

Thierry Vernet, a Total Artist

To all those who are not yet familiar with the painter Thierry Vernet, I would like to say how lucky you are. For discovering the work of an exceptional artist is a kind of exhilarating revelation—one that expands and enriches our experience of life.

Thierry Vernet was born near Geneva into a bourgeois family. Unwilling to pursue academic studies, he became a student of the painter Xavier Fiala. After several years of wandering, he embarked—with Nicolas Bouvier—on that long journey to the East which gave rise to *L'usage du monde* (*The Way of the World*). He chose to turn these travels into an opportunity to assert a life devoted to constant creation.

Back in Switzerland, he gave up the prospect of a comfortable existence and decided to move to Paris to live as an independent artist.

To my mind, Thierry Vernet is somewhat like Saint-Exupéry's Little Prince. His vision of the world's richness springs from a poetic sensibility, free of convention. His paintings are not bound by strict naturalism, nor do they conform to any established style. What they offer is a joyful, invigorating vision.

He is unmistakably a man of his time, in full awareness of his own innovative gaze.

Encountering his work opens up a new and exhilarating way of seeing, full of profound surprises. One might speak of a rare alliance: the discipline of true craftsmanship combined with the intelligence of a liberated eye.

I've observed that many visitors to a Thierry Vernet exhibition leave with their sense of painting transformed—enriched from within. Perhaps that is the true mystery of his art.

Richard Aeschlimann
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