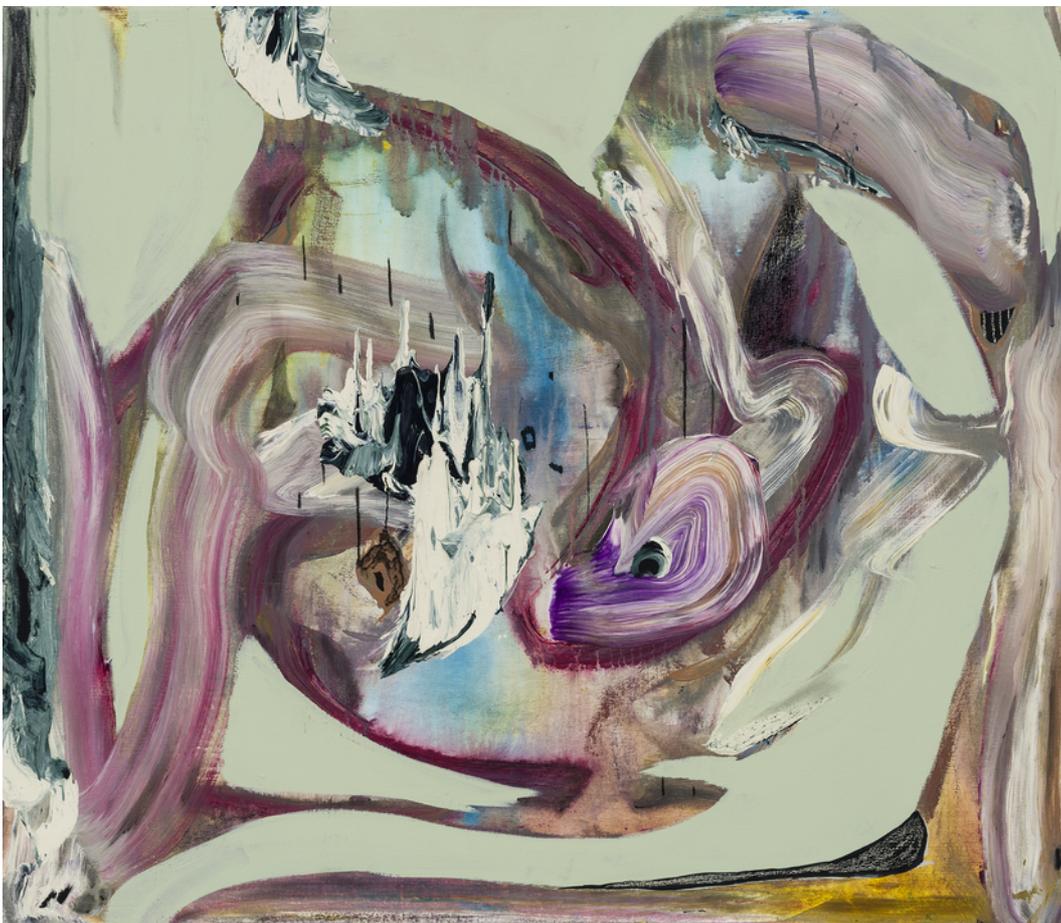


MARUANI MERCIER

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MANUEL MATHIEU
The Spell On You

7 November – 22 December 2018
Avenue Louise 430, Brussels



Open Thought 3, 2018, acrylic and oil stick on canvas, 76,2 x 88,9 cm

We are thrilled to welcome **Manuel Mathieu** at our galley for his first exhibiton in Belgium. **Mathieu** was born in Haiti in 1986. He obtained a Bachelor in Visual and Media Arts at Université du Québec à Montréal and a Master in fine arts at Goldsmiths university of London.

Mathieu is known as an interdisciplinary artist, but is always drawn back to his paintbrushes. The artist creates cerebral, stylized paintings that are at once highly personal and provocative, yet at the same time slightly unnerving in their intimacy. He often invokes his native country's political history as a springboard: **Mathieu** was born in the year that the Haitian uprising brought the Duvalier era to an end, and he is named after the protagonist in Jacques Roumain's 1941 Haitian classic novel *Gouverneurs*

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de la rosée, or *Master of the Dew*. As such, haunting, gory forms resembling people or body parts appear in his paintings, figures that are seemingly adrift in an anonymous setting—and always appear to be alone. Yet his work is also incredibly physical. “I deal with images like structures,” **Mathieu** explains, initially “destroying” them, and then, through a variety of techniques—like scratching and frottage, insertion, drawing, and dripping—he attempts to make them reappear again. The point at which he deems a work “complete” can range from a day to months, in a process that the artist compares to “running in the dark: eventually you hit something, and you know.”



The Duet, 2018, acrylic and oil stick on canvas, 106,68 x 121,92 cm

Mathieu's work has been shown in several museums including the **Grand Palais**, Paris; Museum of the Americas, Washington, D.C.; **Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal**, Quebec; and most recently, a solo outing at the **Institute of Contemporary Art**, London.

Mathieu lives and works in Montreal, Canada.

The artist is available for interviews.

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For high-resolution images, visit maruanimercier.com/press.

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The Spell On You opens on 7 November and runs until 22 December 2018
at MARUANI MERCIER, Avenue Louise 430, Brussels.