

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

**Galerie Hoang Beli**

**TAK Contemporary**

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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 *Cities as Self-Portrait*, 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.

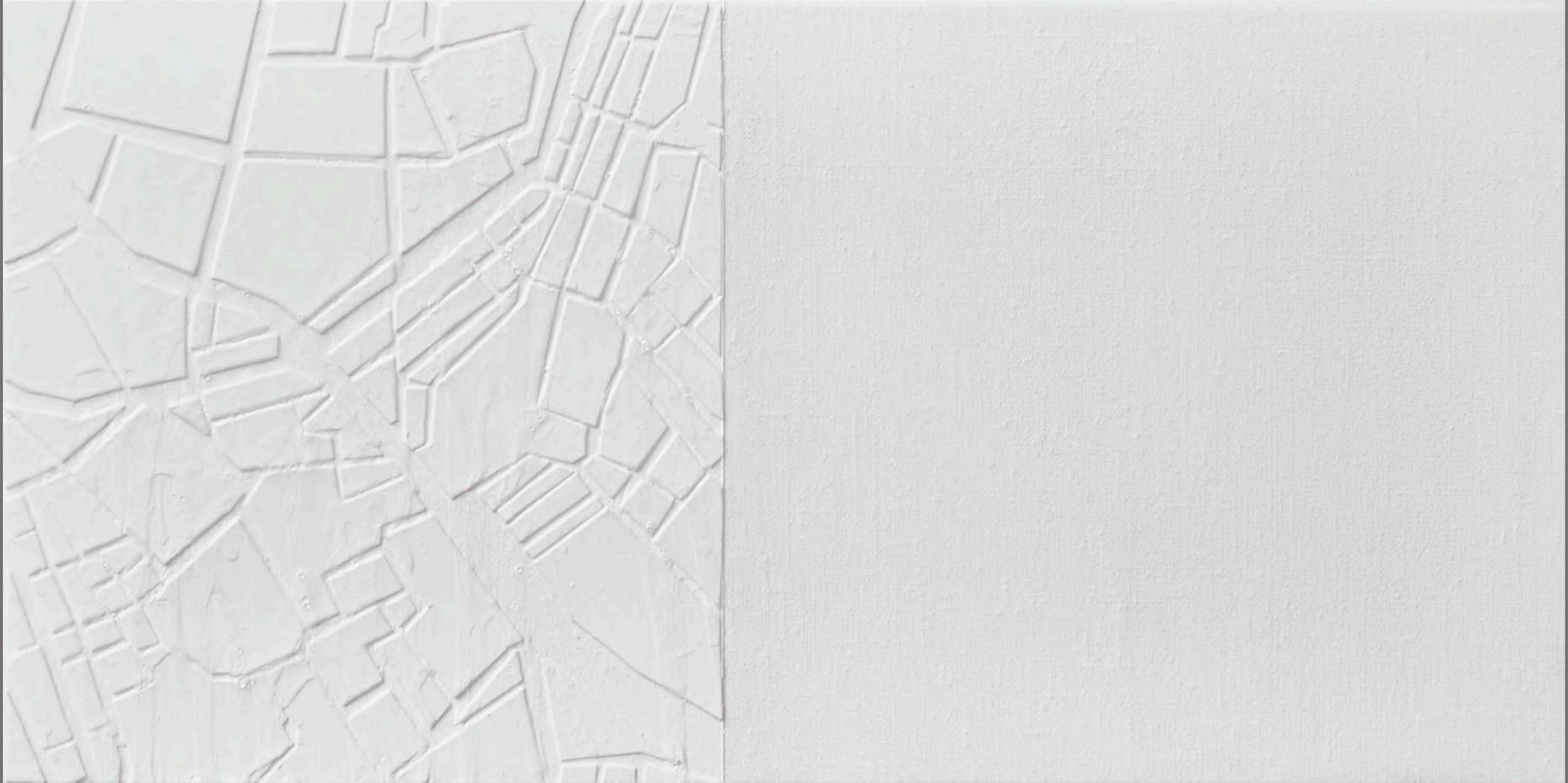
# VILLE EN AUTO PORTRAIT

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

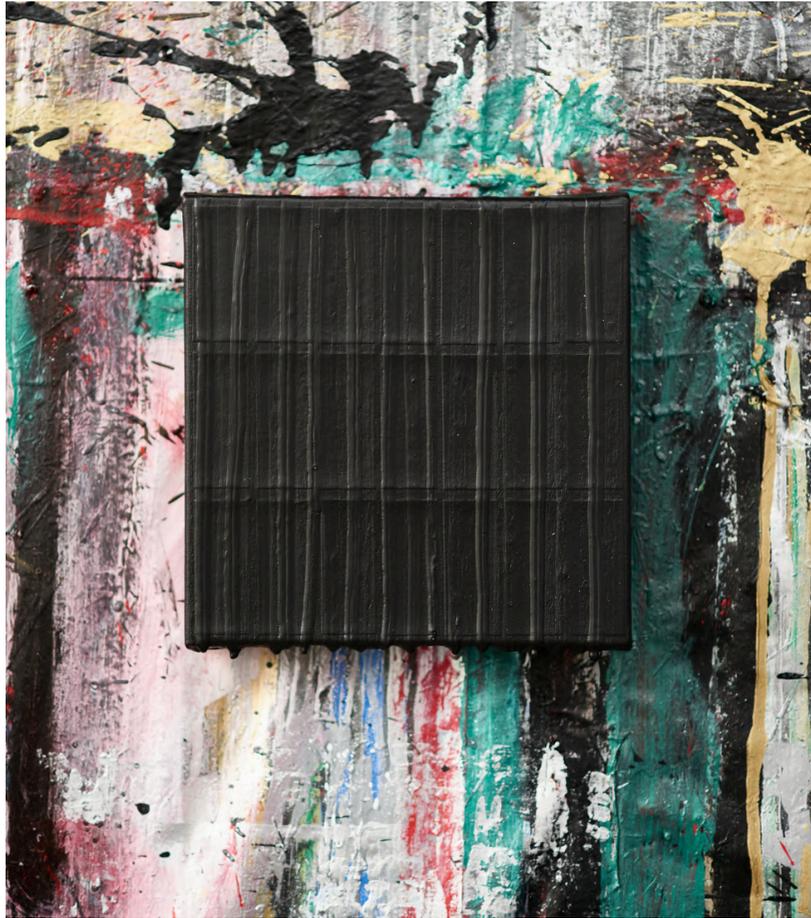
Composite artwork, industrial structure in aluminum,  
acrylic, syringe projection on wood, mirror, and canvas  
160 x 20 x 80 cm



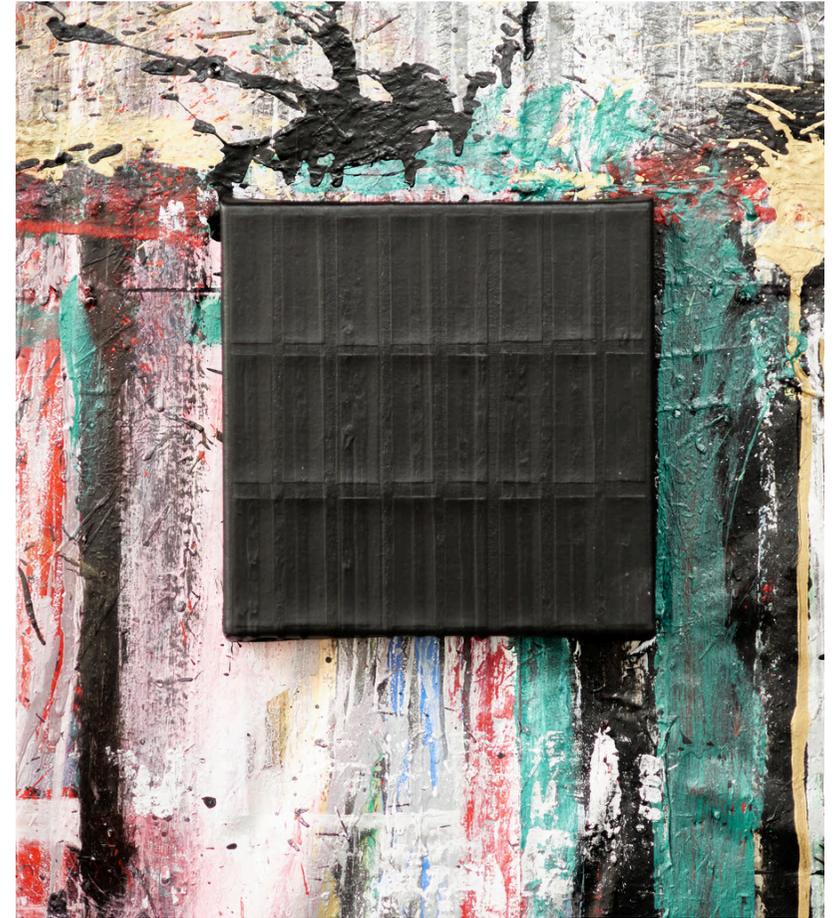
*Aluminium City (Structure 1)*, 2026  
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas  
20 x 20 cm



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



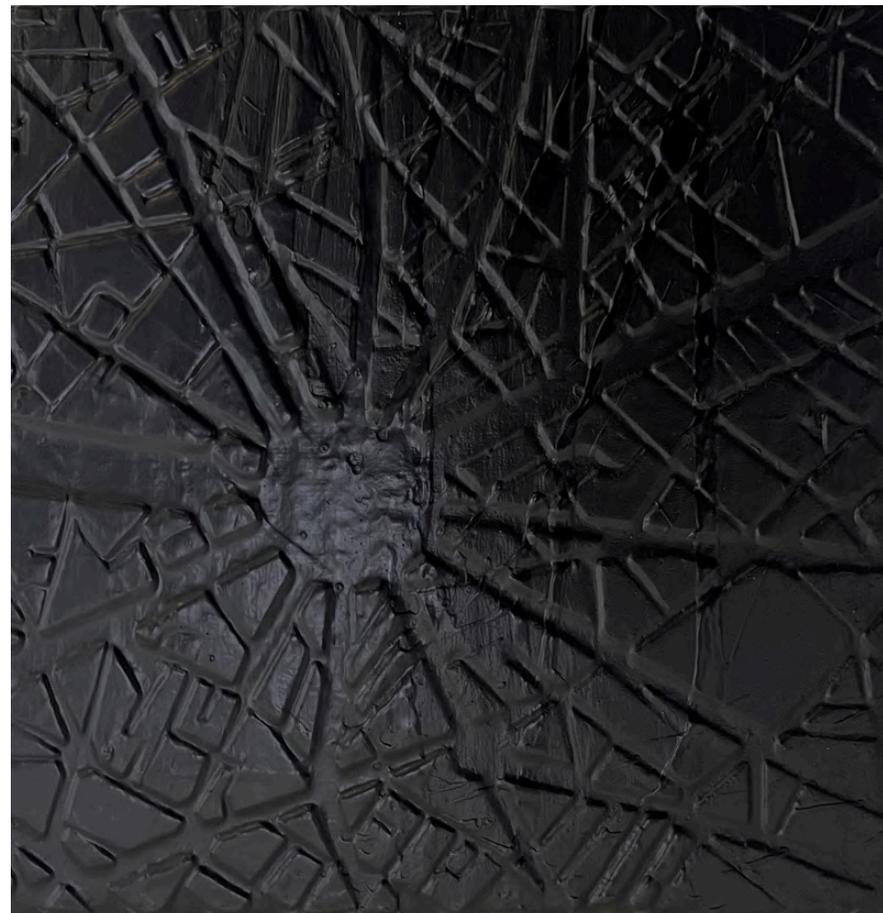
*Aluminium City (Structure 3)*, 2026  
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas  
20 x 20 cm



*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



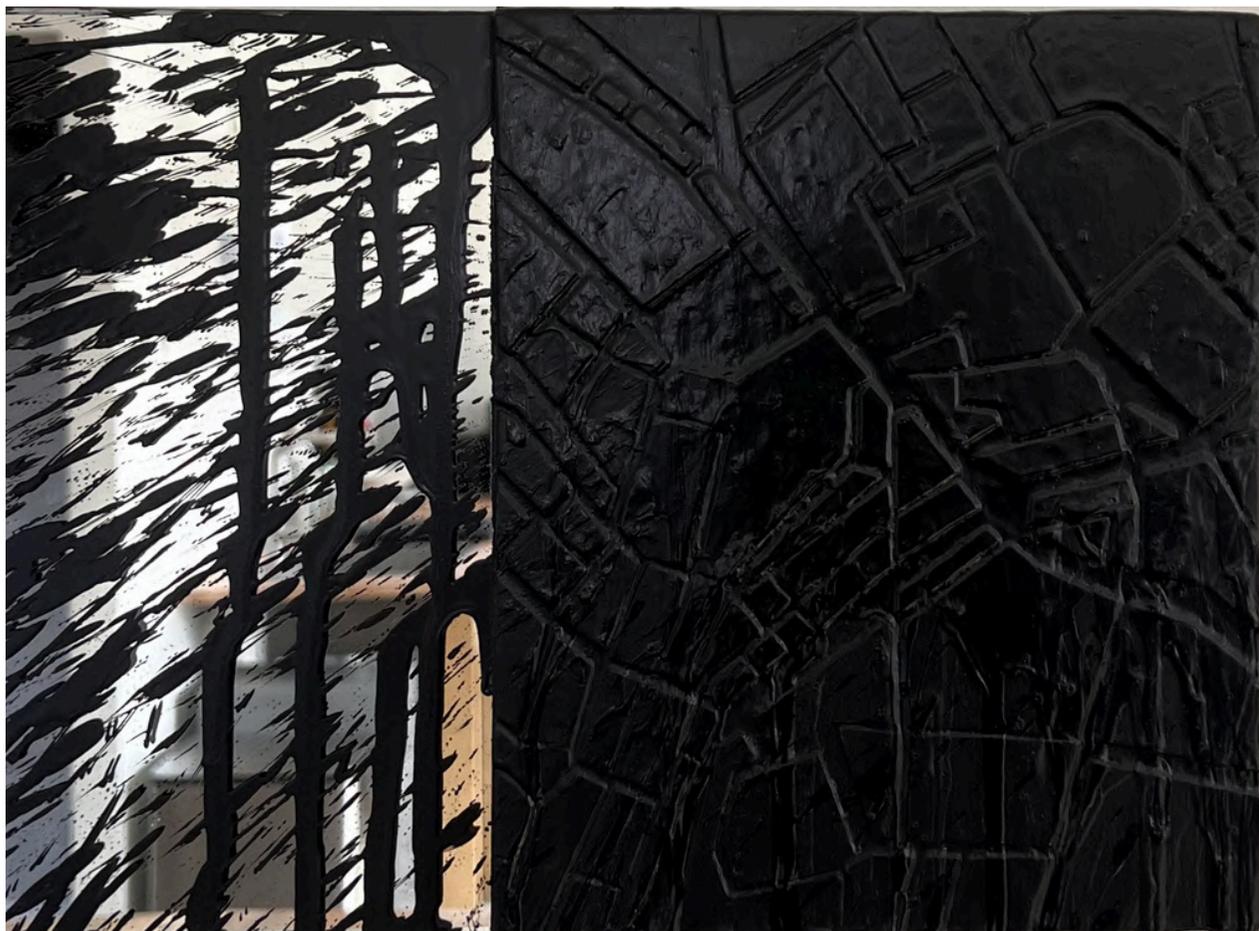
*Aluminium City (Structure 5), 2026*  
Acrylic, syringe projection on mirror  
20 x 20 cm



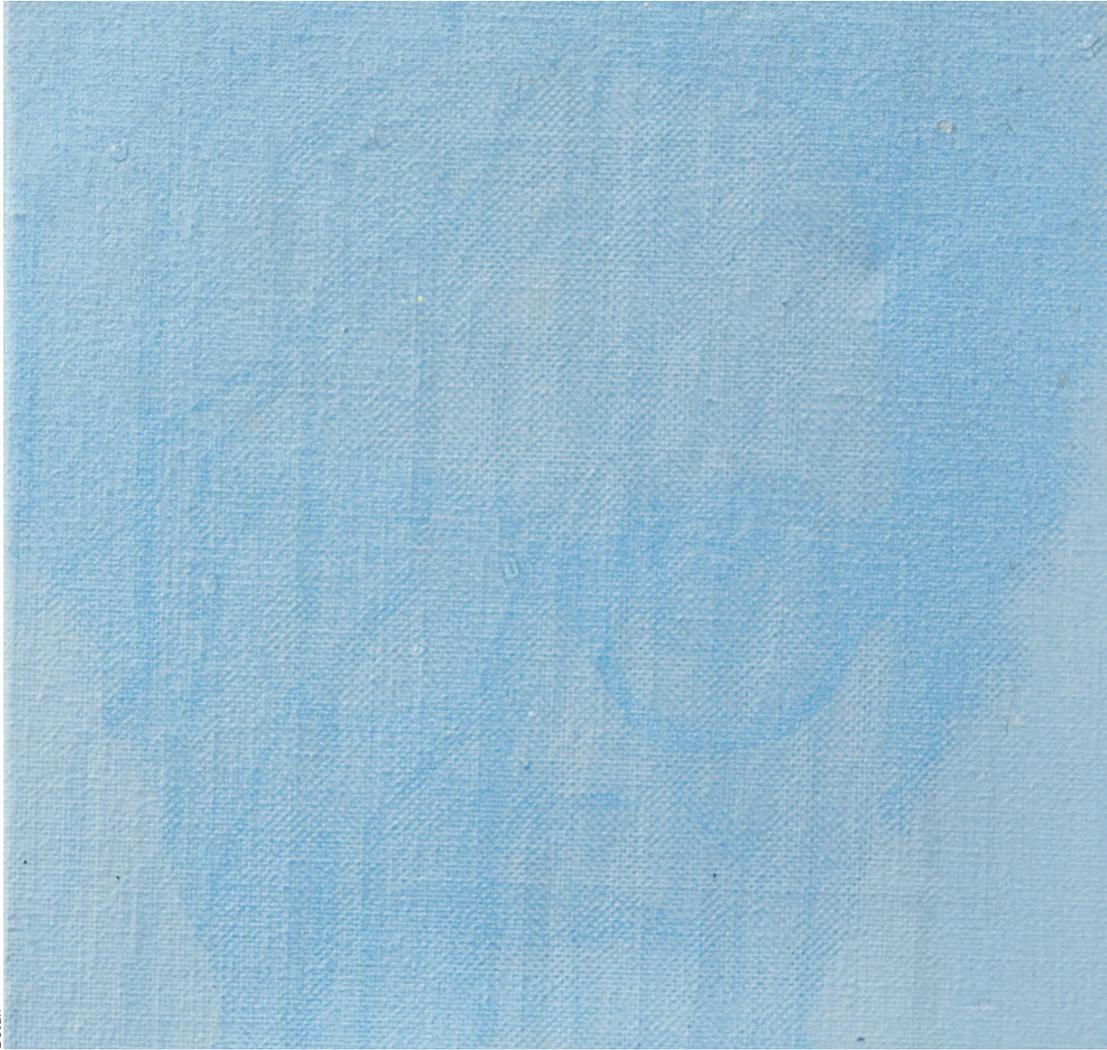
*Aluminium City (Structure 13)*, 2026  
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas  
20 x 20 cm



*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

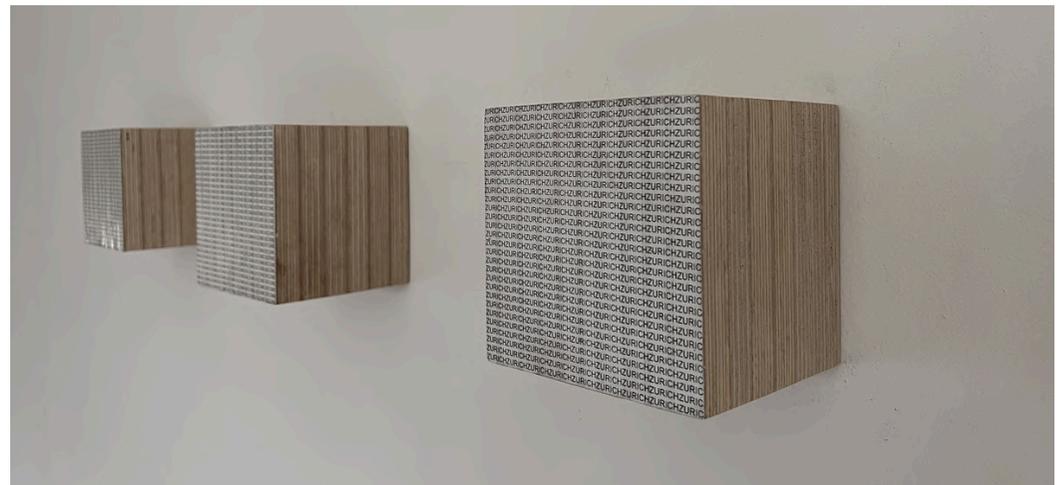


*Paysage Sans Rivage, 2026*  
Acrylic, syringe projection on canvas  
50 x 25cm



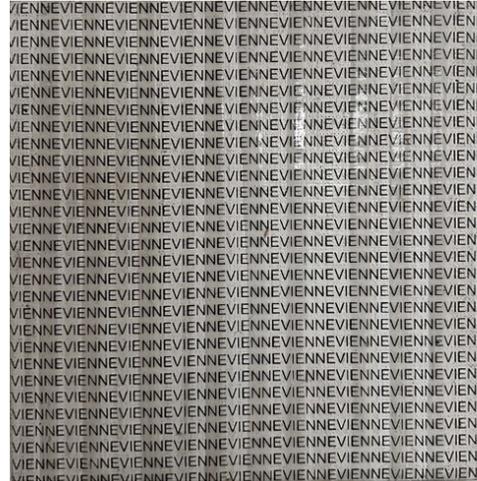
Installation  
Photograph, printed and mounted on a wooden block  
14 × 14 cm each

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





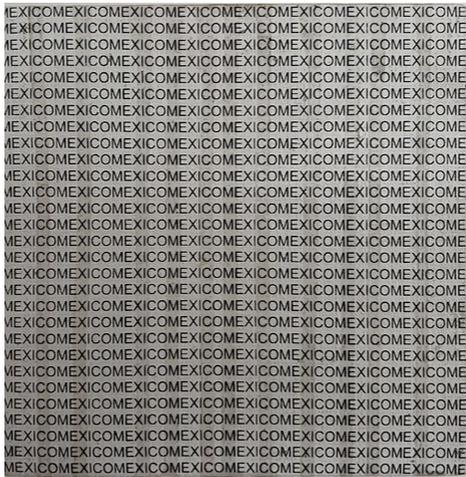
Jun 20, 2006, *Lueur Impériale Wien*, 2006  
 Photograph, printed and mounted on a wooden block  
 14 x 14 cm



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



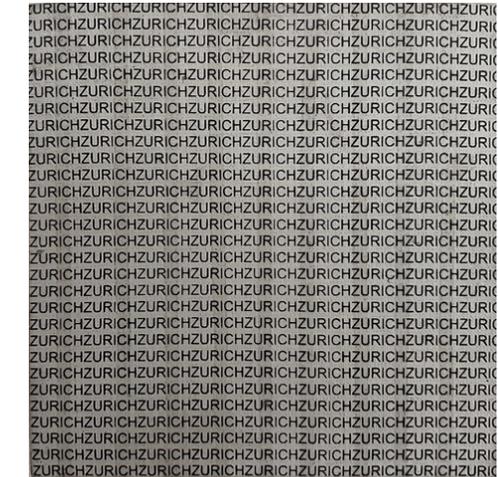
Mars 28, 2007, de *\*Identité Provisoire\**, Paris, 2007  
 Photograph, printed and mounted on a wooden block  
 14 x 14 cm



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



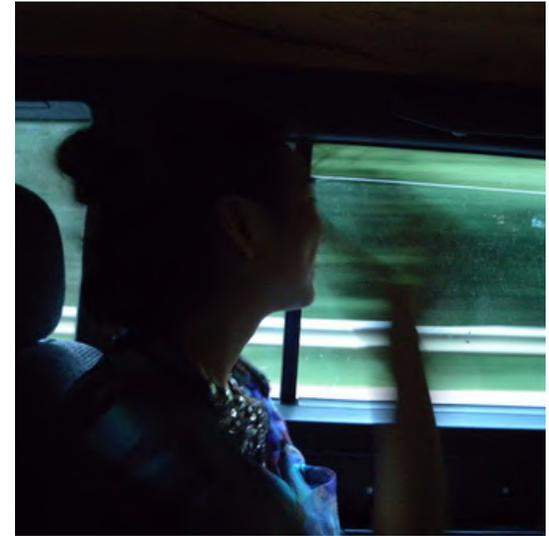
Jun 20, 2006, *Lueur Impériale Wien*, 2006  
 Photograph, printed and mounted on a wooden block  
 14 x 14 cm



*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, printed and mounted on a wooden block  
14 x 14 cm



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



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

# PROGRAM

## Round Table

10 March 2026  
18h30 - 19h30



**Estelle Onema**  
Art Historian and  
Independent Curator



**Sébastien Mehal**  
Artist



**Pranitha Joseph**  
Curator and co-founder  
of TAK Contemporary

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## Concert

10 March 2026  
20h - 21h30

In collaboration with

**WORKING ⚡ DISTRACTED**

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# 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 Trénelles 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
- 2025 Galerie Simon Madeleine, Prismes émotionnels, Paris
- 2024 Galerie Simon Madeleine, Unchained Colors, Paris
- 2024 Showroom Cosentino, Demain, Paris
- 2023 Galerie Simon Madeleine, Complex-cité, Paris
- 2022 Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Un portrait pour deux, Paris
- 2022 Galerie Simon Madeleine, Rotondo, Paris
- 2021 Galerie Simon Madeleine, 04041973-09112001, 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
- 2010 Galerie Ephémère, Lueurs, Paris
- 2010 Première vision, Paris
- 2009 Heartgalerie, 1999-2009 paintings, Paris
- 2009 Heart Galerie, Paysage Urbain, Paris
- 2008 Gallery Pastor, Liberty, Monaco
- 2008 Heart galerie, City, Paris
- 2008 Galerie 96, City, Paris
- 2008 Cube Galerie, Paintings, Paris

# Sébastien Mehal

## Group Exhibitions

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

# Sébastien Mehal

## Art Fairs

- 2024 (Made Anywhere) Fondation Fiminco, Paris
- 2021 Art Paris, Grand Palais Ephémère, 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 Vidéoformes
- 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, France. 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 served as a gallery assistant at Galerie Carole Kvasnevski and as 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 who explores societal constructs such as social classes and castes, reflecting on identity, accessibility, and the spaces we inhabit.

A graduate in Fine Arts from 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, and is co-founder of TAK Contemporary, promoting contemporary art between France and South Asia.

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