

“THE PHRASE ‘NONHIERARCHICAL DIALOGUE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT’ DESCRIBES MY CONVICTION THAT THE ARTWORK ITSELF MAY NEVER BE DOMINANT. INDEED, THERE SHOULD BE NO HIERARCHY. IDEALLY, THERE IS A BALANCE BETWEEN WORK AND ENVIRONMENT. THIS BALANCE ALLOWS THE VIEWER TO PERCEIVE BOTH COMPONENTS SIMULTANEOUSLY.”

Nicolas Vionnet in a conversation with Dario Rutiglian, Curator
Art Habens Contemporary Art Review, 2014

NICOLAS VIONNET
VISUAL ARTIST, ZURICH (SWITZERLAND)

CURRICULUM VITAE

Nicolas Vionnet's original medium is acrylic on canvas. His chiefly large-scale works play with space and expanse. Although almost always realistic, his paintings have more in common with abstract images than real landscapes. He paints disruptive grey strips across his clouds and allows coloured surfaces to drip down the canvas in accordance with the laws of gravity.

Vionnet is fascinated by such irritations: interventions that approach and create a non-hierarchical dialogue with the environment. This dialogue opens up a field of tension, which allows the viewer an intensive glimpse of both these phenomena.

Vionnet uses the same approach and the same strategy for his installations and objects. Irritation and integration. A fundamental confrontation with the history of a place leads to a subtler and more precise intervention of the object. Take for example his man-made grass island⁽¹⁾ at the Weimarahallen Park (Weimar, GER), which ironically intensified the park's own artificiality. In *Close the Gap* (Leipzig, GER) he bridged the space between an old-town row of houses with a printed canvas image of the now much frowned upon prefabricated building. A reference to changes in time and aesthetics.

Nicolas Vionnet lives and works in the Zurich area. He graduated from the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst Basel. He graduated in 2009 from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar with a Master of Fine Arts degree after studying on the university's Public Art and New Artistic Strategies programme.

Vionnet has participated in various exhibitions at home and abroad since 1999, including The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum (UK), Neues Museum Weimar (GER), LACDA (Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, USA) and the III Moscow International Biennale for Young Art (RU).

Jordanis Theodoridis (gallery owner), March 2011
widmertheodoridis, Eschlikon / Zurich, www.0010.ch



© Island - Catch Me If You Can (2008)
wooden frame, styrofoam, fabric covering, turf rolls
12 x 800 x 800 cm
Weimarhallenpark, Weimar (GER)

*1976 in Basel, Switzerland, lives in Zurich

Education

2007 - 2009 Master of Fine Arts, Public Art and New Artistic Strategies
Bauhaus University, Weimar (GER)

1999 - 2004 Cooperation Master of Arts in Art and Design Education: teaching
qualification for Upper Secondary Education
Academy of Art and Design, Basel (SUI)

Selected Scholarships and Awards (2011 – 2018)

2018 Selected by the curatorial commission, Premio O.R.A. Prize
Associazione culturale, San Dona di Piave (ITA)
2016 Shortlisted, 4th International Emerging Artist Award, Dubai (UAE)
2016 Finalist, Project Taboo, Celeste Network (ITA)
2015 Shortlisted, Celeste Prize 2015, 7th edition, curated by Koyo Kouoh (ITA)
2015 Recommended by the Jury, Sculpture / Installation Section, Premio Com-
bat Prize, Blob Art Cultural Association, Livorno (ITA)
2014 Top 40 Winner, Juried Competition, Los Angeles Center for Digital Art,
curated by Joanna Szupinska-Myers, California Museum of Photography and
Ryan Linkoff, LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art), Los Angeles (USA)
2013 Top 25 Artists, Dave Bown Projects - 6th Semiannual Competition, cura-
ted by Marisa J. Pascucci, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Reto Thuring, Cleveland
Museum of Art und Adelina Vlas, Philadelphia Museum of Art (USA)
2011 Top 50 Winner, Summer Open Call, 3rd Ward Brooklyn, New York (USA)

Selected Publications and Interviews

2016 Floorr Magazine London, Issue 3
<http://www.floorrmagazine.com/issue-3/nicolas-vionnet>

2014 Made in Mind Magazine, Issue 2
http://issuu.com/madeinmindmag/docs/made_02/1?e=0/9842245

Selected Solo Exhibitions (2007 – 2018)

2017 *Alles muss rein!* Griesbadgalerie / public space, Ulm (GER)
2016 *Silence III*, Gallery widmertheodoridis, Zurich/Eschlikon (SUI)
2014 *FRISCH*, Gallery visarte (Visual Arts Association Switzerland), Zurich (SUI)
2013 *Warum Denken traurig macht*, AKKU Kunstkiste, Uster/Zurich (SUI)
2011 *Silence I*, WIDMER+THEODORIDIS contemporary, Zurich (SUI)
2008 *Keep off the grass*, BStU Erfurt (GER)
2007 *Unwetter*, Hippopotamus contemporary, Basel (SUI)

Selected Group Exhibitions (2008 – 2018)

2018 *Emerging Artists Vol. 3*, BERLINBLUE art, Berlin (GER)
2018 *Material*, Alfa Gallery, Miami (USA)
2017 *Turbulence Area*, 5th Odessa Biennale of Contemporary Art (UKR)
2017 *Contemporary Landscape*, CICA Museum, Gimpo-si (KOR)
2017 *Half-Truth*, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio (USA)
2016 *Les jours des éphémères*. Alpines Museum der Schweiz, Bern (SUI)
2016 *Taboo*, Galleria Poggiali & Forconi, Florence (ITA)
2015 *Sculpture by the sea*, 4th Biennial Aarhus Exhibition, Aarhus (DEN)
2015 *The open west*, The Wilson – Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum (GBR)
2015 *POP LIVING*, Schwartz Gallery, London (GBR)
2014 *Small Works*, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, New York (USA)
2014 *Top 40*, LACDA Los Angeles Center For Digital Art, Los Angeles (USA)
2014 *Meet! Aus der Luft gegriffen*, Städtische Galerie KUBUS Hannover (GER)
2013 *TRIAL & ERROR*, Forum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Tübingen (GER)
2013 *Shape the Scape - Landschaft in der zeitgenössischen Kunst. Eine Erkundung*. WIDMER+THEODORIDIS contemporary, Zurich (SUI). International exhibition series in collaboration with Kit Schulte Contemporary Art (Berlin), Lehr Zeitgenössische Kunst (Cologne), Galerie Gilla Lörcher (Berlin) and Galerie Ulrich Mueller (Cologne).
2012 *Under A Tinsel Sun*, Main Project, III Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, Central House of Artists, National Center for Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern Art, Moscow (RUS)
2012 *Men at work*, WIDMER+THEODORIDIS contemporary, Zurich (SUI)
2010 *We Care A Lot*, Medium Gallery, Sign+ Gallery, Groningen (NED)
2008 *Regionale 9*, Kunsthalle Basel (SUI)

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