

Brasilia : Homage to Oscar Niemeyer

Just when he thought that he was done with Brasilia, Jacques Benoit was caught back and again by his love affair with the city. The painter, who already had several exhibitions of his works inspired by the Brazilian capital, was working on quite a different theme when Oscar Niemeyer's passing occurred, last 5th of December of 2012.

The architect with a smile like a sad child's one left his works orphans, and among these, a city officially born in 1960 that he raised out of the dirt in a couple of years with the President Juscelino Kubitschek's and urban planner Lucio Costa's help. He also left Jacques Benoit alone with his wish : to pay tribute to Niemeyer. Indeed, alone might not be the accurate word ... The painter was soon contacted by the curator of the exhibition «Brasilia. A Half Century of the Capital of Brazil», which one can currently visit at Paris' Espace Niemeyer, until June 30th.



In the middle of photographs from archives, unpublished documents and a large model of the city, one can find some already known paintings where Jacques Benoit makes his alien characters wandering throughout his canvases, a so personal blend of superheroes and Stakhanovists with the scenery of the city as a background, a city that did cast a fascination spell upon him ever since he was a child. Above all, one will especially enjoy a unique polyptych, «A Ausência (The Absence)», where Jacques Benoit painted his goodbye to Niemeyer.

A dark disk for the birth of the architect and another -almost solar- for the architect's final flight, are both connected by a thin laser-like line, which passes right through the scenery that Niemeyer could admire, seen from the studio that was his lair. The landscape that emerges intertwines two fantasies there : the genius of the architect with the painter's obsessions. Jacques Benoit's vision superimposes Niemeyer's, as in order to pointing the way to some destination coloured with hope.

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Until June 30th, at PCF's Headquarters: Espace Niemeyer, 2 Place du Colonel Fabien, 75019 Paris.
From Monday to Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm. Tel. 01 40 40 12 12