

PRESS RELEASE



Geer van VELDE

Contemplation Works

Oils on canvas & works on paper

Exhibition
20 September – 30 October



Galerie de la
Présidence

Biographical references



Geer van VELDE
(1898–1977)

The Dutch artists Geer and his brother Bram first learned the profession of painter decorator, but very soon they were convinced that their true vocation was to become artists.

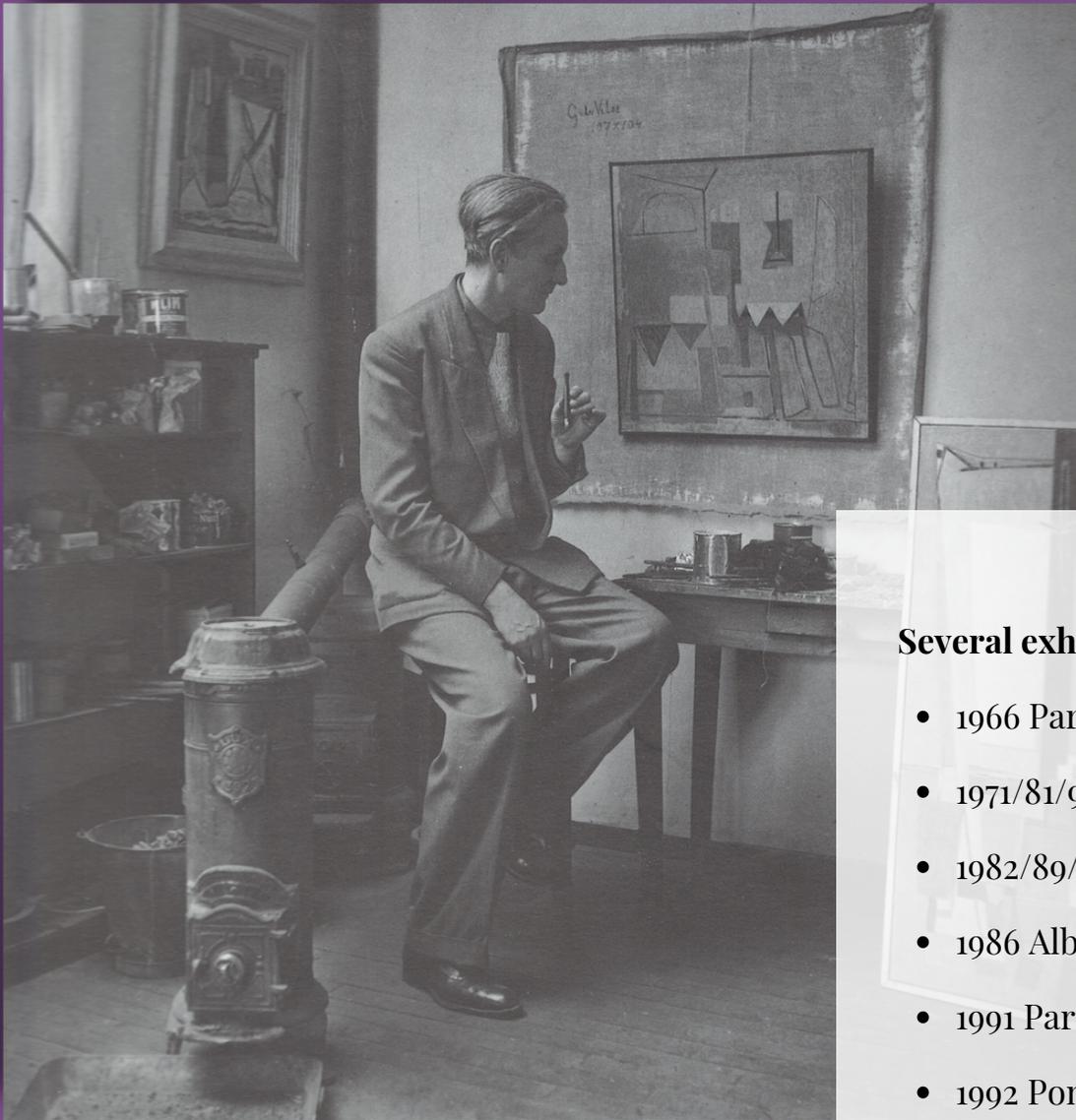
In 1925, the two brothers settled in Paris and started life as bohemian and penniless artists.

In 1937, Geer van Velde befriended Samuel Beckett, who got him a first exhibition at Peggy Guggenheim's brand-new London gallery.

In the summer of 1938, Geer van Velde moved with his wife to Cagnes-sur-Mer with a view of the Mediterranean. During the six years spent in this village, he developed the elements of his future work with an increasingly abstract formal vocabulary. He organized his composition of space and light according to rules that became clearer, step by step.

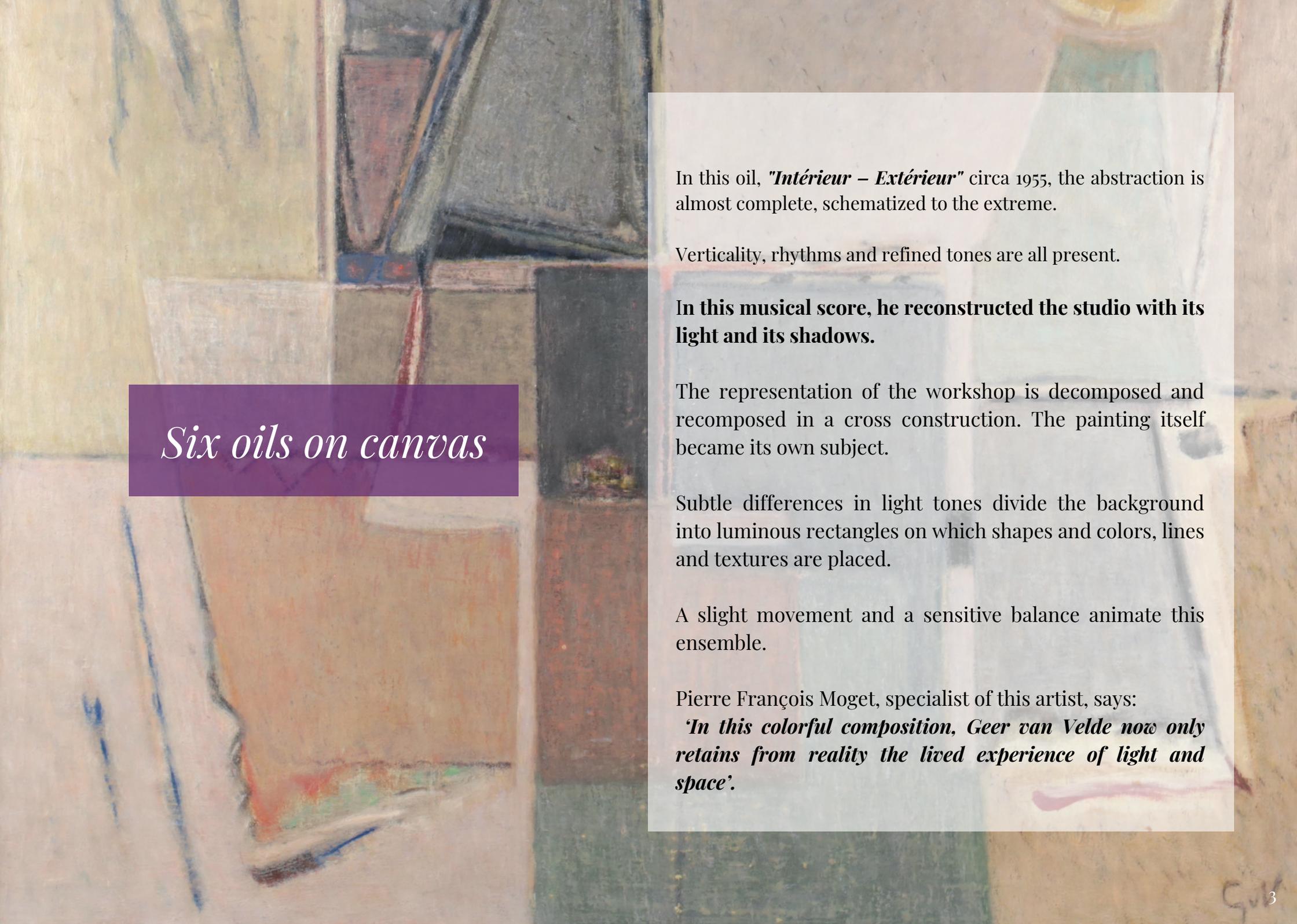
In 1944, he returned to Paris and settled in Cachan where he remained until his death in 1977. The theme of workshops became the essential subject of his work, a new source of inspiration, a new light. It is the place par excellence of the painter's intimacy with his creation.

From 1946 until 1952 Geer van Velde was presented at the Maeght Gallery.



Several exhibitions:

- 1966 Paris, Musée Galliera
- 1971/81/98 Amsterdam, Kunsthandel, M.L. de Boer
- 1982/89/93 Paris, Galerie Louis Carré et Cie
- 1986 Albi, Musée Toulouse-Lautrec
- 1991 Paris, Centre Georges Pompidou, cabinet d'Art graphique
- 1992 Pontoise, Musée Tavet
- 2000 Antibes, Musée Picasso ; Colmar, Musée Unterlinden
- 2010 Lyon, Musée des Beaux-Arts



Six oils on canvas

In this oil, "*Intérieur – Extérieur*" circa 1955, the abstraction is almost complete, schematized to the extreme.

Verticality, rhythms and refined tones are all present.

In this musical score, he reconstructed the studio with its light and its shadows.

The representation of the workshop is decomposed and recomposed in a cross construction. The painting itself became its own subject.

Subtle differences in light tones divide the background into luminous rectangles on which shapes and colors, lines and textures are placed.

A slight movement and a sensitive balance animate this ensemble.

Pierre François Moget, specialist of this artist, says:

‘In this colorful composition, Geer van Velde now only retains from reality the lived experience of light and space’.



*Twenty
works on paper*

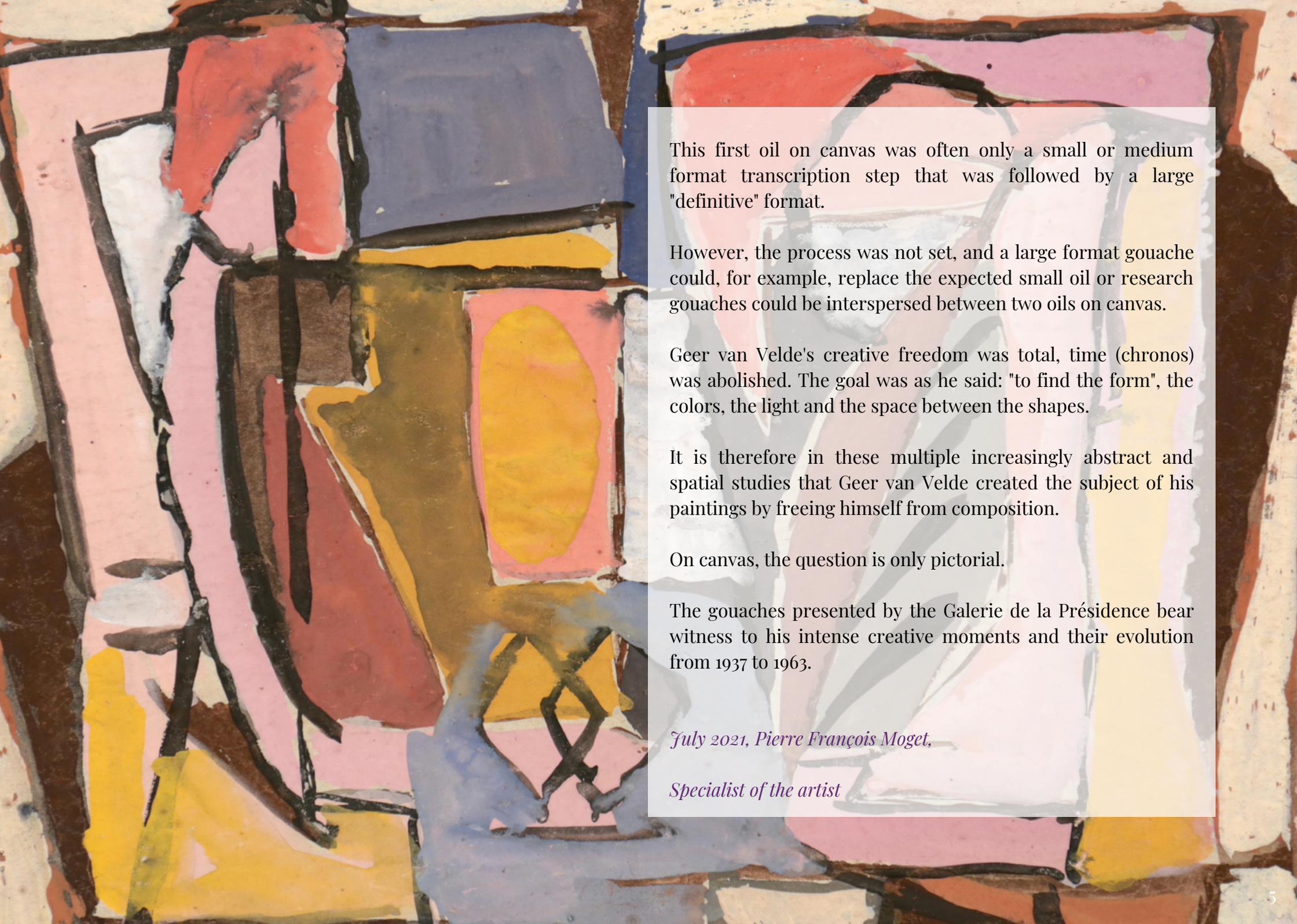
*Gouache and watercolors on paper
in Geer van Velde's painted work*

By Pierre François Moget

Following one or two sketches in pencil, Geer van Velde chose the most satisfactory to set in color with gouache, watercolors, or pastels. Until the end of the forties, this work with gouache was therefore a form of "preliminary project" for him whose purpose was to result in a unique oil on canvas in an already anticipated format.

The preliminary project on paper was then faithfully reproduced and enlarged on canvas using a grid and the colors replicated. Gouache works and drawings which were not used for this purpose were not overlooked but carefully stored in piles on the work tables to serve as a reminder for future studies.

Towards the beginning of the 50s, the grid system of reproduction disappeared and was replaced by "composition" which was learned and integrated after several studies on paper on the same subject. Gouache is no longer just a preliminary project but becomes a form of mental exercise allowing Geer a direct charcoal transposition of the motif on the canvas. The template is now only on the table as a guide, a reminder of the initial project.



This first oil on canvas was often only a small or medium format transcription step that was followed by a large "definitive" format.

However, the process was not set, and a large format gouache could, for example, replace the expected small oil or research gouaches could be interspersed between two oils on canvas.

Geer van Velde's creative freedom was total, time (chronos) was abolished. The goal was as he said: "to find the form", the colors, the light and the space between the shapes.

It is therefore in these multiple increasingly abstract and spatial studies that Geer van Velde created the subject of his paintings by freeing himself from composition.

On canvas, the question is only pictorial.

The gouaches presented by the Galerie de la Présidence bear witness to his intense creative moments and their evolution from 1937 to 1963.

July 2021, Pierre François Moget,

Specialist of the artist

Download the pictures 

Selection of works



Composition
C.1946
Oil on canvas
81 x 100 cm



Intérieur - Extérieur
C.1955
Oil on canvas
100 x 100 cm



Composition
1960
Oil on canvas
162 x 162 cm



Composition
C.1945
Gouache on paper
19 x 24 cm



Composition
C. 1954
Gouache on paper
20,6 x 19,4 cm



Composition
C. 1957
Gouache and watercolor on paper
21 x 20,4 cm



Composition
C. 1958
Gouache on paper
22 x 21 cm



PRACTICAL
INFORMATION

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& twenty works on paper

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ABOUT THE GALLERY

Located opposite the Elysée Palace, Galerie de la Présidence was founded in 1971 by **Françoise Chibret-Plaussy** who is now working in collaboration with her daughter **Florence**.

A selection of **Masters of 20th Century** is on permanent display. Included are Boudin, Cross, Derain, Dubuffet, R.Dufy, Gleizes, Gromaire, Guillaumin, Marquet, Signac, Vlaminck, Vuillard....

Françoise Chibret-Plaussy has realized the Catalogue raisonné of **Marcel Gromaire's** oils (published in 1993) and we are currently preparing the *Catalogue raisonné of his watercolors*.

Galerie de la Présidence regularly organises **exhibitions and retrospectives**.

Examples over the past 20 years include Giacometti & Gruber, Albert Marquet, Maurice de Vlaminck, Paul Signac, H. E Cross or even Marcel Gromaire with more than 50 works exhibited each time accompanied by a descriptive catalogue.

We participate to several **art fairs** : Brafa, TEFAF, Salon du dessin and Fine Arts Paris.



Florence Chibret-Plaussy