

Artist: **Laurence Leenaert**

Exhibition: **ARGILE ET RÊVES**

Dates: **15th September - 8th October**

Cadogan Gallery

87 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3LD

Taking inspiration from her home in Marrakesh, Laurence Leenaert's paintings are a tapestry of different colours, textures and techniques, infused with the joy and the chaos of the city. *Argile et Rêves* will be Laurence Leenaert's second solo exhibition with Cadogan Gallery following the huge success of *Qalb Dari* in 2021 and will run from the 15th of September until the 8th of October.

These new artworks distil Leenaert's experience of Marrakesh, her home since moving to develop her studio in 2015. Oilstick, wool embroidery and leather, all sourced locally and inspired by the colours and landscapes of Morocco, are combined to create harmonious, multi-dimensional paintings. Leenaert aschews the use of digital tools or machine led interventions. Designed and made entirely by her own hand, her paintings are a showcase of her myriad skills. She composes her paintings intuitively moving between mediums as she weaves, sews and makes gestural applications of clay and paint to her canvases. Contrasting materials and colours are layered and revised until a poetic harmony is found, developed over an extended period of time. Finding freedom in the city's sense of timelessness, Leenaert admits to working impulsively, destroying more work than she makes. With a fluid method employed across her canvases, aspects from each painting often swapping and changing, her works reflect the spontaneous environment she works in.

It is through her artworks Leenaert aims to explore the harmony of the city's architecture; the uniform pink of the riads and the vibrant intensity of colour in the Moroccan sun. Naive use of line and unruly geometry run counterpoint to an intuitive wisdom of how light and form are revealed in nature. Her paintings shift from impressions of light, colour and atmosphere, to compositions inhabited by moving motifs. In *Argile et Rêves*, her most recent body of work, the artist pushes the boundaries of her imagination to combine her distinctive colour blocks with linear – and more figurative – forms.

About The Artist

Laurence Leenaert was born in Kortrijk, Belgium and studied Fashion at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent, Belgium. After an internship at Bless, Berlin, in 2013 she launched her own design studio, LRNCE, in response to fast fashion and short-lived seasons. Her designs quickly became sought after in high-end outlets such as Conran Shop, Picasso Museum and Le Bon Marche Paris. In 2015 she relocated her studio from Ghent, Belgium to Marrakech, Morocco, where she was able to further develop her practice working with local materials such as wool, clay, leather and wood. Invisible Subjects at Cadogan Contemporary, March 2020, was the artist's first ever presentation of her paintings and she has enjoyed huge success since with collectors worldwide.

About the Gallery

Cadogan Contemporary is an independent, family-run art gallery based in South Kensington, London and Hampshire. Founded by Christopher Burness in 1980, the gallery has worked closely with generations of collectors and established and critically acclaimed artists for forty years. Since joining the gallery in 2014, Freddie Burness has added a new international perspective to the rich history and distinctive approach of the gallery's programme.

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