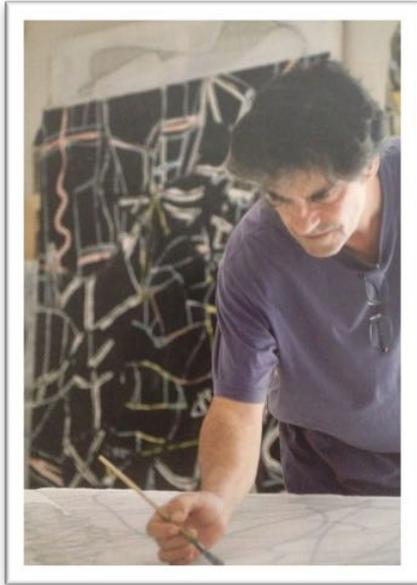


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## Christian Bonnefoi: *Double Take*

Curated by Sylvie Turpin

November 14th, 2016 - February 28th, 2017

Jean-Paul Najar Foundation  
45 Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE  
[www.jpnaifaroundation.com](http://www.jpnaifaroundation.com)  
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***"Mais comment parvenir [...] à voir du premier coup les choses pour la seconde fois?"***  
***"But how can we manage [...] to see things at first glance for the second time?"***  
***Jean Paulhan***

The Jean-Paul Najar Foundation is honoured to host acclaimed French artist Christian Bonnefoi for a solo exhibition of seminal works from the collection as well as recent paintings. The artist's first exhibition in the Middle East will feature a commissioned installation for the museum, which opened its doors this March in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue.

A long time friend and *protégé* of Najar, Bonnefoi's exhibition at the JPNF will include paintings made at the start of his career in the 1970s. It will then demonstrate his creative evolution and growth over the decades. In the early years, Bonnefoi was interested in exploring the impact and creative implications of American art: abstract expressionism and minimalism. He was as equally interested in pursuing painterly practice, as theoretical reflection. It is from this time that he defined what was to become the method he follows to this day: to accompany each pictorial period by publications surveying the conceptual process and its evolution through the history of art.

From the start of the 1980s he embarked on a reconsideration of pre-war art with a particular focus on Picasso and Matisse. He inherited from both these artists a pronounced taste for the technique of collage. His recent works titled "Composition" show how he was able to develop and innovate this technique.

For the first time, the "Diagramme" a complex organisational chart of his works, will be displayed, and illustrate scientifically the evolution of his practice through the decades, as he travels through time revisiting each series of work.

*Double Take* is curated by Sylvie Turpin who has worked on more than 20 shows with the artist, and has explored the relationship between the patron-collector Jean-Paul Najar and the artist: "When we realized that the museum's archives were so rich it became evident we needed to juxtapose them with the paintings." Turpin continues, "The



documents narrate four decades, drawings, letters, polaroids, notes and are an invaluable history of Bonnefoi's work, and the richness of his relationship with Najjar."

"It is important to remember that for years, painters and musicians would meet every night, until the early hours, around the table at Jean-Paul's residence: endless conversations, exclusively on art and philosophy, would take place." Recalls Bonnefoi. "The guests would make commentary on each other's paintings as they hung on the walls." The artist's testimony narrates that these evenings, beyond the friendly and entertaining nature, were an essential part in the development of his research.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a comprehensive public and educational program, core to the JPNF's mission to engage the community.

### **Christian Bonnefoi Biography**

Christian Bonnefoi was born in Salindres, France in 1948. He has degrees from both the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, as well as the Université de Paris–Sorbonne, where he completed a PhD in Art History. He has had both solo and group shows around the world including at P.S. 1, the Wexner Center for the Arts in Ohio, the Ginza Maison Hermès, Tokyo, and Pompidou where he was given a retrospective in 2008. His latest solo show took place in May at Thea Westreich in New York, in collaboration with Campoli Presti of London. The artist's work can be found in such permanent collections around France as the Centre Pompidou or the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris, and at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Guangzhou, China, or the Gallery of Contemporary Art in Beijing. Bonnefoi continues to both make art—mostly paintings and collages—as well as to write critical and theoretical essays about it for a variety of publications. He splits his time between Paris and his studio farmhouse near Montargis.

### **About the JPNF**

The JPNF is an ICOM registered museum of contemporary art that is home to a collection of European and American abstract art from the 1960s through today. It is a non-commercial space, that exhibits works from within the collection but also from other institutions and collections, and is also the custodian of a remarkable archive tracing forty years of artist-collector exchanges. The JPNF presents three curated exhibitions a year, and has, since opening in March 2016 welcomed more than 12,000 visitors. The JPNF continues to acquire and commission works and offers an inspiring calendar of educational and public programs. The museum is located in Alserkal Avenue and was designed by Mario Jossa, of Marcel Breuer & Associates.

## PUBLIC AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### NOVEMBER 2016

#### Sunday, November 13

6:00 PM CHRISTIAN BONNEFOI: *Double Take*  
Exhibition Opening

#### Monday, November 14

11:00 AM Artist Talk: In Conversation with Christian Bonnefoi  
Join artist Christian Bonnefoi for an insightful conversation on the evolution of his work and the unique rapport he shared with Collector, Jean-Paul Najar. A tour of the exhibition will be given by the artist and curator.

#### Tuesday, November 15 - Saturday, November 19

Jean-Paul Najar Foundation at ABU DHABI ART  
Come and visit us at Abu Dhabi Art Fair, in the Community Section, Booth CP4

#### Saturday, November 26

11:00 AM \*\*FAMILY PROGRAM: PAINT with Gauze  
Paint like Christian Bonnefoi! Children participate in a workshop using innovative techniques to paint on gauze. Program presented in partnership with thejamjar.

### DECEMBER 2016

#### Wednesday, December 7

6:30 PM Dear...  
The Jean-Paul Najar Foundation brings back the art of letter writing! Inspired by our collection of archival material, this unique event will help you fall in love with writing again.

#### Saturday, December 10

11:00 AM \*\*FAMILY PROGRAM: Around the Archive  
Children discover the role creativity, friendship and teamwork play in the special relationship between patron and artist through fun activities like role play, writing and drawing.

### JANUARY 2017

#### Monday, January 9

11:00 AM EYEBALLING: Christian Bonnefoi  
Have you always wondered how to look at contemporary art? This adult workshop helps to explore the abstract works of Christian Bonnefoi through close-looking, lively discussion, drawing and other fun activities.

#### Saturday, January 21

11:00 AM \*\*FAMILY PROGRAM: Collage Workshop  
It looks easy right? Children explore color, shape and form through collage inspired by Christian Bonnefoi's work.

**Wednesday, January 25**

6:30 PM FIX

Conservators have a special relationship with artworks in their care. Join us for an insightful discussion as experts from AXA Art Insurance shed light on the different techniques and approaches to conservation of contemporary artworks.

**Monday, January 30**

6:30 PM SPINNING VINYL: From the JPNF Collection

Go back in time with DJ Shadi MeMegallaa, founder of Flipside as we explore the Foundation's wonderfully eclectic vinyl collection. Soundtracks selected by artist Christian Bonnefoi.

**FEBRUARY 2017**

**Wednesday, February 8**

6:30 PM DRAWN TO YOU

Grouped in pairs, participants learn to look and draw one another. Bring your friend, parent or significant other to this playful workshop for adults. Or come and meet someone new!

**Saturday, February 18**

11:00 AM \*\*FAMILY WORKSHOP: The Colors of Sound

This workshop explores the important relationship between art and music. Moved by the sounds of the JPNF vinyl collection, children express themselves through color.

**Monday, February 27**

6:30 PM EYEBALLING: Christian Bonnefoi

Have you always wondered how to look at contemporary art? This adult workshop helps to explore the abstract works of Christian Bonnefoi through close observation, lively discussion, drawing and other fun activities!

\*\*All Family Programs are open to children 7-12 years of age. Material provided by Jean-Paul Najjar Foundation

\*\*A tour of the exhibition accompanies all children and adult programs.

For further information or images, please contact Wafa Jaddalah on T +9714258707 or [wafa@jpnajarfoundation.com](mailto:wafa@jpnajarfoundation.com)