

# Galerie Catherine Houard

PARIS

## LE SOURIRE DE CONDO

October 16th - December 15th ,2012

Exhibition at the Catherine Houard Gallery  
Opening reception Saturday October 13th, 2012 from 4 to 9 pm



George Condo, *The Priest*, 2007  
Oil on canvas, 40,6 x 30,5 cm



George Condo, *The Nun*, 2007  
Graphite and oil on canvas, 40,6 x 30,5 cm

From October 16th to December 15th ,2012, Catherine Houard Gallery presents  
*Le Sourire de Condo*, an exhibition of inédits works by George Condo.

The Catherine Houard Gallery

The paintings and drawings of George Condo, that date from 1999 to 2008 are exhibited on both floors of the Gallery: striking pieces such as *The Nun* (2007) and *The Priest* (2007), rare diptych by the artist.

Located in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Près, it's main goal is, since 2009, to give a new perspective to art.

This event questions the art of George Condo by the presentation of exceptional pieces, which include specifically the disturbing smile that the characters demonstrate. An interview by the art historian Bernard Marcadé has been made for the occasion brings us answers in the midst of the exhibition.

Known for it's expositions such as *Sonia Rykiel dessine...* or *Ettore Scola. Une exposition particulière*, the Catherine Houard Gallery also got noticed for the presentation of exceptional engravings by the Atelier Piero Crommelynck during the 2012 Art Paris Art Fair.

" There is a side in Condo's work that we can also find in Picasso's, the oger side. In fact, both have an appetite to swallow forms, figures, colors... We are beyond greed : there is no delightness, just greediness."

Born in 1957, George Condo demonstrates an uncommon style which he starts to develops during the beginning of 1980's in New York. Unlike predominant art movements of the time, specifically neo-expressionism or free figuration, Condo doesn't stop to use, with insatiable Bulimia, historic European art as a reference through a prism of popular American culture.

For this artist without a label, the art critique Wilfried Dickhof fabricated the term « figurative abstraction ». Figuration flirting with abstraction, Condo will consider his pieces as abstract - he transforms the classic representation of ancient masters into somewhat of a cartoon. Picasso, Velasquez, Bacon or Goya : no one resists this irreverent admiration of George Condo.

The artist plays around with history codes as well as human nature. With a perpetual distance, George Condo invents an « worrismatic bizzariness », where rebuilt familiarity offers a frightening reality.

The Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York added two pieces of Condo in their collection.

For it's second participation in Art Élysées, the Catherine Houard Gallery presents a new selection of engravings by the title of *Piero Crommelynck, le Prince des graveurs* : pieces by Picasso, Alberola, Alechinsky, Jasper Johns, Braque, Giacometti, Le Corbusier, Le Gac, Jean-Michel Meurice, Marino Marini, Not Vital, Masson, Miró, Pincemin, Titus Carmel, Sam Szafran, Viallat,...