



La Ville de Narbonne présente

PEINTURES
Mathieu BASSEZ

ROSAE

EXPOSITION

DU 7 OCTOBRE AU 7 DÉCEMBRE 2025

Chapelle des Pénitents-Bleus



Narbonne
AU CŒUR DES POSSIBLES

EXHIBITION

ROSAE

or “The crown of stars”

Welcome to this sanctuary,
where the Rose and the Stars unite,
offering everyone the light
of their own rebirth.

In the gentle fire of the Rose,
a sacred light rises,
a steady and ardent flame
that consumes the veils.

Its thorns – not to hurt,
but to awaken.

Around it dances a crown of stars,
guardians of silent mysteries,
a bridge between heaven and matter.

Guiding the soul through its vibrational frequency,
the resonance of its power,
towards its forgotten light.

The liberation of its authenticity is
the awakening of its consciousness.

This is not a belief,
but an experience.

Mathieu Bassez



Crédits : Yann Harnois



Mathieu Verstraete, alias Mathieu Bassez
(born in 1969, in Gand, Belgique)

BIOGRAPHY

Mathieu Bassez is an authentic and humanistic contemporary artist whose approach reflects his life, which is both poetic and romantic. From the age of 11, he was already travelling the world accompanying a famous orchestra that had made him one of the youngest opera singers to perform Bach arias.

It was in Japan that he cultivated his passion for Eastern philosophy. He studied fine arts at the University of Tokyo, where he was the only European student. He holds a master's degree in Japanese cultural history and literature.

Based in the Narbonne region for 15 years, the internationally renowned painter (MEAM Museum in Barcelona, London, Dubai, Beijing, etc.) is exhibiting his paintings in Narbonne for the first time.

His works are part of a contemporary movement known as ‘magical figurative art’: they transcend reality to freeze time, like the larger-than-life theatre scenes traditionally depicted by Florentine painters.

TECHNIQUE:

oil on Flemish linen

Like the great Flemish painters such as Jan Van Eyck (The Adoration of the Mystical Lamb, the first oil painting that later inspired Da Vinci to introduce this technique to Florence), Mathieu Bassez grew up in Ghent, Flanders. He began painting as a teenager, when studying the work of Kitagawa Utamaro, the 19th-century Japanese painter, inspired him to follow in his footsteps.

Mathieu Bassez works exclusively on finely woven linen, crafted using Renaissance methods (oil-treated linen) by a long-established Flemish company. He paints with a single thin layer of oil paint in the Florentine Renaissance tradition.

Beyond the ancient techniques of mastery and material, faithful to the Flemish and Italian painters of the Renaissance, his contemporary paintings have a strong visual impact because they are life-size. The interplay of light and shadow makes us want to reach out and touch the painting, which appears so lifelike. This use of light and shadow contrast was introduced by Michelangelo Merisi (Caravaggio) at the end of the 16th century.

Red, a colour omnipresent in his work, symbolises love, life, passion, and roses. This same red was used by Vittore Carpaccio, the Renaissance painter of the Venetian school. It is balanced with black, representing harmony and inner peace. The canvas is sometimes left blank to reveal the contrast, as well as the natural colour of Flemish linen.

**“Art is where
brushstrokes
become meditation
and canvases
become dialogues with
the stars.”**

Mathieu Bassez



An exhibition proposed by the City of Narbonne

The City of Narbonne is strongly committed to the development of arts and culture through the multiplication of proposals of quality in terms of musical programming, By accompanying artistic practices. Cette démarche contribue à étendre un accès à la Culture pour le plus grand nombre dans un souci d'excellence et d'exigence. This approach helps to extend access to culture for the greatest number of people, with a focus on excellence and high standards. From popular culture such as urban art, to a more academic plastic expression, the city of Narbonne program in its heritage places of outstanding artists.



With the contribution of :



gallery1951_official



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

FROM **07/10/25** TO **07/12/25**

Chapelle des Pénitents-Bleus, place Roger
Salengro
11100 Narbonne

FREE ADMISSION

FROM 10AM TO 12:30PM
AND FROM 2:00PM TO 6:00 PM
CLOSED ON MONDAYS

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Exhibition design : Manon Sorbier-Mage (scenography), Sylvain Gorant (lighting), Rabah Mokrani (technical), Robert Lasserre (musique), Eugénie Massadau (communication), and the entire culture department. With the support of the technical departments, the patrimonial department, and the communication department of the City of Narbonne.