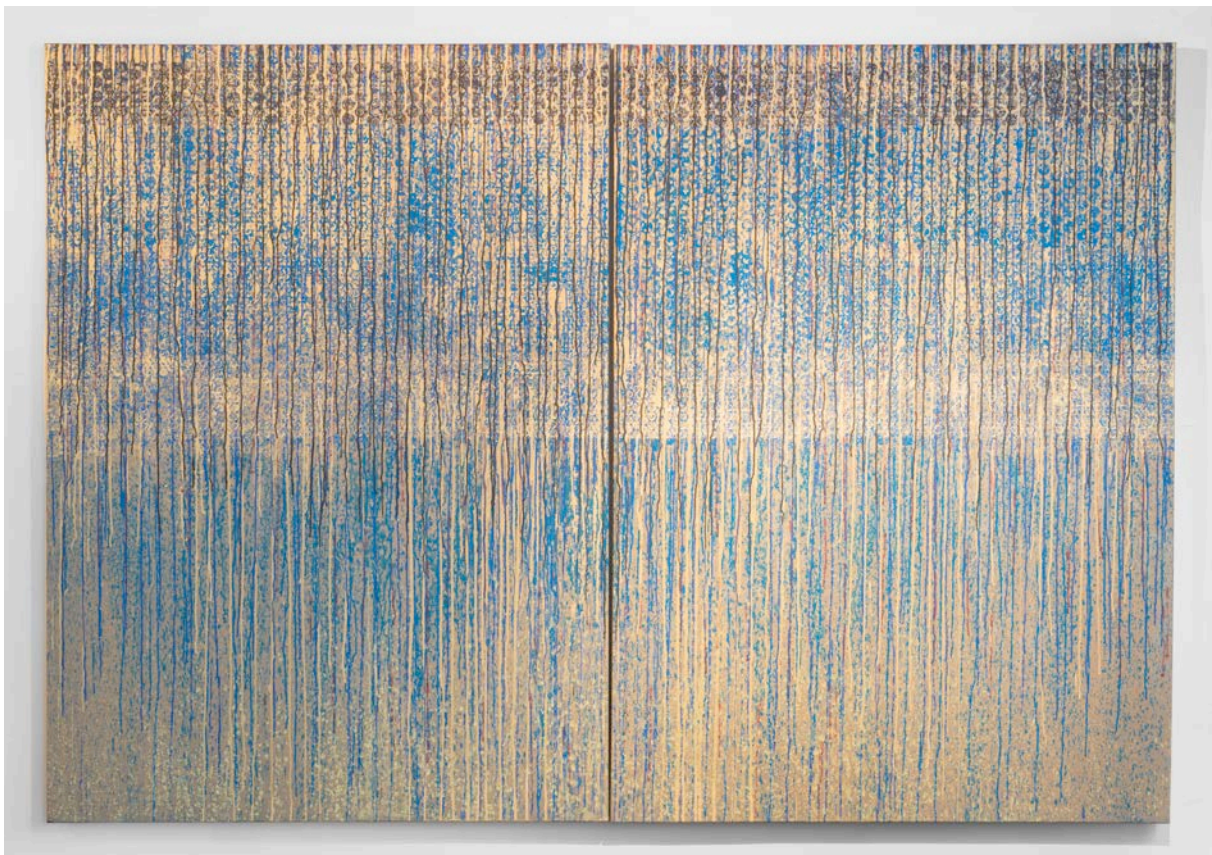


# DUTKO GALLERY

## BEATRICE CASADESUS *Pluies d'Or*

First London exhibition of French artist known for her immersive abstract paintings



*Bleu Nil, 2015, Diptych, Acrylic on linen canvas, H 180 x 260 cm (70 x 102 in.)*

Dutko Gallery is pleased to announce the first London solo show of the Paris-based painter Béatrice Casadesus (b. 1942), presenting a dozen of her recent works, made over the past two years. Her large-format, human-scale paintings are shown as diptychs and triptychs that immerse the viewer in layers of glowing light and colour.

The exhibition title *Pluies d'Or* takes its name from the drips of gold paint that cascade down her canvases like golden raindrops and – through alchemy of chance and rigour – make the surface of her paintings seem to vibrate with colour.

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'I am an abstract painter. While, of course, this title evokes the myth of Danae, I am interested in a painterly interpretation of the idea of gold raining down from above, rather than in any literal meaning of the story. I also draw enormous creative nourishment from the history of art, especially the combinations of gold and blue in Giotto and Fra Angelico, the richness of Titian's layers of colour, Turner's sunsets and the way Seurat uses dabs of paint to make light and colour dance before our eyes,' says Casadesus. 'In my work I am not using gold for its precious, flashy or metallic qualities – but rather for how it animates the other colours. Gold can make them sing and move in a rhythm that syncopates the canvas and gives it depth.'

In the current series of paintings, Casadesus focuses particularly on thresholds and transitions of colour. A visit to her studio reveals books open to Turner's late sunsets sitting alongside her notebooks filled with her colour studies and sketches. She wants her work to capture what she calls 'the moment where the sun meets the sea, where light shines through rain and colours melt into each other.'

Casadesus has a physical, hands-on approach to painting, perhaps derived from her early career as a sculptor (as a student she won a Prix de Rome in sculpture and worked in the field for many years). She works with large-scale un-primed canvases that fit the proportions of her body 'I need to be able to handle and move them by myself, and I need to feel immersed in them, part of them,' she explains.

The artist creates her trademark pattern of dissolving golden dots across the top of each painting by taking a strip of bubble wrap used for wrapping her canvases, dipping it in gold paint and imprinting it on the canvas. Next she drips, brushes and even throws paint onto the canvas in successive layers so that it partly erases the dots with veils of colour that pour down the canvas, which she then tilts and turns until she achieves her desired effect. For more images of her work, please [click here](#).

While Casadesus' work is relatively new to British audiences, over the past thirty years she has built a respected reputation in France, where her paintings have been exhibited widely, including most recently at the Musée barois and the Espace Saint-Louis in Bar le Duc and at the Museum of Brou in Bourg-en-Bresse, both in 2014. A forthcoming exhibition of her work opens in December 2017 at the Palais du Roi de Rome in Rambouillet, outside Paris. Her work also has a strong connection with weaving and textiles (she has even made special textiles for recent installations, and she was recently commissioned to create a tapestry by the Manufacture des Gobelins in Paris. Her work is held in collections that include the Centre Georges Pompidou, the Bibliothèque nationale and many regional French museums, as well as private collections in France, Tokyo, Hong Kong, London, Brussels, and New York. For a full biography of the artist, please [click here](#).

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## Notes for Editors

The French art dealer Jean-Jacques Dutko opened Dutko Gallery London in Mayfair in 2015, after successfully operating two Paris spaces for over two decades and building a reputation as a pre-eminent gallery of classic design, artist-designed contemporary furniture and *objets d'art*. The current show of paintings by Béatrice Casadesus reinforces the aim of Dutko Gallery London to exhibit a wider variety of work and to showcase contemporary art that complements its museum-quality design pieces.

## Exhibition information

Beatrice Casadesus *Pluies d'Or*

10 November 2016 – 14 January 2017

Private view and cocktail reception: 9 November 2016

Dutko Gallery

18 Davies Street London W1K 3DS

+44 (0)20 7495 4666 [gallery.london@dutko.co.uk](mailto:gallery.london@dutko.co.uk)

Open Monday to Saturday 10am - 6.30pm

[www.dutko.com](http://www.dutko.com)

## Press enquiries

For more information, high-resolution images and interviews, please contact:

Sarah Greenberg, Evergreen Arts, [sgreenberg@evergreen-arts.com](mailto:sgreenberg@evergreen-arts.com)

+44 (0)786 654 3242