

# Galerie Daniel Templon

Paris

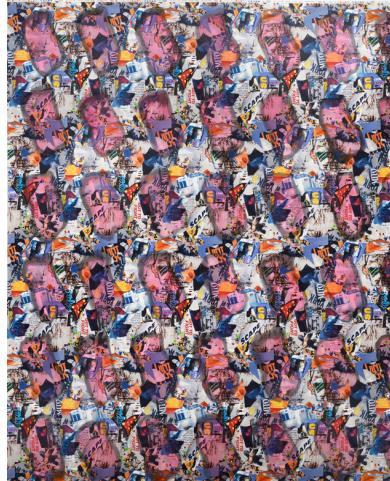
Press Release

February 17, 2014

## CLAUDE VIALLAT

March 1 – April 5, 2014

Opening: Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from noon to 8 pm



*Sans titre n°276, 2013, acrylic on printed fabric, 112 - x 89 - in.*

For his sixth exhibition at Galerie Templon since 1998, Claude Viallat, an emblematic figure in the *Supports/Surfaces* movement, is presenting a previously unseen series of paintings on fabric.

The new exhibition sees Claude Viallat applying what has become his signature motif to printed fabrics. Covered in **astounding graffiti**, layered advertising blurb, dots and ornaments, they create a dizzying *mise en abîme* based on the principle of repetition favoured by the artist. This systematic approach combined with artificial colours, shiny textures and the commercial aspect of a number of the materials – a scarf, a Christmas tablecloth – introduces an **unexpected** hint of New Realism and Pop Art. The artist has also linked his paintings to a series of balanced sculptures-objects, assemblages of driftwood, stones and ropes tied in knots.

Born in 1936, Claude Viallat is one of the founders of the *Supports/Surfaces* avant-garde artistic movement that emerged in the early 1970s. An ephemeral movement, it questioned the traditional elements of painting. Figures in the movement included Vincent Bioulès, Louis Cane, Daniel Dezeuze, Jean-Pierre Pincemin and Noël Dolla. They formed a group that propounded both art theory and politics. They called for a fresh approach to art that **questioned the traditional materials** used for painting, the canvas and the stretcher. Viallat began working on industrial tarpaulins without stretchers, covering them with the same endlessly-repeated abstract shape. This “shape”, which can call to mind different images, a knuckle, a hand or a bull brand, eventually became his signature motif. Reproduced using a stencil, in a variety of colours and on different surfaces (upholstery fabrics, rugs, recycled materials), this motif eradicates **the notion of “subject”** and enables Claude Viallat to explore the meaning of the creative gesture and the status of the “work of art”.

Claude Viallat is one of the leading figures in French painting. He represented France at the Venice Biennale in 1988. His work is included in numerous public collections, including at the Musée National d'Art Moderne - Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, MOMA in New York, Musée des Beaux Arts in Montréal and National Museum of Art in Osaka. The Musée Fabre in Montpellier will be holding a major retrospective of his work in summer 2014.

**Address** : 30 rue Beaubourg 75003 Paris. **Hours** : Monday - Saturday, from 10 am to 7 pm

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