

ARNAUD ROCHARD

LA MER DES HYSTOIRES

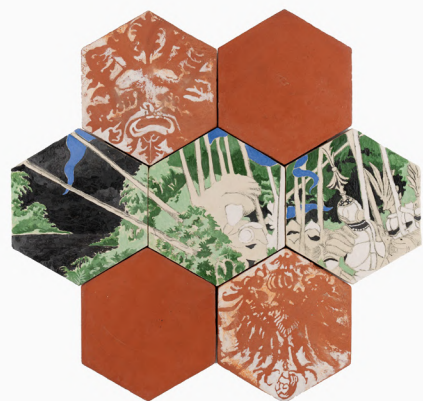
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Vernissage le samedi 27 avril

The vegetation is lush, almost desolving the picture. The impression of depth comes from the colored shadows. In vertical formats such as *La mer des Hystoires*, Arnaud Rochard evokes the work of dominoté paper and its panoramas, the beginnings of wallpaper in the 18th century. The landscape extends like a motif, and therein lies the ambiguity of the artist's work. If you look closely, you can make out the detail of a plant, as if taken from a botanical plate, next to the silhouette of a tree, a knight lost in a forest of vines. The juxtaposition and interplay of scales create a visual disorientation between genres. By employing techniques associated with multiples, such as linocut, which he twists into a complex superimposition of layers, the artist creates unique images. He literally exhausts the pattern and makes it his main subject, as in the wallpaper produced with the Antoinette Poisson brand, where the figure of a horseman is repeated to the saturation point. What are the images that remain after having dressed the walls, tapestries and minds for so many centuries? A knowledge of the history of the decorative arts that enables him to develop a pictorial approach that transcends this framework and stands on its own, with all its secrets and unseen aspects.

Whether Arnaud Rochard is exploring azulejos, the Spanish-Portuguese earthenware tiles that first appeared in the 15th century, or referring to tapestry, leaving the canvas free : he enjoys mixing temporalities. Eclectic, in the first sense of the word and according to Diderot's definition of free spirits, he combines in Casa the touch of oil with the frame of linocut to evoke the specificity of patchwork on canvas. Beyond the question of taste, to which the notion of eclecticism was reduced in the 19th century, he introduces notions of filiation and heritage, of which the half-faded Âge d'or coats of arms are the most visible aspects. This work on the transmission of a visual culture shows the interweaving of different temporalities and geographies. [...]

— Henri Guette (extract from *La mer des Hystoires* text)



Arnaud Rochard, *Age d'or*, 2021, glazed earthenware and engobe, 34 x 35 cm

Arnaud Rochard graduated from the École Européenne Supérieure d'Art de Bretagne. He lives and works in the region of Bretagne, France where he develops interdisciplinary work between engraving – in all its forms -, painting, and drawing. In 2018, he received the grant of creation from DRAC Pays de Loire and, in 2019, the Pierre Cardin Prize for engraving from the Académie des Beaux Arts.



Arnaud Rochard par Massimo Cataldo



Arnaud Rochard, *La mer des Histoires*, linocut and oil on canvas (detail), 120 x 160 cm, 2024