

## Press release

PATRICK SAYTOUR

31 January – 30 March 2019

Patrick Saytour was born in Nice, France, in 1935. In his youth he combined art with theatre. He is one of the founding members of the Supports-Surfaces movement, the last avant-garde artistic movement in 20th century France. The name of the group as an entity of its own emerged in 1970 for the exhibition entitled *La peinture en question* at the Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris. Saytour, together with Claude Viallat, is considered to be one of the key members of the movement.

The painter collects a wide variety of materials and modest, trivial and sometimes even kitsch objects. He then transforms them by folding, bending, burning or soaking them, or even by simply exposing them to the sun.

Patrick Saytour has participated in solo and group exhibitions in museums and contemporary art centres all over France, in the rest of Europe, Asia and the United States. His works can also be found in important private and public collections, such as the Musée National d'Art Moderne and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Musée Cantini in Marseille and the FRAC in Franche-Comte.

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**September 2017.** Our first visit to Patrick Saytour in his studio in Aubais, a small town in the south of France near Nîmes. The artist lives in an old house with his wife Chantal and their two cats Óscar and Gaspar, one white the other black, who walk around undaunted. The couple are exquisite hosts.

When you sit next to the artist his blue eyes speak to you with a subtle sense of irony.

After an initial look through photographs of the works for Patrick Saytour's first exhibition in Spain in our gallery I was hugely disappointed. I had expected to find myself in his studio with some painted or at least printed fabrics, but there was nothing of the sort. Instead what I found was a collection of cheap rubbish that you find in kitchens such as hideous tablecloths and a series of works made with poor quality rugs with atrocious motifs such as deer, flowers and snow white. I could not sleep a wink in my hotel that night.

The next day I returned to his studio and met the artist who looked at me intensely. It was then that I saw the nobility of the humble materials that Saytour used, that so horrify some of his compatriots. I was determined not to fall into the same trap.

Like Picasso said "...art is dangerous, art is not chaste. The innocent ignorants are not made for art. Where it is chaste, it is not art."

Rafael Pérez Hernando, 2019.