

UPDATED ART PORTFOLIO • 2026

ACHAO

The Ephemeral in Motion

Painter · contemporary painting

« Aux Frontières de l'Éveil »
In partnership with the Umbria Region
Santa Maria della Misericordia Church
Perugia, Italy
2025



« *Everything flows, everything passes. »*
— *Heraclitus*

« Éloge de la Métamorphose »
Oléron Citadel
2026





*« My encounter with a place is always unique.
It is what remains the greatest unknown. »*
— ACHAO

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01 · Artistic approach

The Ephemeral in Motion explores the instant when a form remains visible while transforming. Painting becomes an experience of time, movement, and perception.

Freed from the traditional stretcher frame, unstretched canvases create a shifting relationship between painting, air, and architecture.

« *Each canvas is a journey where color becomes breath, and organic motifs become seeds that will blossom under the viewer's gaze.* »

— ACHAO

Three areas of research

1. Matisse's legacy

Independent color and fluidly cut forms.

2. Indian references

Inspired by the bas-reliefs of the Dhamek Stupa (Sarnath).

3. Transparency and suspension

Infinite networks of motifs generating evanescence.

« Éloge de la
Métamorphose »
Oléron Citadel
2026



02 · Profile in four key points



Origin

French painter ACHAO lives and works in Auvergne, France.

Medium

Acrylic, inks, and pigments on unstretched canvas

Exhibitions and projects

Rome (French Institute), Lyon (UCLy), Perugia, and Oléron.

Market

Represented by the Bruno Massa and Catherine Pennec galleries; works held in private collections.



Exhibition « Éloge de la Métamorphose »
Oléron Citadel
2026

03 · The paintings: four series

Four series · four movements of the gaze

a · Panta Rhei

b · Mandala

c · Palimpseste

d · Vâhana



a · Panta Rhei series: flow and becoming



The assertion of movement

Nourished by Heraclitus's thought, Panta Rhei views form as a transitional state. In the recent canvases created for Oléron, the composition rejects a single center in favor of abundant constellations on luminous, golden, or silver backgrounds.

Panta Rhei XXXVII

(2026)

Acrylic and ink on unstretched canvas • 180 × 165 cm

« *How can a motif be kept in motion without losing its presence?* »

— ACHAO

a · Panta Rhei series: flow and becoming



« Éloge de la Métamorphose »
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2026

Panta Rhei XIX
(2026)
Acrylic on unstretched canvas • 180 × 178 cm

b · Mandala series: the expanding center

From meditative centering to

expansion
While ACHAO's early Mandalas offered a space for concentration, the recent work of 2026 breaks through that boundary. The circle asserts itself through its scale before dissolving into networks of angular signs and dynamic lines.

Mandala XLIV
(2026)
Acrylic and ink on unstretched canvas • 220 × 200 cm



b · Mandala series: the expanding center



Mandala L

(2026)
Acrylic on unstretched canvas • 165 × 147 cm

« *What becomes of a mandala when its center is no longer fixed?* »

— ACHAO



c · Palimpseste series: memory and layers

Directly inspired by Henri Matisse's cut-out figures, human forms become, in ACHAO's work, a matrix in perpetual metamorphosis. They deform, fragment, and shift toward organic or indecipherable signs.

The painting functions as a palimpsest: earlier layers remain perceptible beneath the surface, preserving the visible memory of past states.

Palimpseste VI (2026)

Acrylic on unstretched canvas • 200 × 100 cm



c · Palimpseste series: memory and layers

« What remains of a form when its transformation gradually makes us lose what we thought we recognized? »

— ACHAO

« Éloge de la Métamorphose »

Oléron Citadel

2026

14 / 32

d · Vāhana series: the motif as vehicle

In Hindu tradition, a vāhana is a deity's mount. ACHAO reinterprets this concept: the motif becomes a vehicle for the gaze. The pronounced verticality of these canvases draws the eye into a continuous ascent.

Vāhana XLVIII

(2025)
212 × 190 cm

« What then becomes of the gaze when a form no longer seeks merely to be contemplated, but becomes the vehicle for a possible becoming? »

— ACHAO



d · Vâhana series: the motif as vehicle

Vâhana LXIX et LXX
(2026)
192 × 119 cm



05 · Monumental works and large formats



Vâhana, Celestial Heights I, Profondo

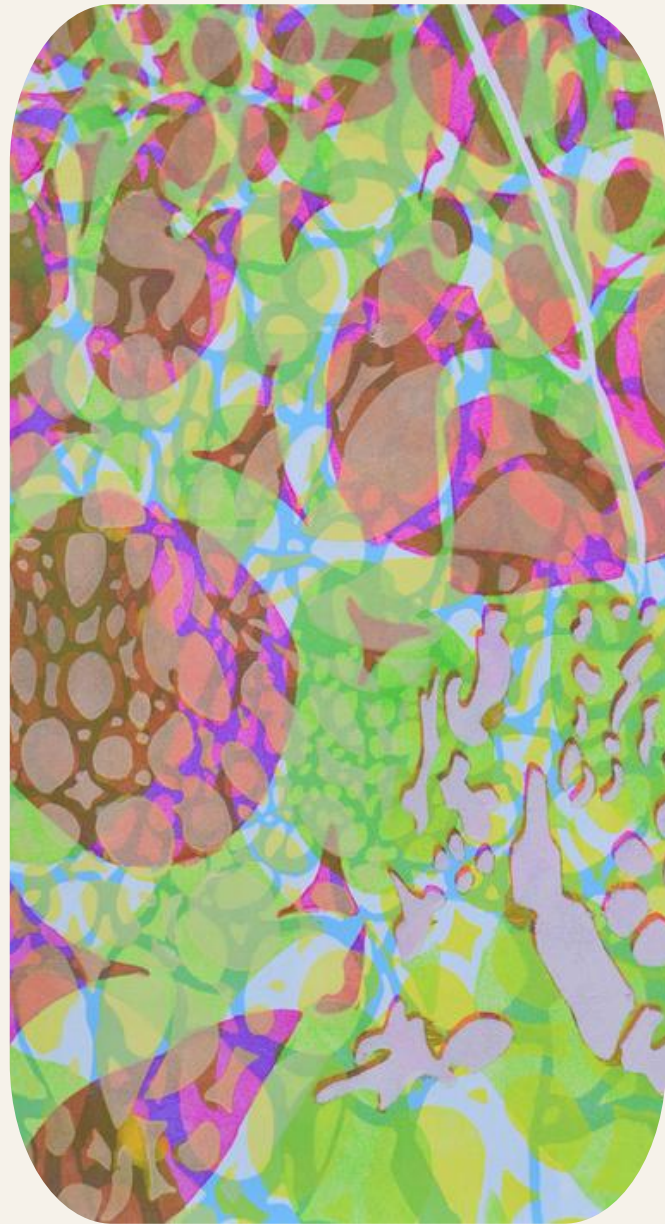
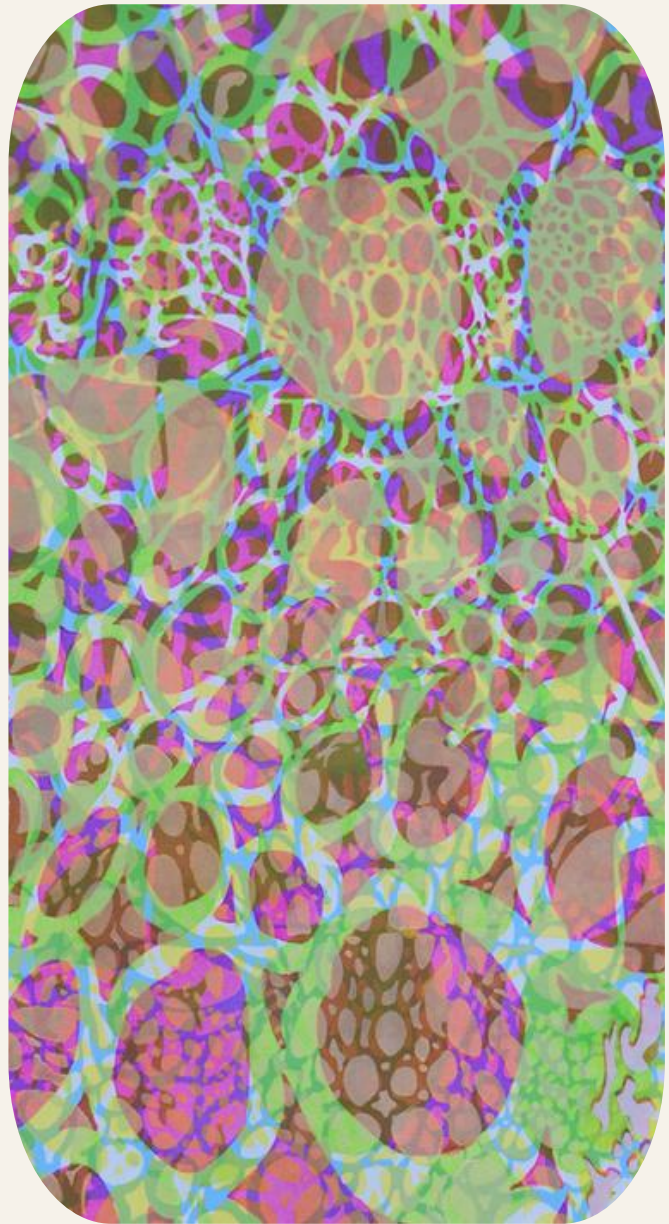
Acrylic and ink on unstretched canvas

5 paintings

280 × 80 cm

2024

05 · Monumental works and large formats



La Joie

Acrylic and ink on unstretched canvas

Triptych — panels from left to right: 252 × 91

cm, 252 × 210 cm, 252 × 63 cm

2022

o6 · Studio creation
process



01
Unstretched canvas
Flexible support freed from the stretcher frame. Precise tensioning and hanging.



02
Drawing to scale
Preparatory drawings to establish rhythm and relationships between forms.



03
The Matrix
(Yoni) for transformation and Deleuzian deviation (diagram).



04
Chromatic research
Mixes of acrylic, inks, pigments, and matte/gloss varnish.



05
Welcoming the unexpected
Remaining attentive to accidents and discoveries in the process.

o6 · Studio creation process

support → drawing → motif → repetition → color → matrix → deviation → unexpected → becoming.



07 · Career and influences

CAREER · SELECTION

- 2026 · Éloge de la Métamorphose — Bastion Royal, Citadelle du Château d’Oléron (*)
- 2026 · Voluptés Chromatiques — Arts en Balade, Clermont-Ferrand (*)
- 2025 · Aux Frontières de l’Éveil — Santa Maria della Misericordia, Pérouse (*)
- 2025 · Biennale Hors Normes — Palais de Bondy, Lyon
- 2024 · Évanescences chromatiques — UCLy, Lyon (*)
- 2024 · ACHAO en dialogue avec Henri Matisse — Institut français, Rome (*)
- 2024 · Celestial Heights — Galleria Angelica, Rome (*)
- 2024 · ArtExpo Paris — Galerie Agnès Nord, Paris
- 2024 · Andakulova Gallery — Dubaï
- 2023 · Galleria Le Logge — Assise (*)
- 2023 · Moderato Cantabile — Château de l’Arthaudière (*)
- 2023 · Chapelle des Pénitents Blancs — Gordes (*)
- 2022 · Galleria Le Logge, Palazzo dei Priori — Assise (*)
- 2020 · Space gallery — Bruxelles (*)
- 2018 · Chapelle Saint-Luc — Tournai, Belgique
- 2018 · Halles Saint-Géry — Bruxelles
- (*) Exposition solo

AFFINITIES · RESONANCES

ACHAO’s practice is built through resonances rather than imitation. Henri Matisse is a source figure for the freedom of motif and color; Claude Viallat, a point of comparison for the repetition of the motif and its relationship to the support; Heraclitus, a philosophical horizon for the idea of becoming. Indian iconographic traditions inform, in particular, the Mandala and Vâhana series.

These affinities are starting points. The aim is to transform them through a distinctive pictorial process: matrix, repetition, displacement, superimposition, and deviation.

o8 · Institutional career: a European journey

The career of ACHAO includes exhibitions in cultural, heritage, and university venues in France, Belgium, and Italy. These settings offer each project a specific dialogue with the site's architecture and history.

Rome — In 2024, « ACHAO en dialogue avec Henri Matisse » is presented at the Institut français – Centre Saint-Louis. That same year, the artist exhibits at the Galleria Angelica.

Lyon — « Évanescences chromatiques » is presented at the Université catholique de Lyon (UCLy) in 2024.

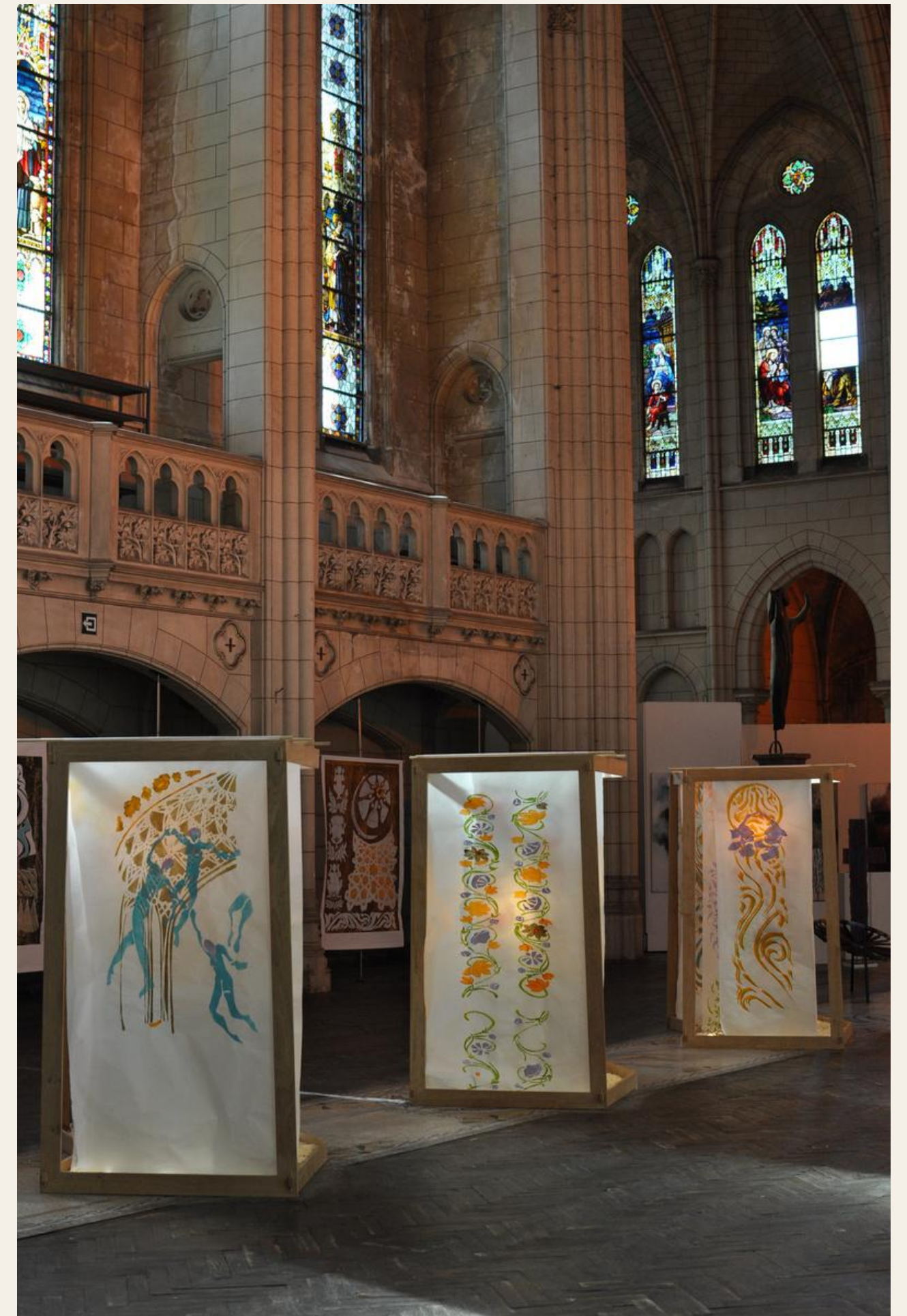
Perugia — « Aux Frontières de l'Éveil » is presented in 2025 at Santa Maria della Misericordia Church.

Oléron — « Éloge de la Métamorphose » is presented in 2026 as part of the European Heritage Days.

Chapelle Saint-Luc

Tournai, Belgium

2018





Chapelle Saint-Luc
Tournai, Belgique
2018



Maison Folie de l'Hospice d'Havr ,
Tourcoing, France
2017



Chapelle des P nitents Blancs
Gordes, Luberon, France
2023



Halles Saint-G ry
Brussels
2018



Ch teau de l'Arthaudi re
Is re, France
2023

09 · Exhibitions in heritage sites



Achao, Pantha Rhei X, Pianissimo



INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
Centre Saint-Louis

27 MAI
> 27
JUN
2024



VERNISSAGE
28/05 | 18:00

“Ce qui me rapproche indéfectiblement de Henri Matisse est sans doute la poursuite d'un même rêve d'art. Celui d'une peinture qui parle à tous, qui communique la joie et l'émancipation spirituelle : un art qui incarne l'équilibre, la sérénité et la paix intérieure” ACHAO

VIBRATIONS CHROMATIQUES ACHAO EN DIALOGUE AVEC MATISSE



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INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
Centre Saint-Louis

27 MAI
> 27
JUN
2024

CETTE NOUVELLE SÉRIE DE PEINTURES EST UN HOMMAGE
À HENRI MATISSE, ET PLUS PARTICULIÈREMENT À SES
PAPIERS DÉCOUPÉS, QUI REPRÉSENTENT LE
JAILLISSEMENT ULTIME DU MAÎTRE FRANÇAIS.



Dans ce dialogue avec Matisse, j'ai distordu les Philodendrons que j'ai regroupés en petites flottilles invitant le regard à un mouvement circulaire. Telle la philosophie et les religions de l'Asie qui ont imprégné mon parcours, je souscris à cette vision circulaire du monde selon laquelle tout n'est que répétition du même mouvement éternel.

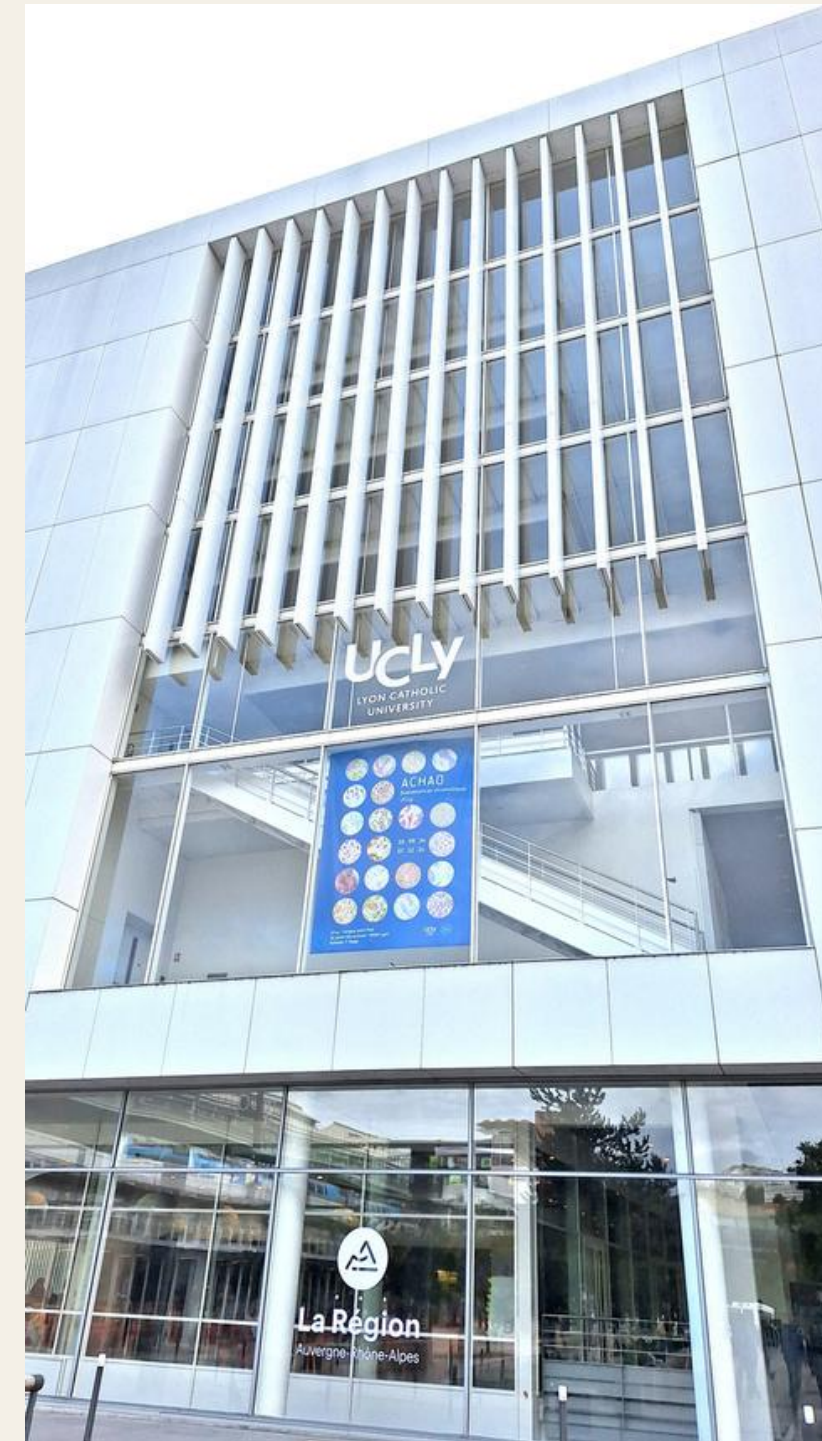
Alors que l'art des papiers découpés de Matisse est fait de compositions parfaitement équilibrées, mon travail consiste en des ordonnancements furtifs pour signifier que tout n'est qu'ordre précaire, et que nous évoluons dans un monde en recomposition permanente. D'ailleurs la transparence et la juxtaposition des motifs suscitent le flou du regard, et par ricochet un mouvement introspectif de l'esprit.

Ce qui me rapproche indéfectiblement de Henri Matisse est sans doute la poursuite d'un même rêve d'art. Celui d'une peinture qui parle à tous, qui communique la joie et l'émancipation spirituelle : un art qui incarne l'équilibre, la sérénité et la paix intérieure. Et ainsi, nous donne la force de réinventer notre regard sur le monde.

French Institute in the heart of Rome

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
Centre Saint-Louis

Liberté
Créativité
Diversité



Special exhibition: Université catholique de Lyon



Exhibition « Moderato Cantabile »
Palazzo dei Priori, Assisi, Italy
2023

10 · Installations and immersive exhibitions

ACHAO's work extends from painting to installation. Large-format works, unstretched canvases, and sometimes sculpture form ensembles conceived in relation to architecture.

Reference project — « Aux Frontières de l'Éveil », presented in 2025 at Santa Maria della Misericordia Church in Perugia.

The exhibition design does more than display the works: it organizes an experience of motif, color, and the movement of the gaze.



« Évanescences chromatiques »
Université catholique de Lyon (UCLy)
Campus Saint-Paul
2024



Aux Frontières de l'Éveil

Presented in Clermont-Ferrand, Lyon, and Perugia in 2024, the installation was always adapted to its location, revealing its distinctive features (Palais Bondy in Lyon, Santa Maria della Misericordia Church in Perugia...).





Exhibition « Instant Présent »
Centre d'Art Jean Prouvé
Issoire, France
2021

Christo Santo
Polyptych composed of 5 panels
Acrylic on unstretched canvas
300 × 586 cm
2021

12 · Contact

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Color studies. ACHAO’s studio.