

# JEAN MIOTTE

## UN GESTE QU'ON PORTE EN SOI

### HARMONIE, IMPULSION, ÉQUILIBRE

Exhibition at the gallery: September 15 - October 10, 2022



**Galerie Diane de Polignac is delighted to present this exhibition in partnership with the Jean Miotte Foundation.**

Jean Miotte spent his youth in Occupied Paris. "It was in this context of upheaval and planetary ideological turmoil that his desire for other values, other spiritual commitments was exacerbated."

Jean Miotte is a personal work, between Lyrical Abstraction, Informal Art and Tachisme. Jean Miotte's paintings were created with an immediate gesture, a dazzling energy. "Movement is my life" he recalled. Jean Miotte never prepared his work with sketches. The American art critic Harold Rosenberg appreciated this practice especially: "the most important thing in art is freshness".

He also looked at the work of his contemporaries. Serge Poliakoff, Sam Francis, Joan Mitchell... Jean Miotte travelled a lot, went in search of artists. His first success was in Germany where he had 10 exhibitions during the 1950s. His first work to enter a museum was acquired in 1960 by the Ludwig Museum of Cologne. He was also successful in France, with his presence in 1959 at the first Paris Biennale. Jean Miotte also travelled around Italy, and then went to the USA and Japan... "He travels in his

paintings like he travels in life." Jean Miotte in this way goes beyond cultural antagonisms to create a familiar and universal language. This may be why he was the first western painter to be invited to exhibit his works in Beijing after Mao's death.

Like many abstract artists, Miotte is a great lover of music. He especially appreciated jazz which, like his painting, is a combination of structure and improvisation. Dance too, was essential. Jean Miotte surrounded himself with friends who were dancers and choreographers. He created decors for plays and ballets. His painting is inspired by drama and performance. He also received a commission from the City of Paris: a large format work called "Sud" (South) is hung in the Hall of Honour at the Bastille Opera House.

Jean Miotte's art is also universal, transcends temporal and geographical borders; created through an internal need and inspired by multiple influences. The critic Roger van Gindertael spoke about the painting of Jean Miotte as "of harmonisation in the tensions of life itself, in all its complexity and contradictions."

The Jean Miotte Foundation was opened in New York in 2002 and then moved to Switzerland where it still is nowadays.



UNTITLED, 2001  
Acrylic on canvas - 195 x 390 cm - 76.8 x 153.5 in.  
Signed 'Miotte' lower right



UNTITLED, 1996  
Acrylic on canvas - 160 x 130 cm - 63 x 51.2 in.  
Signed 'Miotte' on reverse



UNTITLED, 1994  
Acrylic on canvas - 162 x 130 cm - 63.8 x 51.2 in.  
Signed 'Miotte' lower right