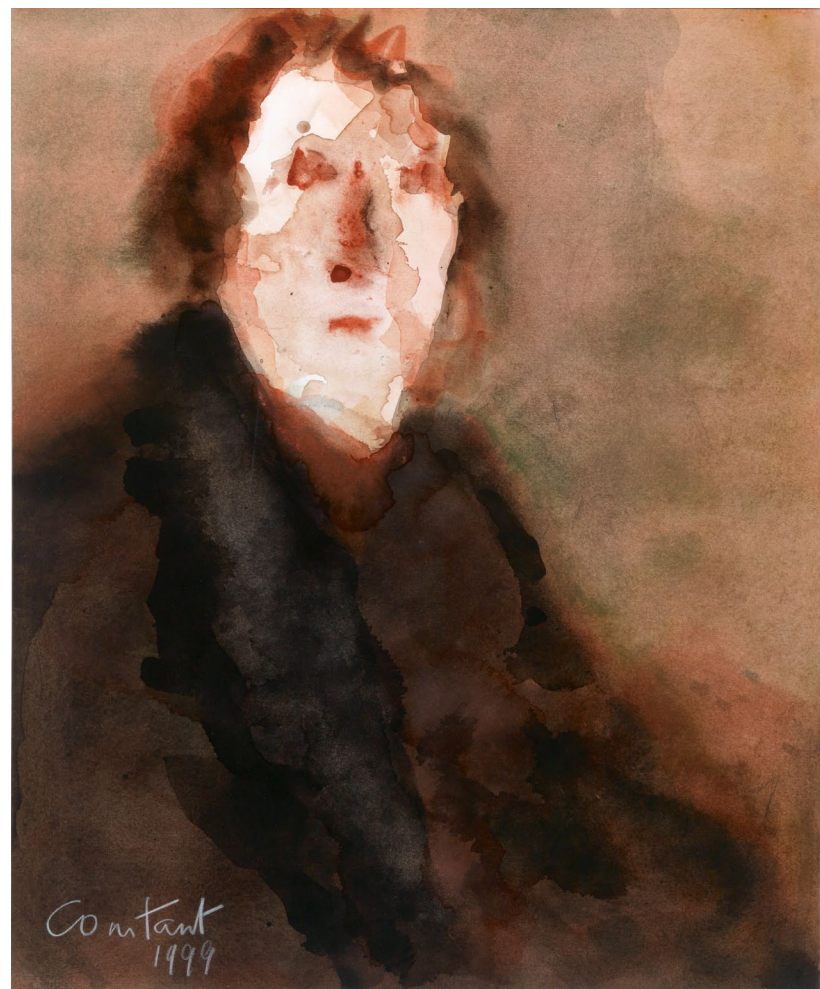
La Dompteuse / The Lion Tamer, 1981
Watercolor, paper
73 x 70 cm
Signed and titled "Constant" bottom left in black ink on blue/green fond



Orpheus I, 1981
Oil paint, linen
100 x 105 cm
Signed and dated "Constant '81" bottom left in black paint on black/green fond



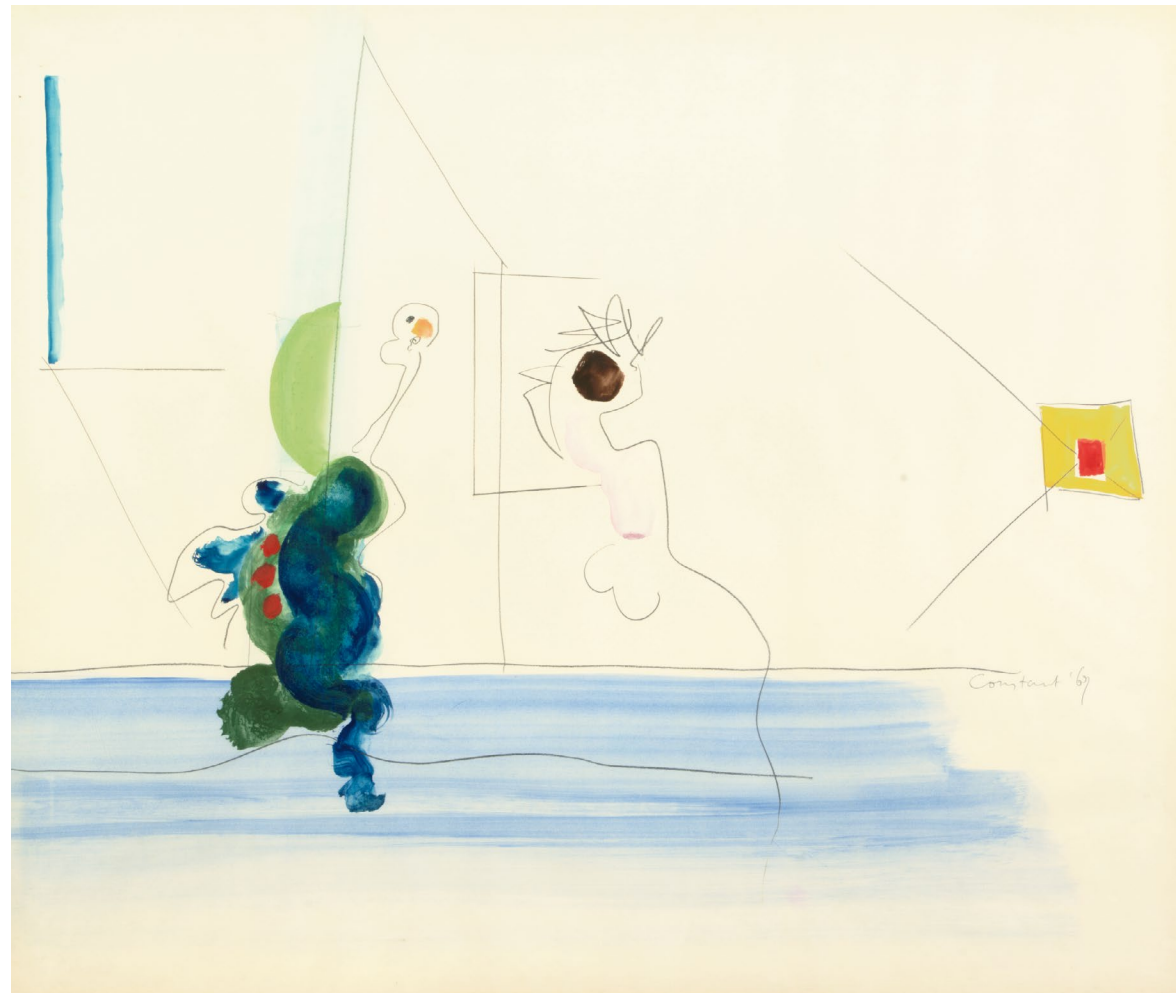
Lola de Valence, 2000
Watercolor, paper
55 x 40 cm
Signed and dated "Constant 2000" center left in black watercolor



De Filosoof / The Philosopher, 1999
Watercolor, paper
51 x 42 cm
Signed and dated "Constant 1999" bottom left in white pencil



Mensen in de Sneeuw / Group Figures, 1971
Washed ink, paper
74,5 x 104 cm
Signed and dated "Constant '71" right from the center in pencil on white fond



Homo Ludens, 1967
Watercolor, paper
109 x 132 cm
Signed and dated "Constant '67" bottom right in pencil on white fond

De stier II / Compositie / Composition, 1952
Oil paint, linen
130 x 97,5 cm
Signed and dated "Constant '52" center left in red paint on black fond

Frieze Masters 2022

12 - 16 October 2022

Regent's Park, London

The extensive listings of provenance, exhibitions and literature of the exhibited works is available on request.

BorzoGallery

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