

# L'USINE GALERIE

40 rue du Doyenné · B-1180 Bruxelles

Ouvert jeudi - samedi de 14 h à 18h, dimanche de 16 h à 18h ou sur rendez-vous

J e a n - C h a r l e s   D e l a n g e

«   **r é f r a c t i o n s**   »

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The artwork called "réfractions" created by the French artist Jean-Charles Delange contains the techniques of painting, sculpture and photography. It is in this order that the process of creation is established like different stages of research, with diverse material, colour and light.

It begins with **painting**, the artist's first and original vocation, applying coloured areas onto sheets of glass of different dimensions to try out alternatives to the traditional canvas.

Then **sculpting**, as the sheets of glass themselves are taken as autonomous volumes considering all their dimensions and not only using them as support for the paint. Furthermore, translucent light transmissions are created by putting several painted layers of glass sheets into a stack of parallel glass to form blocks.

Finally **photography**, because the observation of phenomena related to different refractions originating in the transparent glass, in interaction with the different layers of paint during changes in daylight, led Jean-Charles Delange to want to capture photographic images of these transformations.

Now it is visible how the genesis of "réfractions" was created by an experimental approach concerning the material of the artwork and how it

developed during observation. It also owes a lot to the context of production. When you enter the studio of the artist, a large hall in a former barn, you realise how much the sobriety of this space, the silence and quality of light in this Normandy landscape participates in creating a favourable environment, which then creates the necessary conditions between the artist, the space and the light.

There is a dialogue between the object and the light, which is limited in the space, and yet an unlimited number of potential images exist within. This dialectic relationship between finite and infinite finds its expression in photography, which translates the light's condition at a specific moment, a moment chosen by someone, who discovers the unexpected, the "unseen" in the sense of the "unbelievable", indeed the wonderful.

In his own way Jean-Charles Delange is a kind of heir to Jean Painlevé\*: He creates, beginning with real optical phenomena and without using the magic wand of any digital image processing, infinite landscapes.

(Christophe Guérin, March 2007)

\* **Jean Painlevé** (1902-11-20 - 1989-07-02) was a French director of more than two hundred science and nature films and an early champion of the genre. Advocating the credo "science is fiction," Painlevé scandalized the scientific world with a cinema designed to entertain as well as edify. He portrayed sea horses, vampire bats, skeleton shrimp, and fan worms as endowed with human traits — the erotic, the comical, and the savage — and in the process won over the circle of Surrealists and avant-gardists he befriended, among them the filmmakers Sergei Eisenstein, Jean Vigo, and Luis Buñuel. (Wikipedia)

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## **Jean-Charles Delange**

1958 born in Le Havre.

1974 - 1979 Ecole des Beaux arts.

He is living and working in Normandy.

2000 Galerie K, Paris

2001 Galerie APC, Fribourg, CH

Galerie FTC, Dunkerque/F

Galerie K, Paris

2002 Galerie APC "halles z", Cologne

2003 Atelierhaus Aachen/D

Galerie APC, Fribourg, CH

2005 Théâtre Le Passage, Fécamp/F

Atelier JB Picheral, Dunkerque/F

2006 Atelier JB Picheral, Dunkerque/F

2007 Université du Havre centre culturel