

# Galerie Catherine Houard

PARIS

## **Piero Crommelynck, engraver** from Picasso to Alechinsky

Exhibition from March 7th to June 2nd, 2012  
Gallery Opening on Tuesday, March 6th 2012, starting at 7pm

**Art Paris**  
**Grand Palais**  
March 29th to April 1st, 2012



**Marino Marini**, signed and numbered engraving, 52.2x 67.4 cm.

The Catherine Houard Gallery is now proud to show engravings from Crommelynck's workshops and artists who previously worked with Piero Crommelynck.

Nicknamed "Prince of engravers" by Jean-Michel Meurice, Piero Crommelynck is now famously known to have collaborated with huge and talented artists in their quest towards engraving: **PICASSO, ALBEROLA, ALECHINSKY, AVIGDOR ARIKHA, BRAQUE, GIACOMETTI, LE CORBUSIER, LE GAC, JEAN-MICHEL MEURICE, MARINO MARINI, NOT VITAL, ANDRE MASSON, MIRO, PINCEMIN, TITUS CARMEL, SAM SZAFRAN, CLAUDE VIALLAT, ....**

From 1963 to 1973, more than 750 engravings were made out of the presses of Mongins's workshop, an old bakery converted for this use alone by Piero Crommelynck. The friendship and complicity between Picasso and Piero was so important and significant Picasso made more than 150 portraits of his friend and engraver.

Among the artists shown:

**Pierre Alechinsky** met the poet Christian Dotremont, one of the founders of the group Cobra, and joined in 1949 this avant-garde artistic movement, which the likes of Karel Appel, Constant, Jan Nieuwenhuys and Asger Johns. Among the many engravings made with the artist, Pero Crommelynck gave in 2001 a second life to the nine printing plates of the series "Les Métiers" created in 1948 which previously didn't get the chance to have been between such expert hands.



**Pierre Alechinsky**, "Trois pas dehors", 1992, 91.5x71.5cm, signed and numbered engraving.

### **André Masson (1896-1987)**

Nicknamed "The Surrealism's rebel", his powerful work will leave a significant and vital mark in the paintings of the 20th century. From Surrealism to abstract painting, he foresaw "action painting". Piero Crommelynck made his very first engraving with André Masson, who worked with his friend Piero until he died, in 1987.



**André Masson** "Lansquenet et courtisane", 1964, signed and numbered engraving.



**Marino Marini**, "Tre Cavalli", 1977, 59.3x74.2cm, colored etching and aquatint, enhanced by hand, numbered and signed.

### **Marino Marini (1901-1980)**

A series of engravings from the Italian sculptor will be presented at the gallery, who, from his early teenage years, made engravings of his favorite themes, including man and horses. Through their artistic collaboration, Piero Crommelynck and Marino Marini became very close friends.

### **Claude Viallat**

His work, word that contradicts with "art" or "artistic creation", is based on the repetition of a simple form. Claude Viallat's art is known for his celebration of colors, a characteristic which made him one of the biggest colourist of his generation. A series of aquatints was made after the collaboration between Claude Viallat and Piero Crommelynck, with, as a principle, the use of repetition.



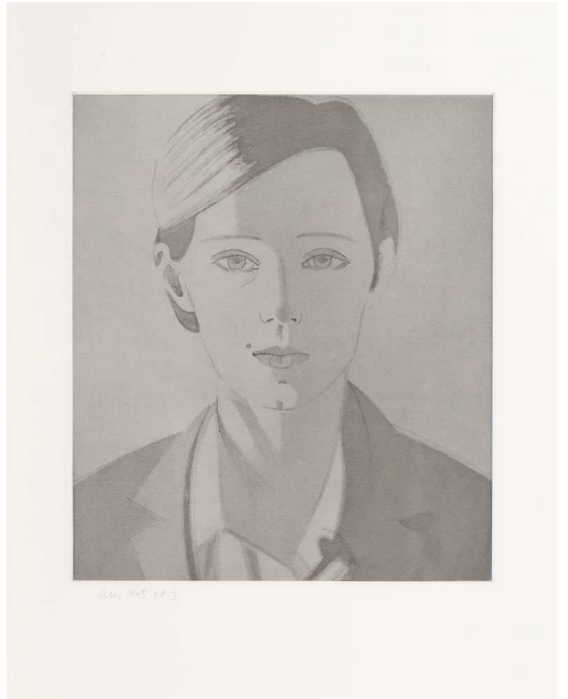
**Claude Viallat**, "Triangle", 1992, 83x87cm, Colored aquatint, signed and numbered.



**Claude Viallat**, "Triangle", 1992, 83x87cm, Colored aquatint, signed and numbered.

## Alex Katz

American artist, associated with the Pop art's movement. In his engravings, here a series of portraits, the artist sticks to the same principles : the compositions' sobriety, the simple use of colors with one reduced chromatic range, the delicacy of the lines.



**Alex Katz**, Portrait de femme, 1988, 41.2x47.7cm, signed and numbered engraving.



## Jim Dine

American Artist. One of Pop Art's pioneers in the beginning of the 1960's, who made in Paris, in Crommelynck's workshop, from 1976, a series of engravings using his favorite themes : tools, arts and dressing gowns, including a series of portraits of his wife Nancy.

**Jim Dine**, Portrait de Nancy, 1980, 58.8x77.5cm, engraving enhanced by hand, signed and numbered

## Piero Crommelynck (1934-2001)

Son of the french director Fernand Commelynck, author of "Cocu Magnifique", that Picasso illustrated in 1966, Piero Commelynck was born in Italy in 1934.

It is at Roger Lacourière engravings' workshop, where he started working at the age of seventeen, that Piero meets Picasso, with whom he became his official engraver but also his friend.

At the start of 1956, Piero and his brother Aldo opened their own workshop in Paris.

This generation's most important artists all rushed there to work, such as **Jean Arp, Braque, Tal Coat, Hans Hartung, Alberto Giacometti, André Masson, Miro, Sam Szafran, Zao Wou-ki...**



Photograph of Piero Crommelynck with Picasso in 1968

In 1963, Piero makes the decision to open a second Crommelynck's workshop with his brother Aldo in Mougins to move closer to Picasso. Their friendship grows profound and loyal to the point where Piero was one of the very rare masculine models to pose for Picasso. It is then that Picasso will deploy more intensely his maestria technic "Not only did he perfectly know every tool that was at his disposal but he was always trying something new. He mixed and changed them", said Piero of the artist.

After some time, the great Spanish artist asked Piero Crommelynck to make the choice of the 66 plates illustrating "la Céléstine" by Fernanda Rojas, a classic of Spanish literature, adored by Picasso.

After Picasso's death, major american and anglo-saxon (Jine.....) were more than elated and proud to be able to work in the famous workshop.

In 1985, Piero carried on alone the artistic adventure with a new talented generation of artists, such as **Pierre Alechinsky, Jean-Michel Alberola, Jean Le Gac, Jean-Michel Meurice, Titus Carmel, Not Vital, Claude Viallat, ...**

He dies in Paris, May 18th, 2001

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