

Fondation *Cartier*  
pour l'art contemporain

**FABRICE HYBER**  
***THE VALLEY***

December 8, 2022 – April 30, 2023

"I have always considered my canvases to be like classroom blackboards, like those where we learn to dissect knowledge through teachers and researchers. Mine offer other worlds, whether possible or impossible. In this exhibition, I chose to install my works instead of blackboards in this ideal school setting."

**Fabrice Hyber**



Fabrice Hyber, *Invention de l'agriculture*, 2022. 220 × 300 cm. Watercolour, charcoal, oil painting on canvas. © Fabrice Hyber / Adagp, Paris, 2022.

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## An exhibition-school

If Fabrice Hyber imagined this exhibition as a kind of school, it is precisely in an effort to share this other way of learning, born in particular in the Valley. The exhibition's scenography is reminiscent of classrooms as well as playgrounds. It encourages visitors to learn, move around, open doors, look over windows, step over shapes, play, but also sit on a bench or in front of a desk to look at the canvases that replace the traditional blackboard. Fabrice Hyber stages various ways of learning from a painting. In the short videos that accompany the works, the artist reveals the mental journey that presided over their creation. He invites visitors to rely on the resonances evoked by his canvases to formulate their own hypotheses and make their own associations: "What is important in a school, in my opinion, even more than learning things, is learning how to look at things, and observing how these evolve."

With this in mind, classes open to all visitors will be offered by guides specializing in subjects as diverse as measurements, the shape of fruit, the hybridization of bodies, the weather, sport, games, digestion, and even transformation.

In addition, an ambitious residency program of classes, co-organized with partner schools\*, as well as "evening classes," are also accessible in the form of podcasts. Taught in pairs by experts in their own fields, these classes are an opportunity to test the hypotheses proposed by the artist in his works. By bringing together a chef and a gardener, an athlete and a philosopher, a climatologist and a writer, a choreographer and a sexologist, as well as a landscape architect and an art historian, *The Valley* brings together various forms of knowledge, reflecting the range of Hyber's artistic practice.

## \*Residency classes

An ambitious educational residency program will offer a series of classes. Eleven elementary and horticultural high school classes from the Vendée and Paris region will work throughout the year on themes generated by Hyber's work. These will be hosted in his workshop in the Vendée and at the Fondation Cartier on a regular basis and will be the subject of a documentary film.

## Exhibition catalogue

### Fabrice Hyber, *The Valley*

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French and English versions  
Hardback, 24 × 31.6 cm, 248 pages  
200 color reproductions

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Fabrice Hyber, *9 DIM*, 2012.

Charcoal, oil painting on canvas, 102 × 150 cm. © Fabrice Hyber / Adagp, Paris, 2022.

## Fabrice Hyber



Fabrice Hyber in front of *Invasion*, exhibition *Living Worlds*, presented by the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain at the Tripostal, Lille as part of UTOPIA, 6<sup>ème</sup> edition of lille3000. Photo © Michel Slomka

Fabrice Hyber, born in the Vendée in 1961, studied mathematics before entering the École des Beaux-Arts in Nantes. Invariably starting from the practice of drawing and painting, his work incorporates all modes of expression.

Interferences, interactions, influences on behaviors... are at the heart of his approach. His way of proceeding with variable geometry is enriched each time by a dialogue with multiple disciplines (from physics to neurosciences, from astronomy to herbal medicine, etc.) to refer the spectator/actor to a larger project. Thus, whether it is *L'Hybermarché* at the Museum of Modern Art in Paris, or of *Eau d'or*, *Eau dort*, *ODOR*, a television studio for which he received the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 1997, or of *Chaosgraphie of the 4 Seasons...* by Vivaldi with Angelin Preljocaj, Hyber summons several dimensions in each of his projects and without ever sticking to a defined plastic vocabulary, invests a multitude of writings and supports.

After introducing the term artist-entrepreneur at the end of the 1980s, Hyber created Unlimited Responsibility, UR, in 1994, a limited liability company intended to promote the production and exchange of projects between artists and entrepreneurs. In the same desire to induce or generate new behaviors, in 2012 he initiated the Organoid project with the Institut Pasteur which connects researchers

and artists in order to offer the general public a new vision of biomedical research and its challenges. Present in numerous national and international collections, Fabrice Hyber has been involved in a multitude of commissions. Since 1991, his *Homme de Bessines*, small anthropomorphic sculptures whose bodily orifices spit water have invaded towns in France and abroad.

*The Artery-the garden of drawings*, 1001m<sup>2</sup> designed floor in the Parc de La Villette is a place of life and awareness of HIV, while *Le Cri, l'Écrit* commemorates in the heart of the Jardin du Luxembourg, the abolition of slavery, or *Equilibrium*, a sculpture garden in Japan or another in Marfa, Texas. Transmission forms the heart of the work of this artist for whom "art offers the unique possibility to learn about the world through the interaction of all disciplines." He taught at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris from 2002 to 2005, and created Les Réalisateurs program, in collaboration with a number of art and business schools.

Today, he has the project to create multidisciplinary courses in Pantin within the framework of *Hyber-fabrique*, but also at Villefranche-sur-Mer and the Vendée, home to his foundation. Hyber was elected to the Académie des Beaux-Arts in 2018, and appointed ambassador to the French National Forestry Board in 2021 for his work and commitment to forests.

### Fabrice Hyber and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain

Hyber has maintained close ties with the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain since his residency at Jouy-en-Josas in 1990. Several of his works have been presented in recent group exhibitions: *Trees*, held in Paris in 2019, and at the Power Station of Art in Shanghai in 2021. In 2022, he participated in the *Living Worlds* exhibition at the Tripostal, Lille, conceived by the Fondation Cartier and anthropologist Bruce Albert, as part of UTOPIA, the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of lille3000.