

**PIERRE-YVES LE DUC**

French, b. 1964

*"Much the same as a piece of fruit, the content [of my artwork] is always wrapped in a protective covering. The fruit may be either the apple of sin or a banana."*

- Pierre-Yves Le Duc

**BIOGRAPHY**

Pierre-Yves Le Duc's first works date back to 1989 but it was only in 1992, after meeting the 85-year-old Alfredo Bovio di Giovanni, that he made his decision to devote himself entirely to art. Their friendship remained close until 1995, when Alfredo passed away. However, this major encounter left Le Duc with the profound sense of one's own individuality, which for him could only be found through the spiritual artistic search.

Pierre-Yves Le Duc was born in France in 1964. His Italian descent led him to attend Italian courses at the Arts Faculty of the Sorbonne, where he graduated in 1988. Already fascinated by the city of Naples during his previous journeys there, he decided that this was to be the place where he wished to establish himself.

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Sacred Portal, Pierre-Yves Le Duc's signature body of work, is unlike his previous works. There, the erotic symbol existed in stark contrast to its background. Instead, this work employs a linen veil and a thorough preparation of the basic white color to give a milky appearance to the surface of the canvases. As Genet used to write when referring to Giacometti's sketches, lines seem to exist only to suggest form and thickness to the white hues... What is full is not the line, but the color. What was absent and invisible is now manifest, with the duality of movement between contraction-expansion, sky-earth, spirit-matter.

What Le Duc portrays is not a woman per se but the female principle that dwells in all of us; that facet of our nature that tends to take root in the biological realm and to become instinct. In the initiation ritual of the Mahavrata, an ascetic copulates with a prostitute who embodies his own image of the feminine in the daemonic aspect. Precisely in the same fashion, the artist faces the carnality of the object painted and its dual nature, where risk and viability coexist. The receptiveness the female sexual organ symbolizes seems to have no limit in the man of the third millennium. Endlessly wishing to gratify his instincts more than to meet his real needs, he is risking his own spiritual death, the dissolution in the liquid voluptuousness of contemporary imagination.

## EDUCATION

1989 Maîtrise (Four-year University Degree) in Italian Language and Literature  
Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris III)

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Sacred Portal, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
2011 Art Hotel Mezzatorre, Ischia, Italy  
Reggia di Portici, Portici, Italy  
2002 Studio 34 Gallery, Salerno, Italy  
1999 Dina Carola Gallery, Naples, Italy  
Institut Français de Naples “Grenoble”, Naples, Italy  
1997 Institute of Higher Studies for Planning, Naples, Italy  
1995 Art Now Gallery, curated by Massimo Sgroi, Capua, Italy

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Erotoritratti, Kaplan’s Project Gallery, Naples, Italy  
Art Hotel Gran Paradiso, Sorrento, Italy  
2010 Gallery Collection, 41artecontemporanea Gallery, Turin, Italy  
Rosarno, Desperate House-lives, Kaplan’s project Gallery, Naples, Italy  
Cleanse yourself, please!, PAN (Palace of the Arts of Naples), Naples, Italy  
2009 Philomarino Contemporary Art Gallery, Naples, Italy  
2008 Roma Art Fair, Overfoto Gallery, Rome, Italy  
osso-buco, video installation, Kaplan’s Projections Gallery, Naples, Italy  
la chute ou la lutte, Kaplan’s Projections Gallery, Naples, Italy  
Soap opera, by James Putnam, 41 artecontemporanea Gallery, Turin, Italy  
2007 Segni, “A Journey through Contemporary Drawing”, | Mimmo di Marzio, San  
Lorenzo Gallery, Italy  
body, Casoria Contemporary Art Museum, Casoria (Naples), Italy  
2006 41 artecontemporanea Gallery, Turin, Italy  
gu, “Latium between the Mediterranean and Europe” International Show  
Colonna Castle, Gennazzano (Rome), Italy

- 2005 Miami Art Fair, Changing Role Gallery, Miami, FL  
artissima, Changing Role Gallery, Turin, Italy
- 2004 soap opera, Changing Role Gallery, Naples, Italy  
“Gu” curated by James Putnam, Meridian Room (National Archeological  
Museum), Naples, Italy
- 2001 “Pavia – Giovane Arte Europea”, First International Contest of Contemporary  
Art, Visconti Castle (Pavia), Italy
- 1998 medium, Sala lazzaretto, Naples, Italy
- 1996 i quaranta ladroni, Greek-Roman aqueduct of Naples Underground, Italy  
inedito open, curated by Achille Bonito Oliva, Latina, Italy  
Basilea Art Fair, Trisorio Studio Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 1995 le nove muse e i nove poeti, Piazza Plebiscito, Naples, Italy  
le nove muse e i nove poeti, Villa Gallotti, Naples, Italy
- 1994 cenacolo, Piazza San Domenico Maggiore, Naples, Italy