

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO ARTISTS EXHIBITION > "BIRDS & LANDSCAPES" EILBHE DONOVAN (IRELAND) & JEAN-PIERRE SERGENT (FRANCE)

> SEPTEMBER 19 / OCTOBER 14, 2025

GALERIE KELLER, 7 RUE PROUDHON, 25000 BESANÇON, FRANCE

Opening receptions on Friday, September 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, September 20 from 3 to 7 p.m.

Gallery opening hours: Wednesday to Saturday from 2pm to 7pm and by appointment.

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ABOUT THIS EXHIBITION

This new exhibition, "BIRDS & LANDSCAPES," will be held at the Keller Gallery located now in Besançon and will mainly feature numerous works on paper (ink and pencil) by Irish artist Eilbhe Donovan, who will be traveling from Ireland especially for the opening of the show, as well as a few small works by Jean-Pierre Sargent that relate to the themes of her works: birds and landscapes...

NB: This exhibition will take place simultaneously with the well renowned [78th Besançon International Music Festival](#) (September 12–27, 2025).

– EILBHE DONOVAN (born in Ireland, 1973)

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– BIOGRAPHY

Having obtained an Honours degree in illustration at West Wales School of the Arts, Eilbhe Donovan's work derives from the traditional illustration techniques of drawing and printmaking. Her time in South East Asia is evident in the Japanese influenced style of minimalist ink painting, particularly the simplistic highly stylised movement of Shin-Hanga where there is little to no background, rather a faint suggestion.

Paintings are created using traditional Oriental brushes loaded with water and ink applied thereafter with a pipette. This creates a light airiness as the ink disappears into itself in a random manner. These are worked up in pencil & ink afterward.

Eilbhe has exhibited widely internationally and her work is held in private collections in Australia, USA, UK, Germany, Switzerland and Ireland.

– ARTIST STATEMENT

I live within walking distance of the Atlantic ocean. I am interested in the relationship between humans and the sea. The ocean world fascinates me and I see the coast as the meeting point of the known world and the unknown.

We aspire to live beside it, yet cannot control it. It is both temptress and lickle traitor; provider and destroyer.

It can bring the greatest calm as well as the utmost destruction.

I try to capture that. There is a sadness too in the knowledge that we are destroying our own bounty. This relationship is edging ever closer to a tipping point. It is delicate.

Many of the images are created from blended memories of trips by sea kayak to remote Atlantic islands and isolated coves. They are an attempt to capture a moment in time, a split second, the briefest glimpse. I do not wish to intrude. I wish to observe yet be unobserved.

– **JEAN-PIERRE SERGENT (born in Morteau, France, 1958)**

– BIOGRAPHY

French-New-York painter (1993-2003), now living and working in Besançon. His serigraphic works of painting on Plexiglas and paper have been exhibited internationally since the 90s: in Canada, the United States, Europe, Iran and China since 2016.

From 2019 to 2023, his monumental work of 72 silkscreen paintings on Plexiglas covering an area of 80 m², entitled the "[4 Pillars of the Sky](#)", have been exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts and Archaeology in Besançon.

His work is both a marvel at life and its transience, and a vibrant tribute to the colossal energy of life in its human-cultural continuity and timeless cosmic infinity: a gushing presence of erotic desire from the mists of time and cosmic-mystical beauty.

– **ABOUT THE SERIES OF SMALL PRINTS ON PAPER (25 X 25 cm): "DESIRE, WOMBS, CAVES & WHITE LOTUS" (2011-2014)**

This series was begun in the spring of 2014 at the Besançon studio. Its title was inspired by the artist's careful and curious reading of the large book of the *Upanishads*, because in this very ancient book, dating back more than three thousand years and founding Hindu thought, which reconciles the self with the universal soul, it often refers to the way humans view reality and their creations (the *maya*, the world of illusions) and the emotion, poetry, desire, metaphors, and metamorphosis that they evoke in our deepest selves as human beings:

"Desire, the matrix, the time of desire—He who wields thunder, Indra, the cave, Ha Sa, the wind, the cloud, the king of the heavens—And again the cave, Sa Ka La, and illusion: Such is the primordial wisdom that embraces us, Mother of the immense universe."

— In *Tripura Upanishad*

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