

# TEMPLON

## II

Press release  
27 February 2024

**FRANÇOIS ROUAN**

**30 April - 13 July 2024**

**Opening: Tuesday 30 April 2024, 12 to 7 pm**



*Angel of history #7, 2023, silver photograph, paint, drawings, 74 x 61 cm*

French artist François Rouan, for his braided canvases, presents for his latest exhibition at Galerie Templon is latest “photographic-tableaux”, a group of forty previously unseen pieces created since 2020.

Rouan has been spending over 40 years working on deconstructing the notion of the painting using a new process which became his signature: pictorial braiding. In the late 1980s, he started using photography, a medium he has constantly explored and subverted for the last 25 years alongside his work as a painter.

Address: 30 Rue Beaubourg 75003 Paris. Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am - 7 pm  
Press contact: [camille.desprez@templon.com](mailto:camille.desprez@templon.com) tel.: +33 (0) 1 42 72 14 82, [@galerietemplon](https://www.instagram.com/galerietemplon)

The new exhibition features a series of small format photographic artworks. Fruit of his inexhaustible impulse to experiment and delve into the elusive medium of photography, these reworked images centre on a resolutely pared-back palette. The understated black and white landscape occasionally embraces hints of coral or salmon. The apparent simplicity of the colour range opens the door wide to some of the metaphysical questions that obsesses the artist: the body and the mystery of the world's origins. "I'm interested in the idea of building a framework that refers to the female body," explains François Rouan.

Creating these photographic pieces is a complex, tedious process: he lets his models guide the staging phase before playing with techniques such as multiple exposures and photographic braiding, which he then covers with hatching, dots, tracery or tiny commas. The result is dynamic image, swinging between abstraction and figuration. Rouan's works are strikingly perceptive, resonating with current concerns such as our relationship to images, the other side of the surface, and the role of art in reconstructing a fragmented material and mental world.

The exhibition will be marked by the publication of catalogue in May 2024 featuring a text by Agnès Fabre.

Born in Montpellier, France, in 1943, François Rouan moved to Paris in 1961 to study at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts. His research into collages led to his first experiments with braiding in 1965, first with gouache-covered paper than painted canvases, cut up then reassembled as a grid. His focus then shifted to other techniques, including hatching and wax. In 1980 he began to broaden his practice to encompass other mediums, both photographic and film-based. Artist-in-residence at Villa Medici from 1971-1973, in 1985 he was appointed Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres, the highest distinction of the French order of merit. His work has featured in a variety of solo exhibitions and retrospectives, including at the Centre Pompidou in Paris in 1975, 1983 and 1994, Musée d'Art Moderne in Villeneuve-d'Ascq in 1995, Les Abattoirs in Toulouse in 2006, and Musée Fabre in Montpellier in 2017. His art has been exhibited worldwide at institutions such as the Städtische Kunsthalle in Düsseldorf (1979), Sezon Museum of Art in Tokyo (1997) and Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing (2000). He currently has work on display at the Centre Pompidou-Metz as part of the Lacan, l'Exposition group exhibition running until 27 May 2024. In June 2024 a travelling exhibition will showcase his work on stained-glass windows for the Royal Abbey of Our Lady of Fontevraud. In June 2025, the Lyon Musée des Beaux-Arts will be paying tribute to his work with a major retrospective.