

GALERIE
HOANG BELI



VILLE EN AUTO PORTRAIT

A solo show by

Sébastien Mehal

Curated by **TAK Contemporary**

Preview 25 March, 2026

26 March – 30 April 2026

30 rue Chapon, 75003 Paris, France

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PRESS RELEASE

VILLE EN AUTO PORTRAIT

Galerie Hoang Beli and **TAK Contemporary** are pleased to present "**Ville en Autoportrait**", a solo exhibition featuring **Sébastien Mehal**.

Can a city be read like a portrait— with character, psychology, memory, and contradictions? If we were to travel to Valdrada, the city imagined by Italo Calvino in *Invisible Cities*, we would see a city mirrored on water, reflecting not only its structures but also the self-awareness of those who inhabit or visit it. The account of Marco Polo to Kublai Khan becomes as much an exploration of the self as it is of urban imagination. Cities become allegories for how individuals and cultures remember and forget.

With *Ville en Autoportrait*, Sébastien Mehal offers a perceptive and critical interpretation of the contemporary city, viewed as a mirror of the individual. As Michel de Certeau writes in *The Practice of Everyday Life*, "The city is provisionally created as a patchwork quilt of individual viewpoints and opinions." The city here becomes both subject and stage. Beyond merely a backdrop, it becomes a body, a memory, a territory traversed by the social tensions, desires, violence, and hopes of those who inhabit it.

VILLE EN AUTO PORTRAIT

At the heart of the exhibition, a large urban map seen from above (180 × 180 cm) condenses three emblematic metropolises of the contemporary world: Paris, New York, and Tokyo. These cities, superimposed and intertwined, form a mental and symbolic cartography where geographical boundaries fade in favor of a shared experience of urbanity. The aerial, almost cartographic view reveals a rational organization, while the density of the layout exposes fractures, areas of friction, and invisible circulations structuring urban life.

This central work enters into dialogue with a structure recalling scaffolding, a temporary and unstable architectural device, which houses eight paintings. Two of them are self-portraits of Sébastien Mehal in silkscreen. The artist literally inscribes himself into the city, asserting that any reading of urban space is also a reading of oneself. The other six paintings present architectural plans and cityscapes seen from above, extending this reflection on how humans project, organize, and control the space they inhabit while being shaped by it in return.

The exhibition also features a photographic installation composed of photographs taken by the artist throughout Europe. These images document the many faces of the city: places of passage, areas of tension, spaces of exchange or relegation. They bear witness to the social complexity of inhabited territories, between dynamism and disillusionment, between latent violence and attempts at cohabitation. The city appears as a living organism, traversed by human, economic, and emotional flows, recalling Henri Lefebvre's proposition in *The Production of Space* (1974) that space itself is socially produced, not a neutral structure but a political and social construction.

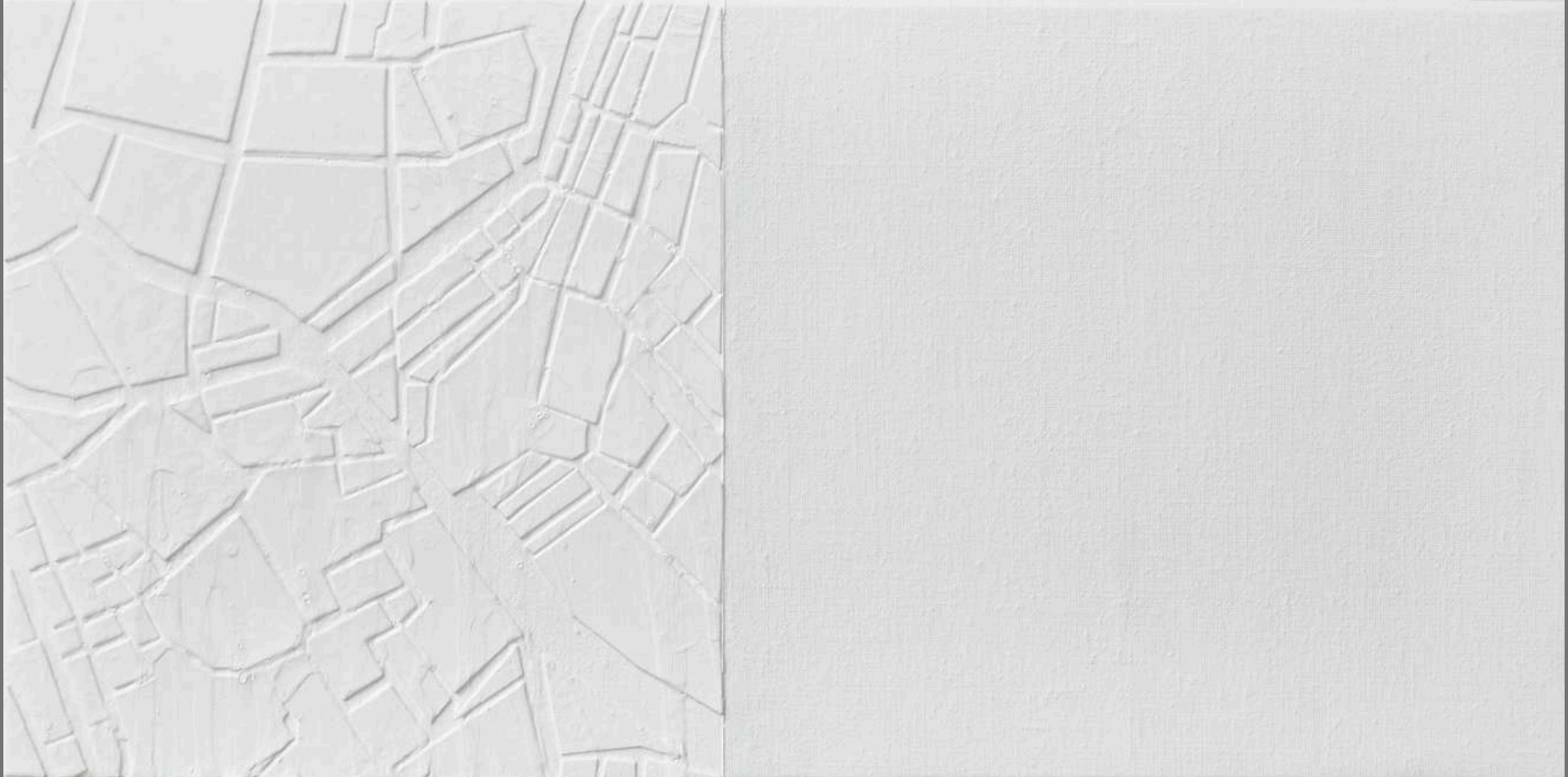
VILLE EN AUTO PORTRAIT

The journey ends with the film *Partir* (3 minutes), a sequence filmed on a country road in Burgundy. After the saturation of the city, the viewer encounters an open, almost silent space. This road becomes a metaphor: to flee or to stay, to leave the city or to continue inhabiting it despite its contradictions. This final gesture opens a breathing space, a moment of distance, without offering a definitive answer.

With *Ville en Autoportrait*, Sébastien Mehal examines our intimate relationship with the contemporary city. Combining cartography, architecture, photography, and moving images, it presents a fragmented portrait of a globalized urban world, while affirming that each city, like each individual, remains profoundly unique.

"The city does not tell its past, but contains it like the lines of a hand."

— *Invisible Cities* (1972), Italo Calvino



Fragment de Downtown, 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
50 x 25 cm



Detail

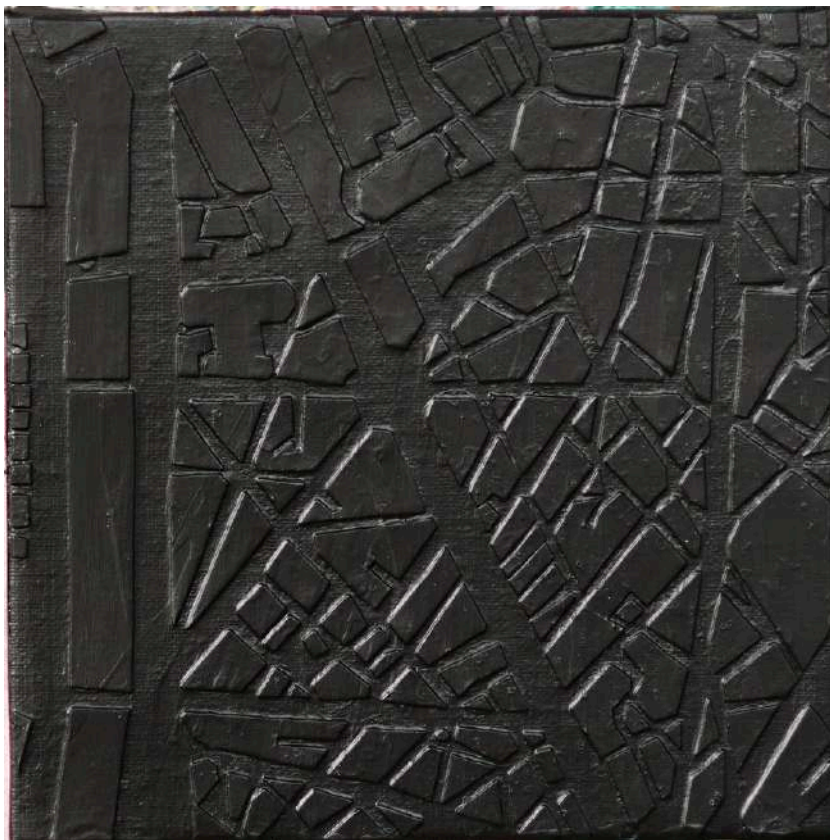
Downtown, 2018
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
180 x 180 cm



Detail

Aluminium City (Structure), 2026

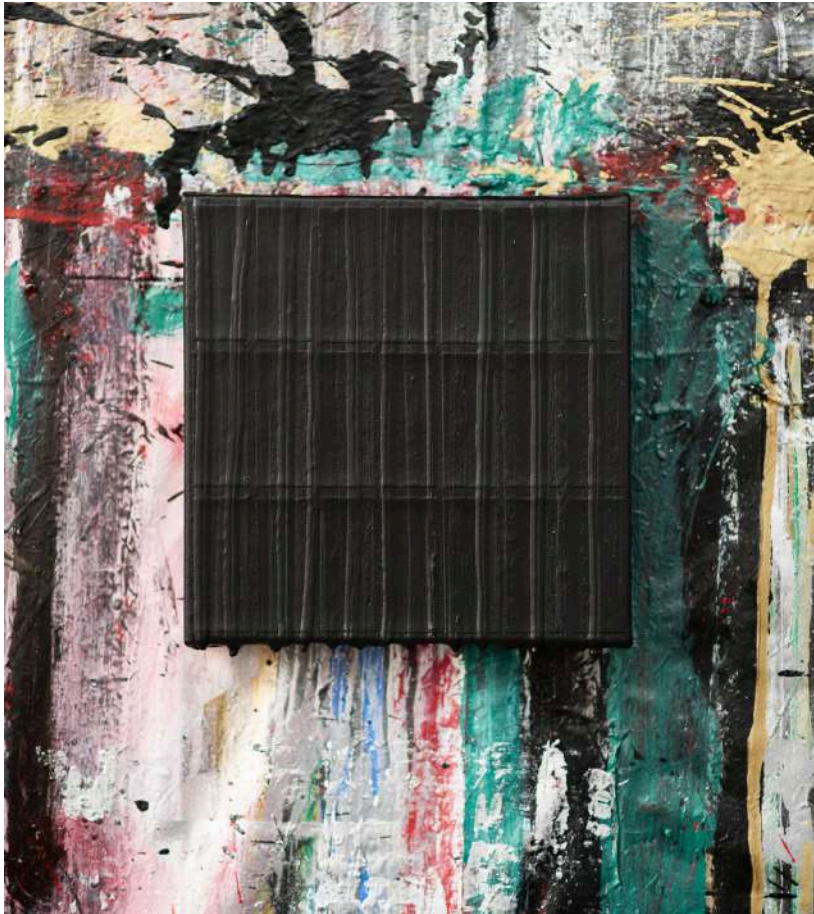
Composite artwork, industrial structure in aluminum,
acrylic, syringe projection on wood, mirror, and canvas
160 x 20 x 80 cm



Aluminium City (Structure 1), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
20 x 20 cm



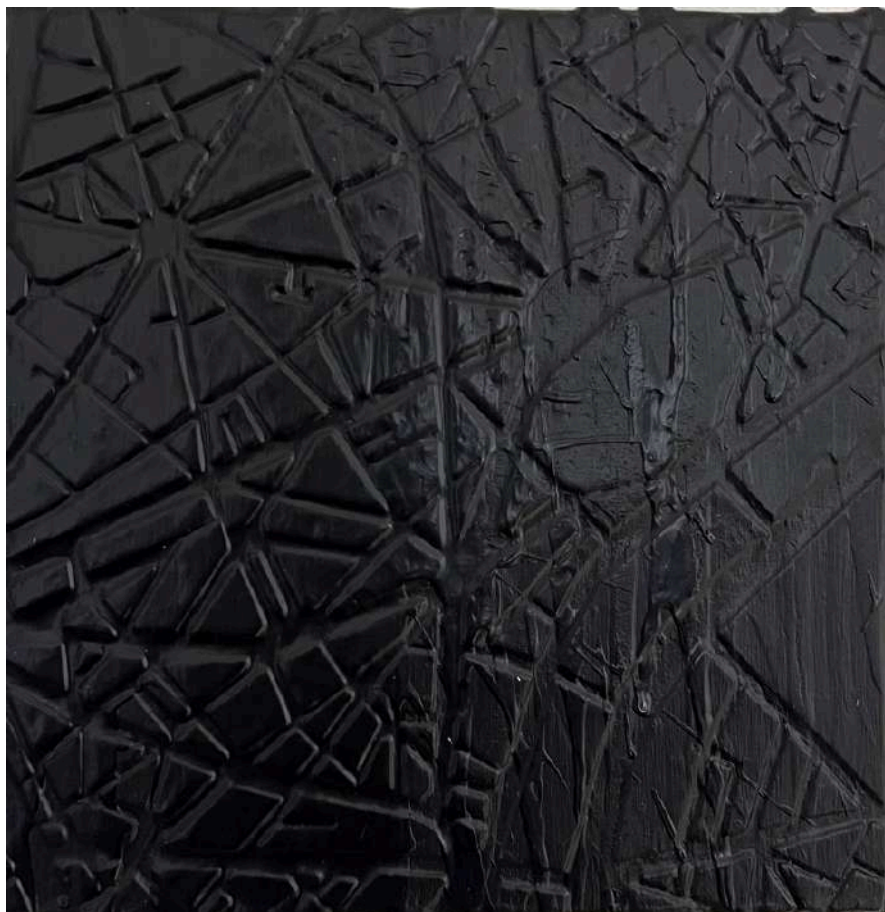
Aluminium City (Structure 2), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on mirror
20 x 20 cm



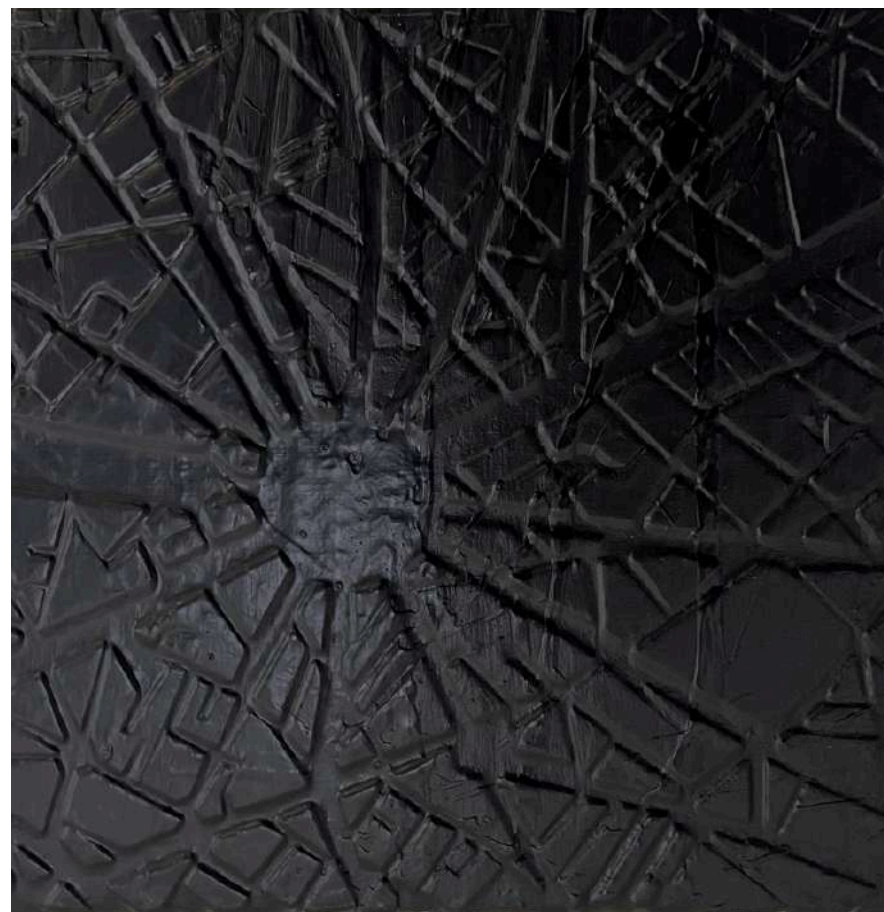
Aluminium City (Structure 3), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
20 x 20 cm



Aluminium City (Structure 8), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
20 x 20 cm



Aluminium City (Structure 6), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
20 x 20 cm



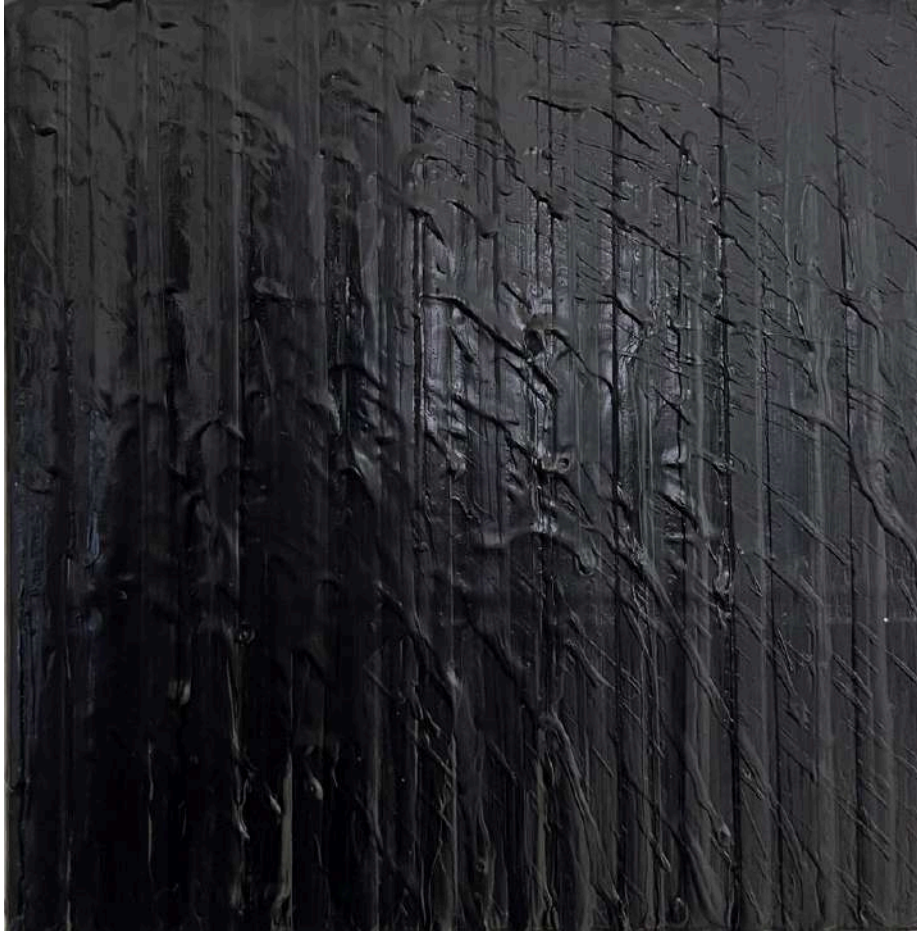
Aluminium City (Structure 7), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
20 x 20 cm



Aluminium City (Structure 10), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on mirror
20 x 20 cm



Aluminium City (Structure 5), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on mirror
20 x 20 cm



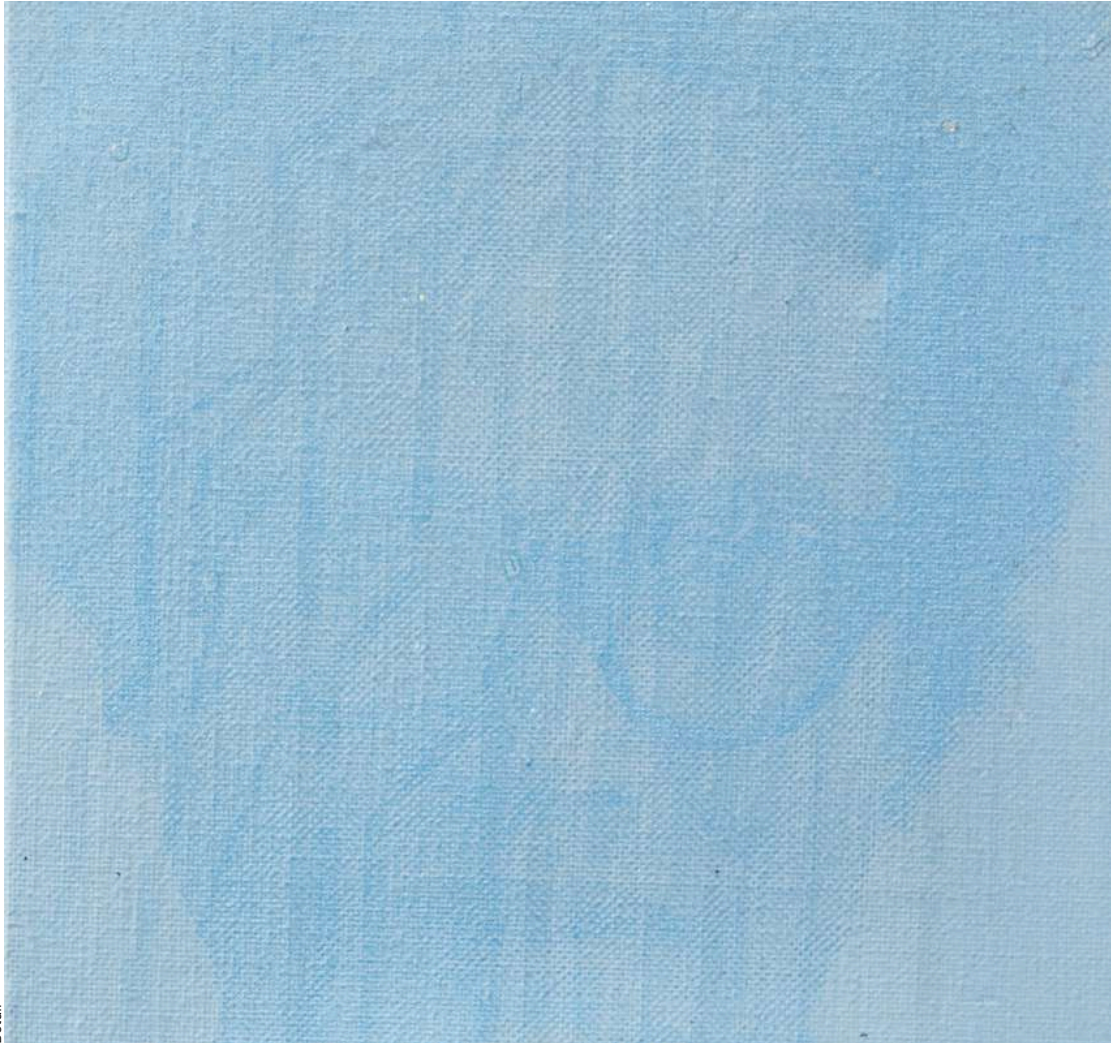
Aluminium City (Structure 13), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
20 x 20 cm



Aluminium City (Structure 11), 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
20 x 20 cm



Face à la Ville, 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on wood and mirror
40 x 30 cm



Détail

Autoportrait (Detail), 2026
Screen printing, Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
40 x 20 cm





Détail

Ville et son Envers, 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
80 x 40 x 14 cm



Paris Etoile, 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on wood
36 x 30 x 5 cm

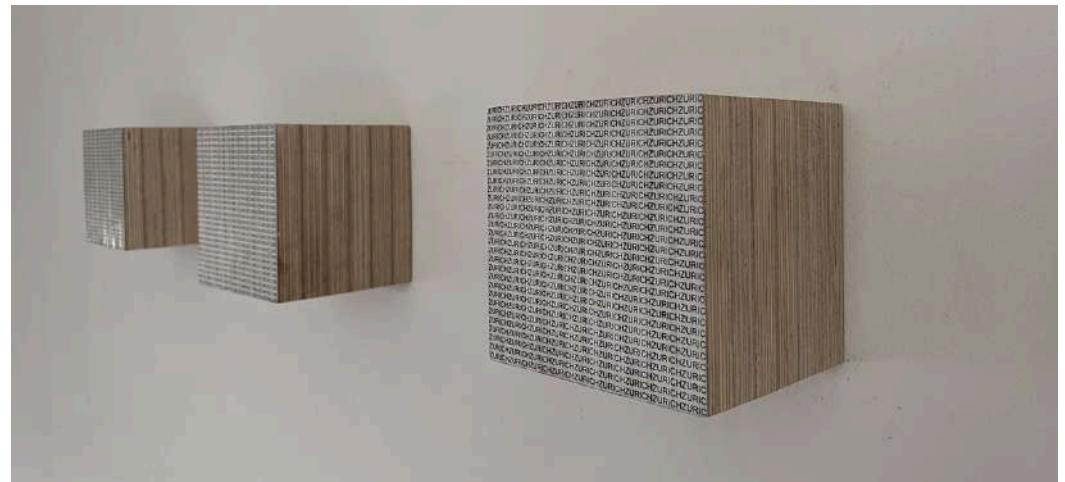


Paysage Sans Rivage, 2026
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas
50 x 25cm



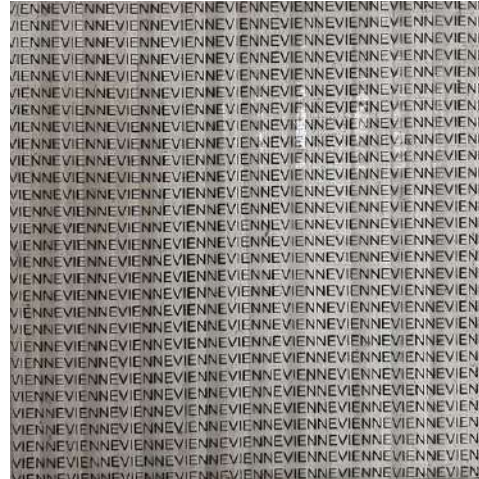
Installation
Photograph mounted on a wooden block
14 × 14 cm each

Installation, *Ville du Monde series*
Silkscreen print, acrylic, syringe projection on wooden block
14 x 14 x 14 cm





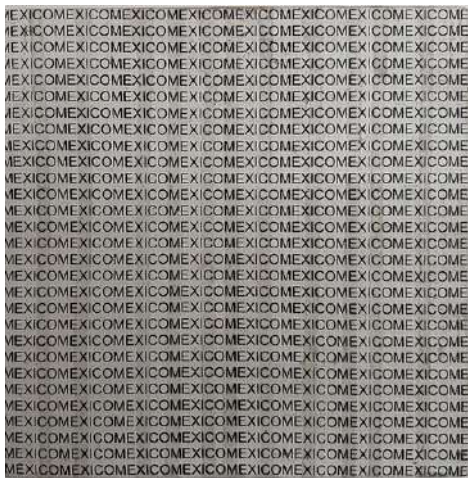
Jun 20, 2006, *Lueur Impériale Wien*, 2006
Photograph mounted on a wooden block
14 x 14 cm



Ville du Monde Wien, 2026
Silkscreen print, acrylic, syringe projection on
wooden block
14 x 14 x 14 cm



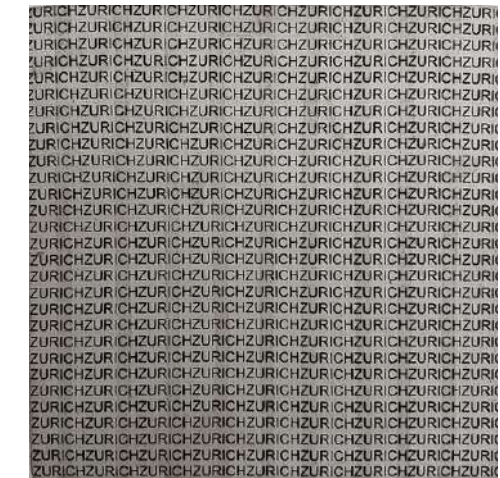
Mars 28, 2007, de **Indentité Provisoire**, Paris, 2007
Photograph mounted on a wooden block
14 x 14 cm



Ville du Monde Mexico, 2026
Silkscreen print, acrylic, syringe projection on
wooden block
14 x 14 x 14 cm



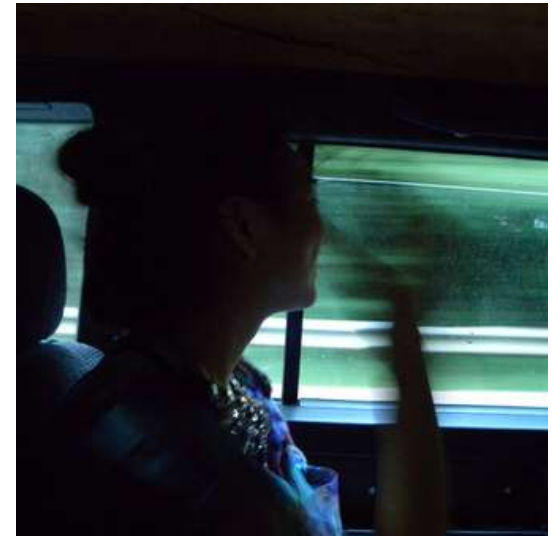
Jun 20, 2006, *Lueur Impériale Wien*, 2006
Photograph mounted on a wooden block
14 x 14 cm



Ville du Monde Zurich, 2026
Silkscreen print, acrylic, syringe projection on
wooden block
14 x 14 x 14 cm



July 2, 2009, *Rencontre en Construction R. Wuzella Paris- Wien*, 2009
Photograph mounted on a wooden block
14 x 14 cm



03.07.09, *...Après la Ville*, 2009
Photograph mounted on a wooden block
14 x 14 cm



30.04.07, *Paysage sans Rivage*, North Sea Norvège, 2007
Photograph mounted on a wooden block
14 x 14 cm

PROGRAM

Round Table

10 April 2026
18h30 - 19h30



Estelle Onema
Art Historian and
Independent Curator



Sébastien Mehal
Artist



Pranitha Joseph
Curator and co-founder
of TAK Contemporary

Concert

10 April 2026
20h - 21h30

In collaboration with

WORKING ⚡ DISTRACTED

Sébastien Mehal

Born in Martinique, Sébastien Mehal is a French artist of Caribbean and Indian descent. He grew up in Fort-de-France, across from the Trénelle neighborhood, where he witnessed a striking architectural transformation: the small, colorful houses gradually giving way to large concrete housing complexes. This evolution of the urban landscape left a deep impression on him and naturally led him to pursue architecture studies in Paris. Eventually, he chose to pursue a career in art in order to fully express his creativity.

Abstraction is his language, and his minimalist aesthetic—composed of clean geometric lines yet powerful at the same time, with bursts of paint emerging from a syringe—has attracted the attention of galleries in France and internationally. For thirty years, Sébastien Mehal has exhibited at various art fairs (Art Paris, FIAC, Hot Art Basel, Untitled Miami) and foundations (Clément in Martinique, FFFA in Florida, EDF in Paris, Vasarely in Aix-en-Provence).

His work draws inspiration from the processes of construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction seen in urban spaces. It also explores the notion of borders—territorial or social—that shift and thus make way for cultural mixing.

The treatment of surface, material, and color is omnipresent in his works. Sébastien Mehal also explored monochrome very early on, using bold colors that he develops across various formats—square, rectangular, round, or oval. He plays with textures and reliefs, reflecting light and thus modulating what appears to be a flat surface. He is particularly fond of using noble materials such as Belgian black marble as well as more common materials (mirrors, paint, etc.), bringing them together and revealing unexpected qualities.



Sébastien Mehal

Solo Exhibitions

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 2026 | Galerie Hoang Beli, Ville en autoportrait, Paris | 2010 | Galerie Ephémère, Lueurs, Paris |
| 2025 | Galerie Simon Madeleine, Prismes émotionnels, Paris | 2010 | Première vision, Paris |
| 2024 | Galerie Simon Madeleine, Unchained Colors, Paris | 2009 | Heart Galerie, 1999-2009 paintings, Paris |
| 2024 | Showroom Cosentino, Demain, Paris | 2009 | Heart Galerie, Paysage Urbain, Paris |
| 2023 | Galerie Simon Madeleine, Complex-cité, Paris | 2008 | Gallery Pastor, Liberty, Monaco |
| 2022 | Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Un portrait pour deux, Paris | 2008 | Heart Galerie, City, Paris |
| 2022 | Galerie Simon Madeleine, Rotondo, Paris | 2008 | Galerie 96, City, Paris |
| 2021 | Galerie Simon Madeleine, 04041973-09112001, Paris | 2008 | Cube Galerie, Paintings, Paris |
| 2020 | Galerie 14N61W, Interior landscapes, Martinique | | |
| 2019 | Galerie Téodora, Mémoire au monde, Paris | | |
| 2019 | Espace M24 Contemporay-Art, Accident II, Paris | | |
| 2017 | Galerie 14N61W, Accident, Martinique | | |
| 2016 | Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Partir, Paris | | |
| 2016 | Maëlle Galerie, Ubanité, Paris | | |
| 2015 | Fondation Clément, Dé-construction, Martinique | | |
| 2014 | Villa, Centre d'art 47, Portrait, Marseille | | |
| 2014 | L'Artocarpe, En Résidence et exposition, Guadeloupe | | |
| 2011 | Heart galerie, Paintings group, Paris | | |
| 2011 | Galerie Acabas, On-off / In-out, Paris | | |
| 2011 | L'Artocarpe, Résidence et exposition Mémoire, Guadeloupe | | |

Sébastien Mehal

Group Exhibitions

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|--|
| 2026 | Musée en Herbe, Paris | 2014 | Galerie White Project, La Petite Collection, Paris |
| 2024 | Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Olympiades, Paris | 2014 | Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Group, Paris, Miami |
| 2024 | Musée d'Art Contemporain Château de Montsoreau, le Décathlor d'Apollon, Montsoreau | 2014 | Heart galerie, Minimenta groupe, Paris |
| 2023 | Hot Sun Gallery, Brooklyn Caribbean possibility, Brooklyn | 2013 | Espace Fondation EDF, Made in Light, Paris |
| 2023 | Galerie Bloom & Gloria projects, Saint-Tropez | 2013 | Fondation Vasarely, Made in Light, Aix-en-Provence |
| 2023 | Galerie 14N61W, Magic Number, New-York | 2011 | Villa Belleville, Représentation, Paris |
| 2020 | Fondation Maison Zeitgeist, Contemporay imprint, Munich | 2011 | Artcurial Hôtel Royal Monceau, Groupe, Paris |
| 2021 | Galerie Simon Madeleine, 04041973-09112001, Paris | 2011 | Parlement Européen collection A.F.C, Construction, Strasbourg |
| 2020 | Galerie 14N61W, Interior landscapes, Martinique | 2010 | Paris/Berlin Kunst Galerie, Berlin |
| 2019 | Galerie-Musée d'Argentine, Colorama, Paris | 2010 | Fondation Michel Rovelas Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe |
| 2019 | Gallery 193, Identités Caribéennes, Paris | 2009 | Heart galerie, Peinture et dessin, Paris |
| 2019 | Glassbox Galerie, Ailleurs, Paris | 2009 | Fondation Culiori d'umani EESC, Projects, Bruxelles |
| 2019 | Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Cinétisme 1ère, 2ème, 3ème génération, Paris | 2009 | Museum Quarter Wien, Made in, Vienne |
| 2019 | Galerie 14N61W, Group exhibition, Martinique | 2009 | Galerie Yvon Lambert, Art Projects, Paris |
| 2018 | Fondation FFFA Floride, Black expressionism from the Caribbea today, Miami | 2008 | Heart Galerie, Collector Private, Paris |
| 2018 | Biennale d'art contemporain, Trajectoires et déplacements, Cachan | 2007 | Dialogues Méditerranéens à Saint-Tropez, Parcours artistique de l'été culturel, Saint-Tropez |
| 2018 | Galerie 14N61W, Sans Titre, Martinique | 2007 | Museum Essel, Europe project Wien, Vienne |
| 2017 | Maison des Arts de Bagneux, Mémoire Caraïbes, Bagneux | 2006 | Centre d'art Contemporain Lazaret Ollandini, Art Visitae, Ajaccio |
| 2016 | Galerie 14N61W, Group Exhibition, Martinique | 2005 | Galerie like 76, Mémoire, Paris |
| 2016 | Galerie Abbas Group, Vienne | | |

Sébastien Mehal

Art Fairs

- 2024 (Made Anywhere) Fondation Fiminco, Paris
- 2021 Art Paris, Grand Palais Éphémère, Paris
- 2020 1-54 Contemporay African Art Fair, Christie's, Londres
- 2020 Art Paris, Grand Palais, Paris
- 2018 Art Fair I Scope Art Show, Miami
- 2018 UNTITLED Art Fair, Miami
- 2017 UNTITLED Art Fair, Miami
- 2016 Art Paris, Grand Palais, Paris
- 2015 Art Paris, Grand Palais, Paris
- 2015 Art Fair Elysées, Paris
- 2014 Art Fair Elysées, Paris
- 2013 Slick Art Fair, Paris
- 2011 Art Paris just art, Paris
- 2010 Paris/Berlin
- 2010 Berlin-Mitte, Berlin
- 2009 Slick Art Fair, Paris
- 2009 FIAC During 2009, Paris
- 2009 Art Paris, Grand palais, Paris
- 2008 Divafair Digital & Vidéo, Paris
- 2008 Hot Art Basel, Bâle
- 2008 Art fair Artists/Istanbul, Istanbul
- 2008 Installation vidéo, Clermont-Ferrand

Collections

- Collection HGB, Paris
- Arcay, Paris
- Kawada, Tokyo
- AP/HP, Paris
- Collection Marin, Musée en Herbe, Paris
- Fondation de Corse pour la promotion de l'art contemporain, Corse
- Ville de Bagneux

Awards

- 1999 Prix des artistes émergents d'outre-mer de la Ville de Paris

Publications

- 2015 Dé-construction, édition Fondation Clément
- 2008 CITY catalogue, édition Heartgalerie Paris & Galerie 96
- 2006 Depression and Society, In Journey into the Heart of Bipolarity, édition John Libbey

About

Galerie Hoang Beli

John Hoang is the founder of HOANG BELI Gallery, located in the vibrant Le Marais district of Paris. From a young age, John developed a passion for art, but he initially pursued a career in law and finance, specializing in tax optimization. His journey into the art world began as he sought to fulfill his lifelong love of creativity and expression.

In 2023, John opened HOANG BELI Gallery in Le Marais, a neighborhood known for its rich history and vibrant art scene. His vision was to create a space that not only showcased beautiful art but also promoted cultural diversity and inclusivity within the art community.

HOANG BELI Gallery hosts a variety of exhibitions featuring both emerging and established artists. The gallery often organizes special events, workshops, and collaborations with other cultural forms, creating opportunities for artists to gain exposure and connect with audiences. Events that promote different forms of art such as music, dance and artistic performance during openings.



About

TAK Contemporary

Founded in 2023, TAK Contemporary is a trio of art curators, of Indian origin based in Paris. The initiative aims to encourage and promote artists from South Asia and its diaspora across Europe while introducing international artists to India.

In addition to exhibitions, TAK Contemporary organizes and supports hors-les-murs programs, including conferences, roundtables, screenings, performances, and workshops.

Tak in Hindi means "until", referring to a point in the trajectories of time and space. The initiative suggests a temporal meeting point for art on the vast map of time and geography.

Today, South Asia showcases a progressive, diverse, and vibrant contemporary art scene. Its artistic landscape reflects a unique fusion, balancing the evolution of global art history while deeply anchoring its conceptual and visual foundations in a cultural heritage shaped by thousands of years of artistic evolution.

Founders



Elizabeth Pranitha Joseph (born in Kerala, India) is a curator based in Paris. She aims to enrich communities through artistic collaborations and interactions.

Her interest in art began with organizing events to promote local mosaic artists in Fort Kochi, Kerala. In 2022, she deepened her knowledge by pursuing an MBA in Contemporary Arts at IESA Art & Culture in Paris. Pranitha organized the exhibition "Rivers and Roads" with 11 Indian artists at the AAIE Center for Contemporary Art in Rome, Italy. Subsequently, she gained experience as a researcher at Carpenters Workshop Gallery.

Pranitha worked as a gallery assistant at Galerie Carole Kvasnevski and was the studio manager for the French artist Ben Arpea. As a freelancer, she is actively involved in roles such as artist manager, artist liaison, and mediation.



Damini Kulkarni (born in Maharashtra, India) is a curator and art advisor based in Paris. Since obtaining her Master's degree from IESA Art & Culture (2023) in Paris, she has been passionate about applying a four-pillar approach to sustainability – cultural, social, economic, and environmental – in rural areas of India.

Damini began her career as a studio assistant at ZAGA Studio (Pune, 2018), then led by Nachiket Prakash. After internships at NFAI (Pune, 2019) and TIFA Working Studios (Pune, 2019), she pursued an MBA in Contemporary Art in Paris.

Currently, she works as a freelancer at GALLERIA CONTINUA/Le Marais and is also the South Asia correspondent for Geometricae magazine.



Shubhankar Pr. Bharti (born in Uttar Pradesh, India) is an artist and curator based in Paris. He explores societal constructs such as social classes and castes, reflecting on identity, accessibility, and the spaces we inhabit.

Graduated from School of Fine Arts, Kala-Bhavana Shantiniketan, W.B., India, and from the École des Beaux-Arts de Marseille, he has participated in group exhibitions across India and France. With experience as an art professor at the College of Fine Art in Bangalore, his expertise also extends to art curation and exhibition management. This has led him to work with institutions such as LUMA Arles, INTACH-CKP, and the Collection Lambert.

He currently serves as Director of Operations at 193 Gallery, Paris, promoting contemporary art between France and South Asia.

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