

PRESS RELEASE

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Galerie

Paris

7, rue de Thorigny

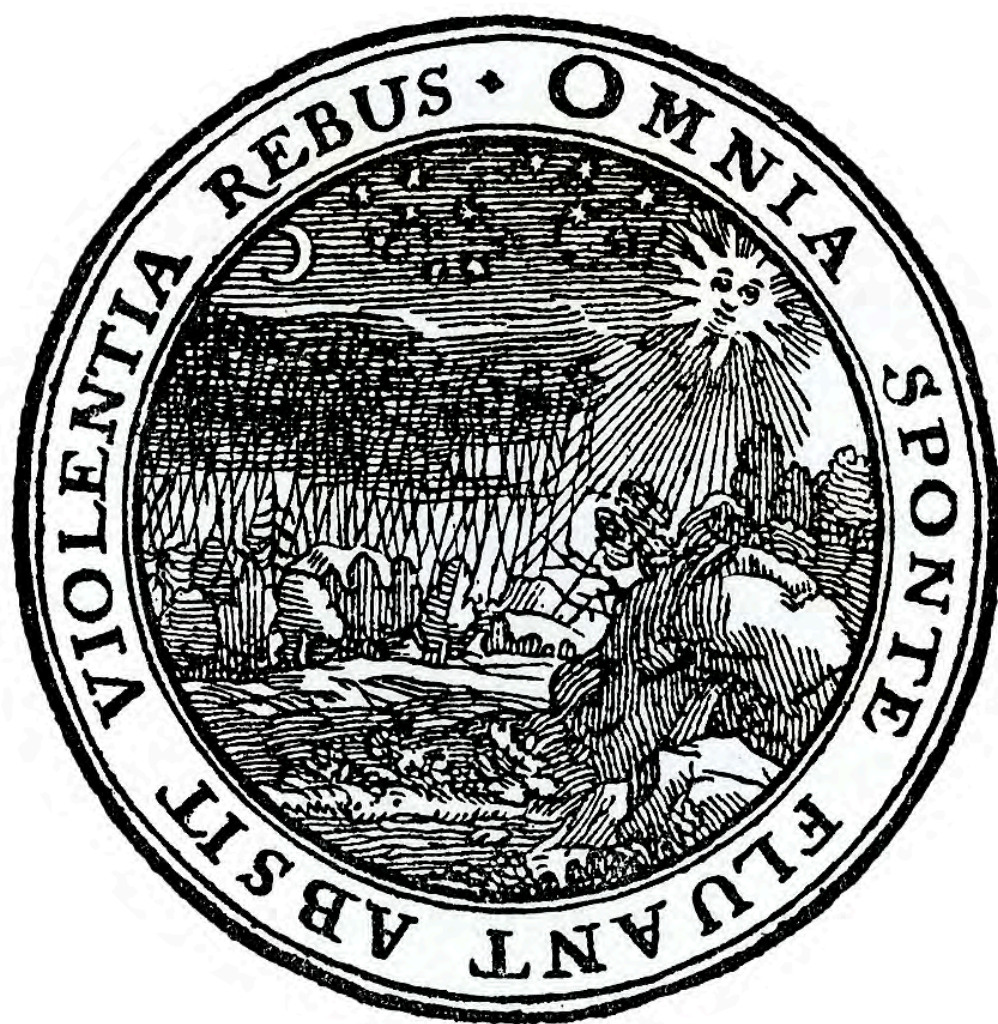
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Josef Šíma / Henri Michaux

LUMIÈRE : AUTRE TERRE

Inaugural Exhibition

18 October. 19 / 31 January. 20

Opening reception on 17 October from 6pm



© Josef Šíma

Untitled, 1969

China ink and watercolour on paper

24 x 19 cm



© Henri Michaux

Untitled, 1981

China ink on paper

105,5 x 75 cm

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The Orbis pictus gallery, home to the «world in images», at 7, rue de Thorigny, in Paris, just a stone's throw away from the Musée Picasso, will be opening its doors on 18 October 2019 with an inaugural exhibition that brings together the work of Josef Šíma and Henri Michaux..

It's no coincidence that galerie Orbis pictus is celebrating its inauguration with the exhibition «Josef Šíma and Henri Michaux». The two artists, who died in 1981 and 1984 respectively, will be shown here in a tête-à-tête encounter for the first time, even though they had been represented by the same art dealers/galleries since the 1960s, had lived in neighbouring apartments on the same Paris street in the late 1940s, and had known each other, two foreigners living in the French capital, since the 1920s.

The first was born Czech, the second Belgian, but both became Parisians by choice. Paris continued to inspire artists from all over the world, because the City of Light fascinated them with its diversity, its avant-gardes, and its freedom. Galerie Orbis pictus aims to revive this tradition, so admirably carried on by our predecessors Thessa and Jacques Herold at 7, rue de Thorigny. During their 25-year career in the Marais, they presented a vibrant community of artists from all over the world, including Sima and Michaux. This exhibition is our way of paying tribute to them.

A 120-page catalog has been specially published for the occasion, with a foreword by Yves Peyré.





© Henri Michaux
 Untitled, 1942
 China ink and watercolour on paper / 31,5 x 24 cm
 Untitled, 1948
 Pencil, China ink and watercolour on paper / 49 x 32 cm



© Josef Šíma
 Hendaye I, 1921
 Pencil and watercolour on paper / 32,5 x 22,5 cm
 Girl with a cigarette, 1925
 China ink and watercolour on paper / 57 x 45 cm



Biography

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© Marie Sechtlova, 1969

Josef Šíma (1891–1971)

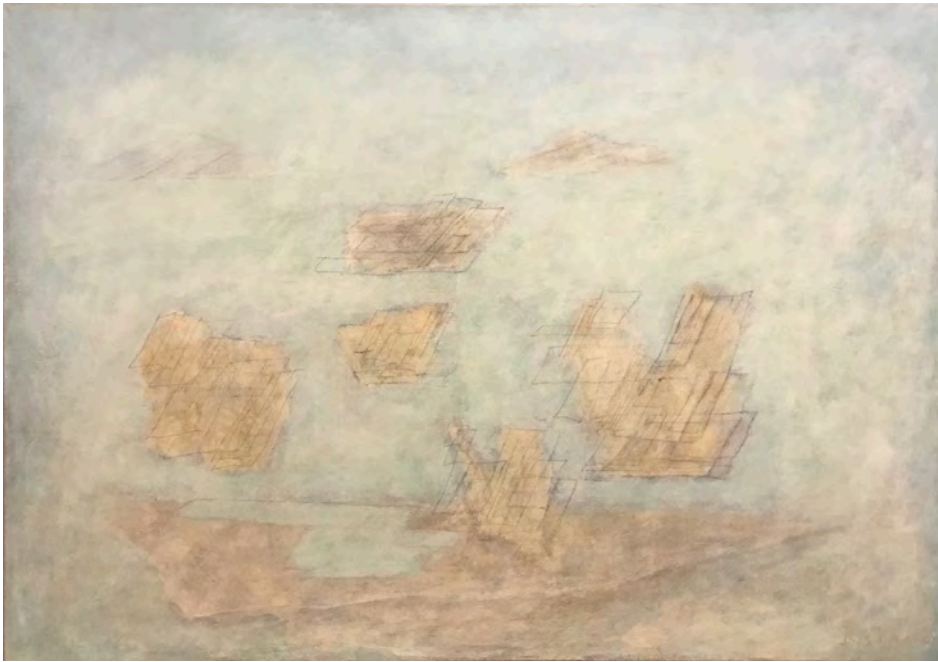
Josef Šíma was born on 19 March 1891 in Jaromer, Eastern Bohemia. In 1921, after studying painting in Prague, he arrived in France, his country of choice, and lived mainly in Paris, with brief interruptions, until his death in 1971. Between 1928 and 1932, as a member of the Grand Jeu, a movement born in the shadow of Surrealism which rapidly broke away from it, he quickly earned a reputation as the group's leading painter, creating dreamlike works and enigmatic landscapes and portraits. He also illustrated the works of his friends Pierre Jean Jouve, Georges Ribemont-Dessaignes and Roger Gilbert-Lecomte.

In 1939, crushed by the events that had led to the disappearance of his homeland, he stopped painting and moved to the South of France, only to return to Paris in 1945 as cultural attaché to liberated Czechoslovakia.

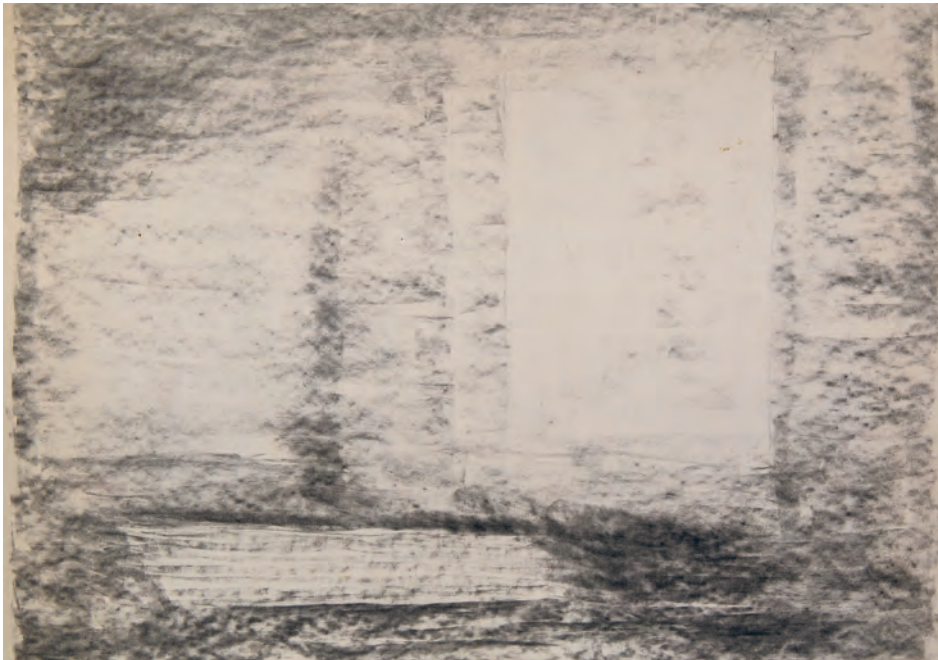
In 1949, some time after the Communist coup in Prague, he stepped back from this post and gradually resumed painting, which was now deeper, subterranean, a seeking out of drops of light in the abysses of the earth. He was once again recognized as a great painter of light and shadow, due in no small part to the bookseller and gallery owner Jean Hugues and his Paris gallery Le Point Cardinal.

In 1968, three years before his death, his first retrospective exhibition opened at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. In his homeland, he is considered one of the greatest Czech painters of the 20th century, along with his Parisian compatriots Mucha, Kupka and Toyen.

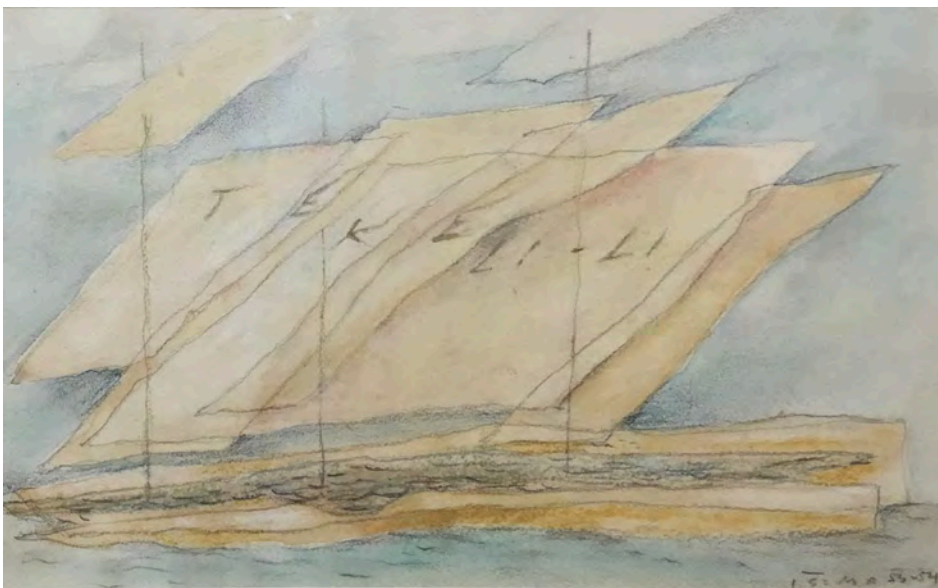




© Josef Šíma
Isles, 1961
Oil on canvas
70 x 100 cm



© Josef Šíma
Orpheus door, 1957
Charcoal on paper
50 x 67 cm



© Josef Šíma
Tekeli-li, 1953-1954
From the Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym by
E. A. Poe
Pencil, pastel and watercolour on paper
14,5 x 21 cm

Biography



© Gisèle Freund, 1972

Henri Michaux (1899-1984)

Henri Michaux was born in Namur, Belgium, on 24 May 1899. Like Šíma, Paris was his city of choice and he arrived here in 1924, remaining in the city until the end of his life in 1984, with long interruptions for distant travels to South America and China. From the outset, his spontaneous artistic creation distanced him from Breton's group, and he remained a solitary, intentionally free spirit throughout his career as a poet and painter. Rapidly appreciated as a poet and essayist, he had difficulty convincing conservative circles that his drawings and paintings on paper were not mere sketches of a poet illustrating his writings, but logical extensions of his creative and even visionary research, accelerated by the consumption of hallucinogens: mescaline, LSD or hashish. By linking writing and painting, and drawing inspiration from Chinese calligraphy, he was a pioneer in the history of modern European art. It wasn't until the 1960s, in an international context, that Michaux gained worldwide recognition as a great inspiration, a magician of visual art. His first retrospectives took place in Amsterdam and Geneva in 1964, followed by those at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris in 1965 and the Guggenheim in New York in 1978. A major exhibition was devoted to him when the Centre Pompidou opened also in 1978

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© Henri Michaux
Untitled, 1984
Acrylic on cardboard
33 x 41 cm



© Henri Michaux
Untitled, 1984
China ink and acrylic on cardboard
22 x 33 cm



© Henri Michaux
Painting, 1977
Oil on cardboard on canvas
49 x 31 cm