DITESHEIM & MAFFEI
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For its new autumn exhibition, **Ditesheim & Maffei** is delighted to present

François Rouan
Mains chargées d'impossible

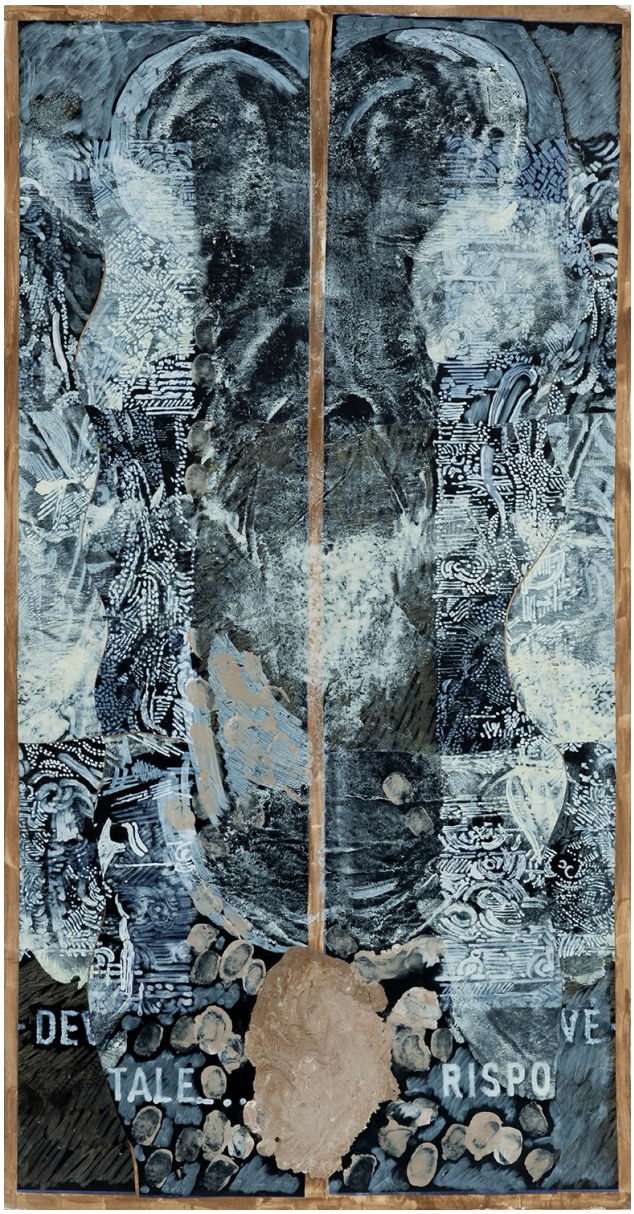
This major exhibition marks the culmination of **more than twenty-five years of collaboration with François Rouan**, initiated in 1999. It embodies the enduring commitment and mutual loyalty that have brought the artist and the gallery together around a body of work whose richness and singularity have continually evolved and renewed themselves. Over the years, this relationship has given rise to a rare dialogue, founded on mutual esteem, a shared commitment to artistic rigor, and a common vision of art.

We are particularly pleased to welcome François Rouan for his second solo exhibition at the gallery, following the first in 2014, with a **remarkable selection of recent works**. Following the major retrospective devoted to the artist at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon in 2025, the exhibition unveils a new direction in his practice, one that has been emerging since 2024. These works on paper, often mounted on canvas, give form to the profound movements of creative memory. They bring forth an inner world in which reminiscences, fragments, and persistent images surface—elements that have always nourished the artist's work.

François Rouan's practice has continually transformed while remaining faithful to a number of fundamental questions. Since the 1980s, the human figure and the imprint of the body have occupied a central place in his work. Fragmented, concealed, or merely suggested, the body becomes the site of an inquiry into desire, memory, and the very limits of representation. The artist never seeks to present a complete image; rather, he reveals traces, vestiges, and fleeting apparitions.

It is through **weaving**, the defining process of his practice, and through the intricate interlacing of forms and images that the figure emerges. On canvas as on paper, the image gradually reveals itself, carried by the workings of the unconscious and the mechanisms of remembrance. These dimensions, which resonate in certain ways with Jacques Lacan's reflections on the gaze and memory, imbue the work with a distinctive psychological and symbolic depth. They invite the viewer into an experience in which seeing becomes as much an act of remembering as of imagining.

To accompany this major event, a **catalogue** will be published featuring a **text by Isabelle Monod-Fontaine** and an **essay by Nicolas Ver Hulst**, offering both critical and poetic perspectives on the artist's work.



Entrepôts désertés 3
2025
Wax painting with kaolin impressions on Korean paper mounted on canvas
89 x 45,5 cm



Figure
1995
Ink and wax painting on woven papers
74 x 55,5 cm



Entrepôts désertés 5
2025
Wax painting with kaolin impressions on Korean paper mounted on canvas
90 x 45 cm



Ustensiles d'abandon 10
2025
Wax painting with kaolin impressions on woven canvases
93 x 60,5 cm



Coquille
2015 / 2025
Wax painting with impression on canvas
157 x 112 cm

Main Exhibitions (selection)

2026

François Rouan, Mains chargées d'impossible, Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel

2025

François Rouan, Autour de l'empreinte, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon
François Rouan, Recorda, Templon Gallery, New York

2014

'François Rouan. Empreintes, éponges, buvards', oeuvres sur papier 1980-2014, Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel (catalogue)
'François Rouan. Trotteuse', Maison de la culture, Amiens

2013

'François Rouan. Une histoire d'odalisque', *Galerie Thessa Herold, Paris*
'François Rouan au château de Hautefort

2011

'François Rouan. La découpe comme modèle', Musée Matisse, Palais Fénelon*, Le Cateau-Cambrésis*

2010

FIAC, 'du dessin au tableau – work in progress', exposition personnelle, Grand Palais, Paris, Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel

2009

FIAC, Grand Palais, Paris, Galerie Ditesheim, Neuchâtel (group)

2006

'François Rouan. Contreimage', Les Abattoirs, Toulouse

2005

'François Rouan. Mappes', galerie Daniel Templon, Paris
'Conversation, Simon Hantai, François Rouan', Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris

2004

'Tombeau de Primatice', Musée du Louvre, Paris

2003

'François Rouan, Mirotopos, Topomiros', musée d'Art Roger-Quilliot, Clermont-Ferrand
'François Rouan. Oeuvres de 1967 à 2002', Galerie Jan Krugier, Ditesheim et Cie, Geneva
'Ash Babies', Galerie Daniel Templon, Paris

2000

'François Rouan. Figures de Venise', Institut central des beaux-arts, Beijing

1997

Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo
Ohara Museum of Art, Okayoma
'François Rouan. Mirotopos', Galerie Daniel Templon, Paris

1996

'Photographies', Galerie des Editions Galilée, Paris

1994

'François Rouan. Travaux sur papier 1965-1992', Musée national d'Art moderne (cabinet d'Art graphique), centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
'François Rouan. Jardins taboués', Kusnthalle, Düsseldorf

1988

'François Rouan. Encaustic Paintings and Drawings on Paper Laid down on Canvas', Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York

1987

'François Rouan', Galerie Daniel Templon, Paris

1984

'Rouan. Paintings, Gouaches and Drawings 1967 to 1983, Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York

1983

‘Rouan’, musée national d’Art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

1982

‘Targoum. Rouan Paintings and Drawings 1973 to 1981’, Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York

1979

‘François Rouan. Gemälde und Zeichnungen’, Kusnthalle, Düsseldorf

1978

‘François Rouan, peintures et dessins’, musée Cantini, Marseille (text by J.Lacan)

1976

‘François Rouan, Paintings and Drawings 1972-1976’, Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York

1975

‘François Rouan, Portes, douzes peintures’, Musée national d’Art moderne, Paris

1973

‘François Rouan’, Villa Médicis, Rome

1971

‘Sept tressages’, Galerie Lucien Durand, Paris

General Information

Venue	Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art 8, rue du Château CH – 2000 Neuchâtel
Exhibition Title	**François Rouan** ***Mains chargées d'impossible*** ***Œuvres récentes***
Opening Reception	October 3, 2026, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM
Exhibition Duration	October 6 to November 21, 2026
Opening Hours	Tuesday to Friday: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Saturday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM / 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Contact	Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art SA T : +41+32 724 57 00 email: **info@galerieditesheim.ch** **www.galerieditesheim.ch** **https://www.facebook.com/ditesheim.maffei/** **https://www.instagram.com/ditesheim_maffei/**
Images	For visual materials, please contact the gallery
Catalogue	With a **text by Isabelle Monod-Fontaine** and an **essay by Nicolas Ver Hulst** On request