

TEMPLON



Press release

JEAN-MICHEL ALBEROLA

28 February – 17 April 2019

Opening on Thursday 28 February from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm



Jean-Michel Alberola, *Devenir groupe*, (détail), 2011
Painted wall

Galerie Templon is delighted to be presenting a Jean-Michel Alberola exhibition for the very first time in Brussels. The artist, represented by Galerie Templon for over thirty years, is a prominent and unclassifiable figure on the French art scene.

Paintings, drawings, neon sculptures and wall paintings, including a number of new pieces, have been put together in a postiche 'group exhibition' focusing on the issue of the collective and the artist's role in society.

Born in 1953, Jean-Michel Alberola has been producing protean works that straddle conceptual, abstract and figurative art since the 1980s. Paintings, works on paper, sculptures, films, texts and artists' books make up the different facets of this body of work. Political and poetic, his art is steeped in humour, spreading his message by combining artistic insights with an exploration of political and social topics.

Jean-Michel Alberola uses fragmentation and layering in his work, associating speech with formal expression. Bodily or geographic fragments partnered with ambiguous statements or injunctions transform his works into philosophical riddles.

Jean-Michel Alberola made his name in the 1980s as part of the Figuration Libre movement and return to 'cultivated painting'. His work has been exhibited, inter alia, at the Musée du Louvre (2005), Bibliothèque Nationale de France (2009) and Maison Hermès in Tokyo (2009). He was also part of the *Mathematics: A Beautiful Elsewhere* exhibition at the Fondation Cartier (2011) and *Masters of Chaos* at Musée du Quai Branly (2012), while F.R.A.C Picardie in Amiens held a retrospective of his neon creations in 2012. In 2016, the Palais de Tokyo invited him to create a major solo exhibition, the first in Paris since his retrospective at the Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris in 1997.

More recently, in 2018, he designed an exhibition specially for the Centre Dominique-Vivant Denon at the Musée du Louvre: *Cosmos 1939: Georges Salles / Walter Benjamin*.