

# GALERIE MITTERRAND

**EDI HILA**

*TIRANA-VERSAILLES*

07 NOV > 23 DEC 2017

PRESS KIT

79 RUE DU TEMPLE  
75003 PARIS

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T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

# GALERIE MITTERRAND

## EDI HILA

TIRANA-VERSAILLES

07 NOV > 23 DEC 2017

OPENING 04 NOV 2017

6 PM > 9 PM

The Galerie Mitterrand is pleased to present the third solo exhibition of Albanian painter Edi Hila. This exhibition, called *Tirana-Versailles*, has been organized following the artist's participation in the latest edition of documenta in Kassel and Athens, and is an opportunity for the Parisian public to discover an ensemble of paintings produced between 2001 and 2015. A large retrospective will be devoted to the artist at the Warsaw Museum of Modern Art (March-May 2018).

A major figure on the Balkan arts scene, over the past twenty or so years, Edi Hila has witnessed the dramatic changes experienced by European post-Soviet communities. Refusing to immigrate to a wealthier country, he chose to live in Tirana, where he has developed a body of work that explores the transitory nature of his country's history (a natural frontier between East and West), as well as the position of Albanian painting in the history of Mediterranean art.

The exhibition *Tirana-Versailles* presented at the Galerie Mitterrand brings together a selection of Edi Hila's works from a number of series produced by the artist since the early 2000s. These paintings focus on the urban environment, especially architecture, which, according to the artist, is the privileged place of expression of Albanian identity. It is through the representation of architecture that the artist visually and symbolically materializes political power, cultural heritage and the psychological climate of his country. The exhibition brings together opposing social realities. The government buildings of the authoritarian Communist regime, in *Pyramides*, *Monuments*, *Municipalité de Tirana*, stand alongside more modest buildings seen in *Périphérie* or the abandoned structures from the painting *Maison III*. The reference to Versailles is present in the recent *Boulevards* series, notably exhibited in its entirety at the last edition of documenta. This series represents the main public buildings that line the Martyrs of the Nation Boulevard in Tirana, and Edi Hila establishes a parallel between the urban and architectural organization of the classical period—symbolized notably by the geometric design and decorative grandiloquence of Versailles—and the authoritarian expression of Communist power in the urbanization and construction of such public buildings. From Tirana to Versailles, the artist draws our attention to the complex relationships that connect our history, identities and environment through his delicate and enigmatic painting.

Edi Hila was born in Shkodër, Albania, in 1944. Since 1991, he has taught painting at the Tirana Academy of the Arts, with artists like Adrian Paci and Anri Sala among his students. His works have been included in numerous international exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale (1999), *After the Wall* at the Moderna Museet in Stockholm (1999), at the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin and the Ludwig Museum in Budapest (2000), *Blood and Honey*, *The Future's Balkan* curated by Harald Szeeman at the Essl Museum in Vienna (2003), the Liverpool Biennale (2010) and documenta in both Kassel and Athens (2017). His paintings are part of international museum collections, such as the Musée national d'art Moderne - Centre Pompidou, the FRAC Pays de la Loire, the Fonds Municipal de la ville de Paris (City of Paris Municipal Collection), the Neue Gallery in Kassel and the Warsaw Museum of Modern Art.

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## Informations pratiques :

Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris

T 33 1 43 26 12 05 - F 33 1 46 33 44 83 - [www.galeriemitterrand.com](http://www.galeriemitterrand.com)

## Horaires d'ouvertures :

Du mardi au samedi 11:00 > 19:00 et le lundi sur rendez-vous

## Contact presse :

Alice Pointet – Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris

T 33 1 43 26 26 32 - F 33 1 46 33 44 83 - [alice@galeriemitterrand.com](mailto:alice@galeriemitterrand.com)

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**Edi Hila**

*Boulevard 5, 2015*

Huile sur toile / Oil on canvas

© Edi Hila, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

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**Edi Hila**

*Boulevard 1*, 2015

Huile sur toile / Oil on canvas

© Edi Hila, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

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**Edi Hila**

*Pyramides*, 2011

Huile sur toile / Oil on canvas

H 105 x 155 cm / H 41 x 61 inches

© Edi Hila, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

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**Edi Hila**

*Le Marché, 2007*

Acrylique sur toile / Acrylic on canvas

H 91 x 149 cm / H 38 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 58 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> inches

© Edi Hila, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

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**Edi Hila**

*Périphérie 2*, 2011

Huile sur toile / Oil on canvas

H 102 x 137 cm / H 40.2 x 53.9 inches

© Edi Hila, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

## ARTIST

-

### **EDI HILA**

born in Shkodër, Albania in 1944.  
lives and works in Tirana, Albania.

## EDUCATION

-

1996

Professor of Visual Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts (AFA), Tirana

1993

Dean of the Faculty of Visual Arts, Academy of Fine Arts (AFA), Tirana

1991

Professor of Painting, Academy of Fine Arts (AFA), Tirana

1967

Graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts (AFA), Tirana

## SOLO SHOWS (SELECTION)

-

2018

Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Poland

2017

Tirana-Versailles, Galerie Mitterrand, Paris

2013

Penthouse, JGM. Galerie, Paris

2011

Year '11, Zeta Gallery, Tirana

Transitional Landscapes - mitterrand + sanz, Zurich

2010

Les temps satellites, Iconoscope, Montpellier

2009

Paysages Transitionnels, JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

2008

Senza angeli, Villa Romana, Florence

Galleria Zeta, Tirana

2007

Disegni non presentati. 1970-1989, Gallery Zeta, Tirana

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2006

Suburban, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe

2004

Galleria delle Arti Del Kosovo, Prishtina

2001

Skendi Gallery, Tirana

1998

Komfort, National Gallery, Tirana

1996

Galerie de Vergere, Sion, Zvicer

1994

Ikast herning, Danemark

1993

AKUD Gallery, Berlin

1992

Galleria Cobra Bruksel

1991

Icast-Herning, Danemark

National Gallery, Tirana

## GROUP SHOWS (SELECTION)

-

2017

Documenta 14, Kassel

Documenta 14, Athens

2016

The Whale That Was a Submarine. Contemporary Positions From Albania and Kosovo Ludwig Museum - Museum of Contemporary Art - Budapest, Budapest

Prandaj Hyji i lartësoi.. - Galeria e Arteve Shkoder, Shkoder

A History: Contemporary Art from the Centre Pompidou - Haus der Kunst, Munich

2014

100 Years of Albanian Drawing - National Gallery of Arts, Tirana

Une histoire, art, architecture et design, des années 80 à aujourd'hui - Centre Pompidou

Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris

Some Artists' Artists - Marian Goodman Gallery, New York City

2013

Florenz! - Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn

Critique and Crises. Art in Europe Since 1945 - Kumu Art Museum, Tallinn

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La Révolte et l'Ennui - FRAC - Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand  
The Desire for Freedom - Arte in Europa dal 1945 - Palazzo Reale, Milan

2012

Critique et Crise. L'art en Europe depuis 1945, Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin

2011

Récits anamorphiques - FRAC - Pays de la Loire, Carquefou

2010

Biennale de Liverpool, Angleterre  
Quartet-Four Biennials Reflected in Prints - International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC), Ljubljana

2006

Art, Life & Confusion, October Salon, Belgrade  
Adrian Paci presents: Edi Hila e Giovanni De Lazzari, francesca kaufmann, Milan  
Interrupted Histories, Lubljana Museum of Contemporary Art

2005

International Prize Onufri 2004 National Gallery. Tirana  
TIRANA BIENNALE 3 Sweet Taboos. Tirana

2004

Cetinje Biennial V, LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT  
Reappearance, Museum of Kosovo, Prishtina

2003

Wien.The Essl Collection-Art of the present, BLOOD&HONEY/ Futures in the Balkans  
Kunsthalle Fridericianum - Kassel, IN DEN SCHLUHTEN DES BALKAN

2002

Small Brother, International Prize "Onufri 2002", Second Prize, National Gallery, Tirana

2001

Beautiful Strangers, Ifa Gallery, Berlin  
Silhouettes, TIRANA BIENNALE e pare, Tirana  
The Art of Balkan Countries, Thessalonique

2000

Zoumboulakis Gallery, Athènes  
After the Wall, Ludwig Museum, Budapest  
After the Wall, Hamburger Bannhof, Berlin  
In and Out, National Gallery Tirana  
Galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris

1999

48th Biennale of Venice

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International Prize Onufri 99, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana  
Art & May, Bari, Italie  
Albania Today, 48th Edition of Venice Biennial, Albanian Pavilion  
Albanische Kunst Heute, Haus am Lutzowplatz, Berlin  
After the Wall, Moderna Museet, Stockholm

## 1998

Gallery XXI. Tirana  
International Prize Onufri 98, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana  
Biennale Internazionale, Le Caire

## 1997

Reorientation, the Porcelain Factory, Tirana  
International Prize Onufri 97, National Gallery, Tirana  
First Mediterranean Biennial. Tunis  
Espace Malraux, Chambéry, France

## 1996

Grenoble, France  
Aix les Bains, France  
Belley, France  
National Exhibition, Onufri, National Gallery, Tirana  
The First Mediterranean Biennial, Tunis  
Centre National d'Art et d'Essai, LUCERNAIRE, Paris.  
The International Biennial of Cairo  
Permanent Instability, International Prize Onufri 98, National Gallery, Tirana,

## 1994

Hotel de Ville, Yverdon, Switzerland

## 1993

Neue Galerie, Graz, Autriche  
National Exhibition Onufri 93, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana

## 1972

Pranvera 72, First Prize, National Competition, National Gallery, Tirana

## COLLECTIONS

-  
Musée national d'art moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
Fonds municipal d'art contemporain de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France  
Fond Régional d'Art Contemporain Pays de la Loire, France  
Fond Régional d'Art Contemporain Auvergne, France  
National Art Gallery of Albania, Tirana, Albania  
Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Poland