



Jean-Charles Millepied

b. 1954, Bordeaux

Jean-Charles Millepied was born in 1954 in Bordeaux, into a family with six generations of professional artists in the worlds of music and dance. Inspired by that environment but initially drawn to another path, he devoted much of his early career to teaching and coaching in sport. He began making art in jewelry design in the early 1980s, and turned to painting at the beginning of the 1990s, completing a full four-year course of study at the École des Beaux-Arts in Bordeaux. He went on to work alongside prominent French artists including Ousseynou Sarr, Jérôme Tisserand, and Thibaut de Réimpré.

His practice is rooted in two major currents: the tradition of French lyrical abstraction that emerged in Paris after the war, and the American abstract expressionism that developed in parallel across the Atlantic. Extensive travel has been equally formative. Africa, the Indian Ocean, India, the Middle East, the Maghreb, and South America have each contributed to a practice shaped by encounter and cultural exchange. Based in Luxey in the Landes region of southwest France, he divides his time between France and the Dominican Republic, where he maintains a second studio.

Millepied works in acrylic, often incorporating prints and collage into densely layered surfaces. His approach is fundamentally gestural: in his practice, the act of painting creates the intention rather than follows it. Ascending and descending marks, rotating traces, passages of brilliant color and subtle suggestion accumulate across the canvas in compositions that have been compared to the movement of a conductor's baton: rapid, controlled, and animated by a physical intelligence. The critic Jean-Serge Breton has written that his paintings carry "bold traces here and more suggestive ones there," with the eye carried from one canvas to another by recurring shapes and patterns that function, in Breton's words, "like the notes of a score."

His career credentials are substantial. He is a member of the Salon d'Automne in Paris and serves as Secretary General of the Salon d'Automne International. He is also a member of the Taylor Foundation and the Maison des Artistes. International residencies have taken him to Spain, Italy, Sweden, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Kuwait, California, India, Sardinia, Vietnam, and Thailand, and he has participated in more than 250 national and international exhibitions across France, Italy, Spain, the United States, Russia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, the Dominican Republic, Japan, and elsewhere. He is represented by galleries in France and internationally.