



KATRE, *K - Ivry - Chaos*, 2015, acrylic and silkscreen photography printed on canvas, 130 x 195 cm © Katre

Fervent explorer of abandoned industrial sites, Katre plumbs the substance and feel of these places tagged for destruction and recreates them in his works, on the junction between photography and graffiti. His images of empty factories or demolished warehouses are first of all reworked and then given new life before being serigraphically oversize printed on mediums ranging from brushed aluminum, to canvas, to wood or glass. Then, after mixing perspectives and mediums, he launches into acrylics before applying his signature touch, a highly colored motif, his own initial wrought to suggest a movement, or flames. For this, his first one-man show at Wallworks Gallery, Katre offers two new series as well as an installation in which his flaming letters dominates the space with red neons. Once again illuminated, these forgotten spaces take on a second life, enjoying a renaissance.

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KATRE, E - Cercle Série - Alive, 2015, acrylic and silkscreen photography printed on dibond, 100 x 100 cm © Katre



KATRE, K - Cercle Série - Gold, 2015, acrylic and silkscreen photography printed on canvas, 115 x 115 cm © Katre

Katre uses serigraphy not just to copy but to reposition his photos of industrial sites on a medium. This technique lets him not only recreate his images – either in positive or negative, after modifying the contrasts and the context – but also the medium and the inks, including those with a metallic chromed look. These variations would not be possible with conventional digital reworking. Once the serigraphy is done, the work is completed in Katre's studio, for final nuances of color which make each piece unique.

Wallworks Gallery presents two new series. The first consists of dark background acrylic drippings, followed by a photographic representation, and then illuminated by a flow of stylized letter. In the second series, entitled Circle, Katre ponders the materials found during his visits to the sites. Piles of cables, steel rods and demolition debris surge from his tableau in circular form like a field core sample – such as those drilled from the subsoil. In an instant, these inert material samples transform into a vegetal strata or an artery-tangled heart. Whether it's the materials or the mood of these condemned architectural sites, Katre never fails to detect a beauty that sometimes he alone can reveal. Even if he can't save these doomed, forgotten structures, he gives them life in our collective memory.

Several videos allow us to follow the artist at work, from the sites to his studio (located, by the way, in a disused Left Bank hospital) to the serigraphy workshop. In addition, a book (112 pages) with photos of the sites, of Katre's procedure, as well as an overview of his works, will be published by Wallworks Gallery.



KATRE, K - Porte d'Orléans - In Fire, 2015, acrylic and silkscreen photography printed on canvas, 89 x 130 cm © Katre

Born in Paris in 1977, Katre (aka Antonin Giverne) lives and works in the city's 14th *arrondissement*. In the early 1990s, he began as a street and subway graffiti artist with STS (Sur Toutes Surfaces - On All Surfaces). After taking a plastic arts diploma at the Sorbonne (Paris 1 campus), he turned his talents to the Molitor swimming pool in Paris. At the same time, he kept up his outdoor graffiti with empty lot frescos as well as in international festivals, while working alongside his STS colleagues to found a recording studio at their Montreuil base.

His calling has pushed him to roam the city looking for industrial sites, all the while painting Parisian walls. In 2005, he was featured in a collection "Hors du temps" (Out of Time) published by Colors Zoo which brought together for the first time some fifty urban artists specializing in urban wasteland (followed in 2012 by "Hors du temps 2" (Out of Time 2), published by Pyramyd.

This situated him in the graffiti firmament and led to several individual and group exhibits. In these, his explosive pictorials of abandoned sites on canvas virtually take flame. Katre's studio work melds his two passions: work sites and graffiti.



In addition to his art, Katre is also co-founder in Toulouse of the Faute O Graff group, which organizes events such as Mister Freeze, a street art exhibit held each year in a different abandoned or under-reconstruction work site.

Wallworks Gallery director Claude Kunez selected Katre in 2015 as co-organizer of the "Urban Art for Emmaüs" benefit exhibit, which brought together 83 street artists each of whom donated a work for the Emmaüs charity. The exhibit was part of the Villette Street Festival in the Grande halle de La Villette.

KATRE, K - Pont-Aven - Ruines&Sens, 2015,
acrylic and silkscreen photography printed
on canvas, 168 x 122 cm © Katre

KATRE | exhibitions (selection)

- 2015** "Zepha&Katre", **Galerie Korn**, Stockholm
"Morceaux de rue", **Galerie Wallworks**, Paris
"Sur les Murs", **Crédit Municipal**, Paris
- 2014** "Look Through", a **Magda Danysz** project, Bund18, Shanghai
"Le Cercle Fermé", **Montana Gallery**, Montpellier
"In / Out", **MAC**, Créteil
"Made in France", **GCA Gallery**, Nice
"Nite & Day", **Mr Freeze II**, 50cinq, Toulouse
- 2013** **Tour Paris 13**, a Galerie Itinerrance project, Paris
"Les Bains Douches", a Magda Danysz project, **Bains Douches**, Paris
Mr Freeze, Launaguet, Toulouse
"Dans les entrailles du Palais secret", **Palais de Tokyo**, Paris
- 2012** "Hors du temps 2", **Galerie Openspace**, Paris
"Terrain Vague", **Galerie Celal**, Paris
- 2011** 8^e **Printemps du Hip-Hop**, Centre Aragon Triolet, Orly
- 2010** "Graffiti art Summer Show", **Galerie Celal**, Paris
- 2009** "Street Heart", **Palais de Chaillot**, Paris
- 2008** "Hors du Temps", **Vibrations Urbaines**, Pessac, Bordeaux
- 2004** Première exposition au squat **La Fonderie**, Bagnolet



Morceaux de rue @ Wallworks



Facade, Tour Paris 13 © Katre

KATRE | performances and recent events (selection)

- 2015** Wall, **Nuit Blanche**, a Galerie Wallworks project, Place de la République, Paris
Wall, **Paris Plages**, a Galerie Wallworks project, Banks of the Seine, Paris
Co-organizer with Wallworks Gallery director Claude Kunetz of the "Urban Art for Emmaüs" benefit exhibit, **Villette Street Festival**, Grande halle de La Villette, Paris
- 2014** Artist residency in Shanghai, Galerie **Magda Danysz**, Shanghai
Wall, **OFFicielle** de la FIAC, Cité de la mode et du design, Paris
Exclusive print for a dress by **agnès b.**, unique piece for the Spring / Summer Collection 2015
Wall, **Djerbahood**, a Galerie Itinerrance project, Djerba
Wall, Villa Agustina, **Alliance Française** de Panama
Wall performance, **Artcurial**, Paris
- 2013** Building facade and installation, **Tour Paris 13**, a Galerie Itinerrance project, Paris
Installation, **Les Bains Douches**, a Galerie Magda Danysz project, Paris
Building facade, **Graff Me # Lebanon**, Beyrouth
Wall, **Meeting of Styles**, Perpignan