

**ANTOINE CARBONNE**

*The Floor is Lava*

**Opening : Thursday, September 13th, 5 to 8pm**

**Exhibition : 8 September – 6 October, 2018**



Antoine Carbonne, *Paradis des joueurs*, 2018, oil on canvas, 200 x 446 cm

The gallery is pleased to announce Antoine Carbonne's third solo exhibition.

The young French painter depicts a suspended visual narrative via a large-scale, panoramic painting entitled *Paradis des joueurs* (*Players' Paradise*), evoking the spirit of Mexican mural fresco painting via a weightless, floating world. In contrast to the expansive landscape, small characters appear lost in colorful spaces, caught in a sort of giant, vaporous cloud.

For the past few years, Antoine Carbonne's work is distinguished by sources of inspiration drawn from the painter's daily life; memories gathered during his travels, but also from his own dreamlike visions. Using his imagination, the artist paints onto canvas his own vision of the world; his anxieties as well as his interrogations in a subtle and poetic way.

In *Paradis des joueurs* (*Players' Paradise*), Antoine Carbonne questions the transient nature of athletic career paths in comparison to those of artists. A frantic and perhaps ultimately futile race toward an illusory glory, the title evokes a sweet irony.

However, beyond a dreamlike paradise or elsewhere presented as a source of repentance — as seen in the painting entitled *l'Arbre de la connaissance* (*The Tree of Knowledge*) — the works on display represent as much fear of the unknown as weightless comfort.

By abandoning the visual world and steering toward a dreamlike limbo, the figures leave the ground. The landscape becomes a series of faces, as seen in *Europa*, giving rise to an oscillation between real life and a sweet hallucination.

Antoine Carbonne was born in 1987. He lives and works in Brussels, Belgium.