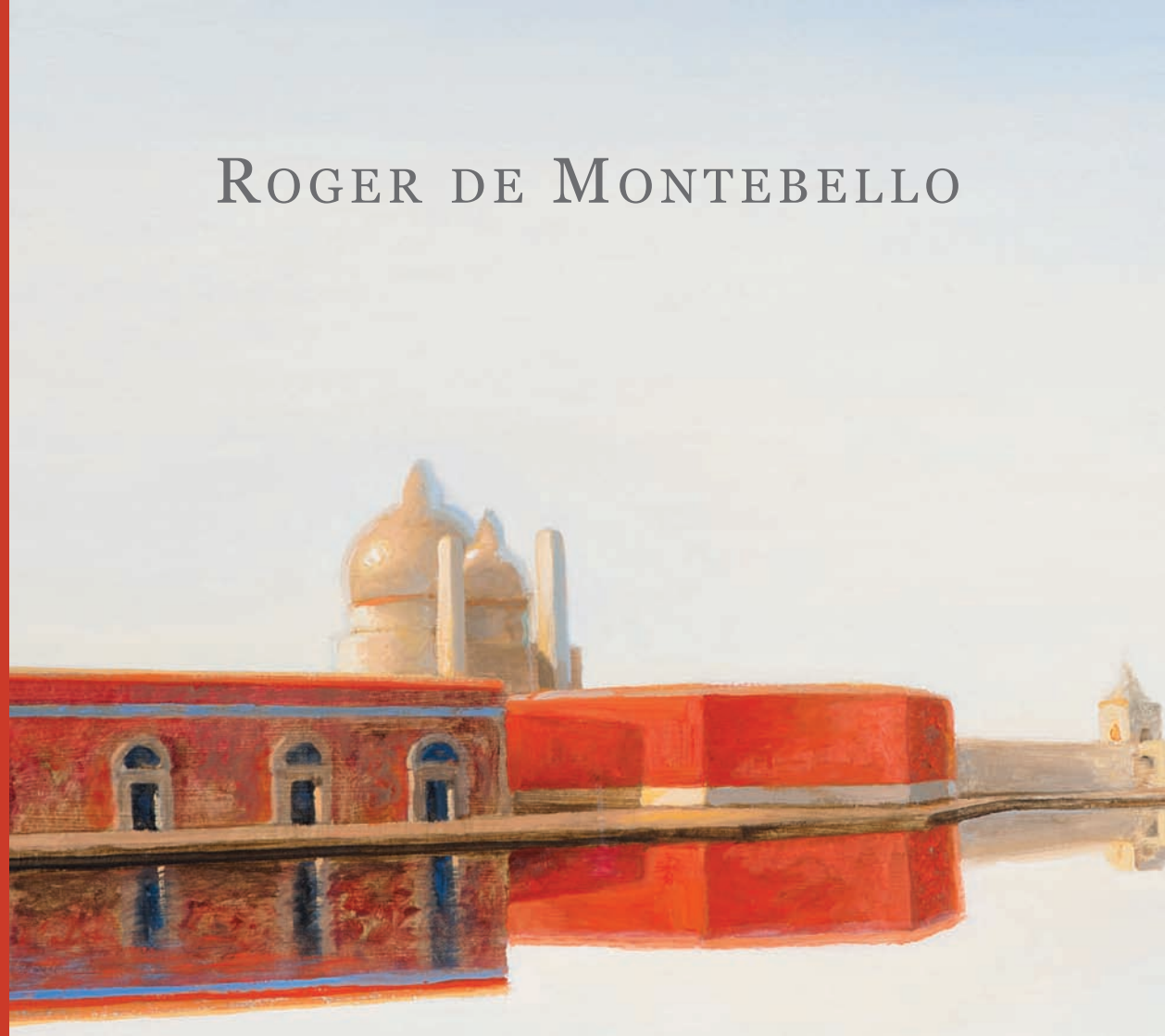


ROGER DE MONTEBELLO

BERNARD CHAUCHET CONTEMPORARY ART

19 Maxwell Road London SW6 2HT
(by appointment)

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BERNARD CHAUCHET
CONTEMPORARY ART

ROGER DE MONTEBELLO

WATERFRONT

2010

PRIVATE VIEW

Wednesday 3rd November 2010

EXHIBITION

From 4th until 14th November 2010

at

9 Langton Street London SW10

Drinks 6:30-9.00pm

The exhibition can be viewed on: www.chauchet.com

Paintings are for sale from receipt of this invitation

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Opening times:

Weekdays 10.30am-6pm, Sat & Sun 11am-5pm

Roger de Montebello needs no introduction in these galleries. Here he is described in his own words by Venetian friend, Francesco da Mosto:

Roger de Montebello is an old friend, and one of my best ones. When I met him in Venice in the early 1990's, he was already a painter. And he was constantly painting Venice, my home in the middle of the water. I do not remember how long it was before I saw his paintings in his studio, but I remember feeling that I was standing before a representation of the city, which was unique. Venice was still a new inspiration for him as a painter.

I fell in love with how he was interpreting and experimenting with the play between the buildings and their reflection on the surface of the water, and in particular how and what of them was reflected in it. The water, like the sap that flows through plants, gives life to this city that was born on it.

There was not much water in the painting I was first attracted to: there was a bridge and a canal near the Arsenale of Venice, but just those signs of colour reflected on the water, light wrapped around the shadow of man, were enough. As in these images, he was searching for what in Venice gave inspiration, intending to express his own emotion: a very distinctive vision of Venice.

An idea of virtually immobile and peaceful freedom, lived by Roger himself in his “*vagabondaggi*” rowing a docile *sandolo* across the waters of the lagoon; the lagoon which makes the city a world apart.

Montebello's images of Venice have a remarkable stability, showing the constancy of the city. This also reflects his tenacity to work so incredibly hard as an artist, to express through his paintings a novelty and freshness of vision, where not everything has already been said or painted about Venice, throwing a different light on the city.

A Venice that conveys a great sense of peace and serenity: details disappear with Montebello's precise will to focus on both transparency of light and harmonious order; a world of clarity; almost a perfect world where the reflections are mirror-like, yet a sense that life is gently present inside his paintings. He creates a subtle vibration of light, with very clear and luminous skies, without losing the sense of construction and timelessness.

It is almost a metaphysical version of what exists in reality, and the reflections in the water have a double meaning as regards the signs of man, that vary in relation to the movement of the timorous waves, showing a mood that is peacefully amplified within ourselves, and one of the signs of man and nature, water and sky that merge in a single light.

Montebello's Venice paintings evidently relate to the tradition, in Western art, of Metaphysical painting, which began with Piero della Francesca and goes beyond Giorgio de Chirico. Roger brings us an atmosphere where, it seems to me, that there is a feeling of anticipation that exists only in living organisms, and not in inanimate objects.

It may be that feeling of waiting that I draw from his paintings, like the calmness of the lagoon, to the storms – which in some way and with the same intensity – characterise my own life and the desire to travel, cradled by the waters.

That world of water, its moods, its reflections, its colours are totally part of my life, to the point of my being incapable of living without being near water. In one way it's the same world of foggy memories that somehow bring back the unconscious calmness of floating as an embryo in my mother's womb, and I can experience the same calm peacefulness every day in the Venice Lagoon. In another way it's the sensation of complete freedom. An immense liquid volume, the surface of which is sometimes calm and sometimes choppy, that allows us to navigate, taking us from the rivers, across the lagoon to the seas and oceans, from the Punta della Dogana in the Bacino di San Marco to the island of San Michele, where I will pay my debts, or in my travels from Venice to Istanbul. Water as a necessity for life.

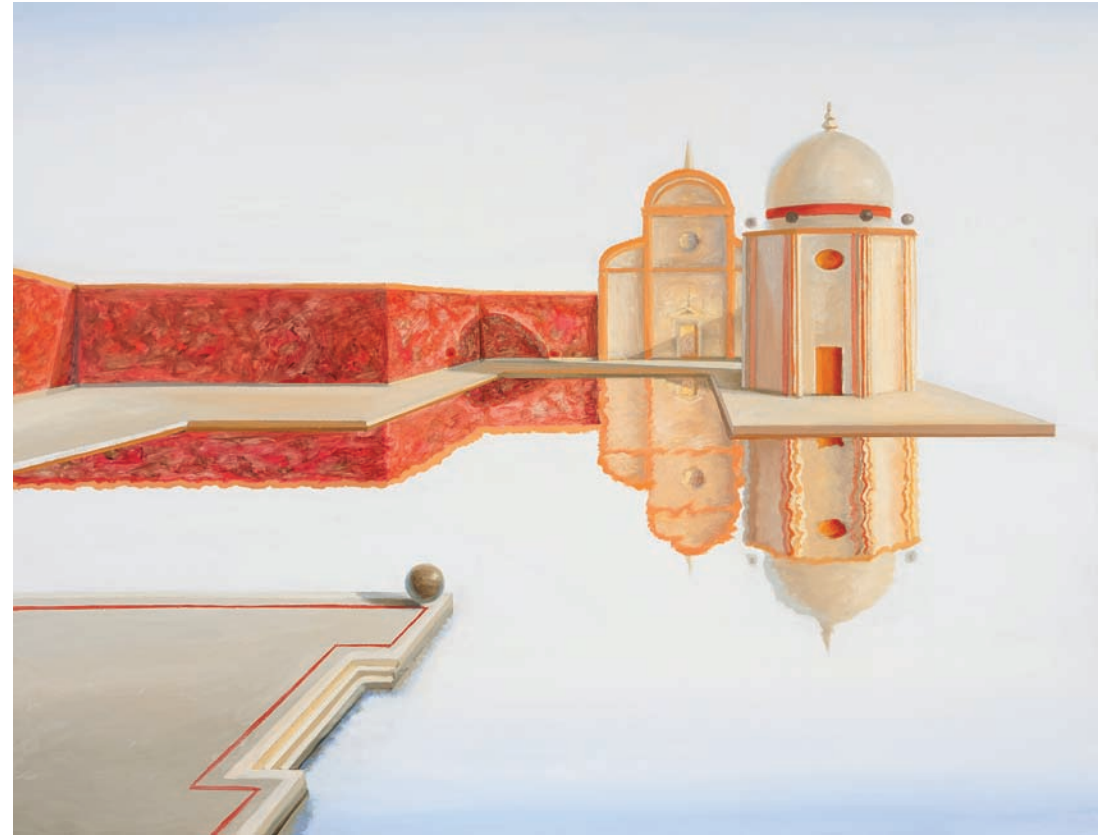
Francesco da Mosto

Biography

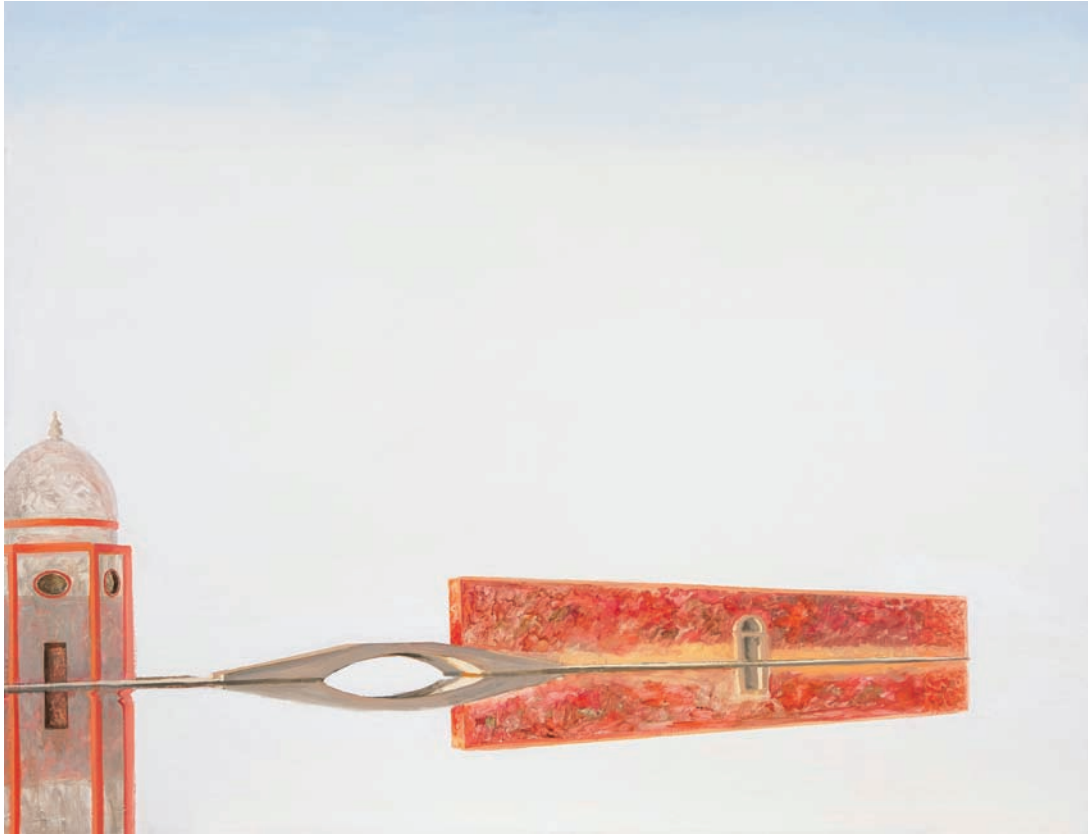
Francesco da Mosto is a writer, architect, historian, film-maker and Venetian citizen. Apart from short spells in Rome, Paris and sailing in the Mediterranean, he has lived in Venice all his life. Francesco presented the BBC TV series Francesco's Venice, Francesco's Italy and Francesco's Mediterranean Voyage, and wrote the accompanying books as well as Francesco's Kitchen – an intimate guide to the authentic flavours of Venice.



Waterfront - Secret Gate oil on panel 49x60cm



Waterfront - Sanctuary oil on panel 89x116cm



Waterfront - Linear oil on panel 89x116cm



Waterfront - Above oil on panel 89x116cm



Waterfront - Encounter oil on panel 89x116cm



Waterfront - Blue Red oil on panel 49x60cm



Waterfront - Promenade oil on panel 89x116cm



Waterfront - Behind the Wall oil on panel 89x116cm



Waterfront - Edge oil on panel 49x60cm



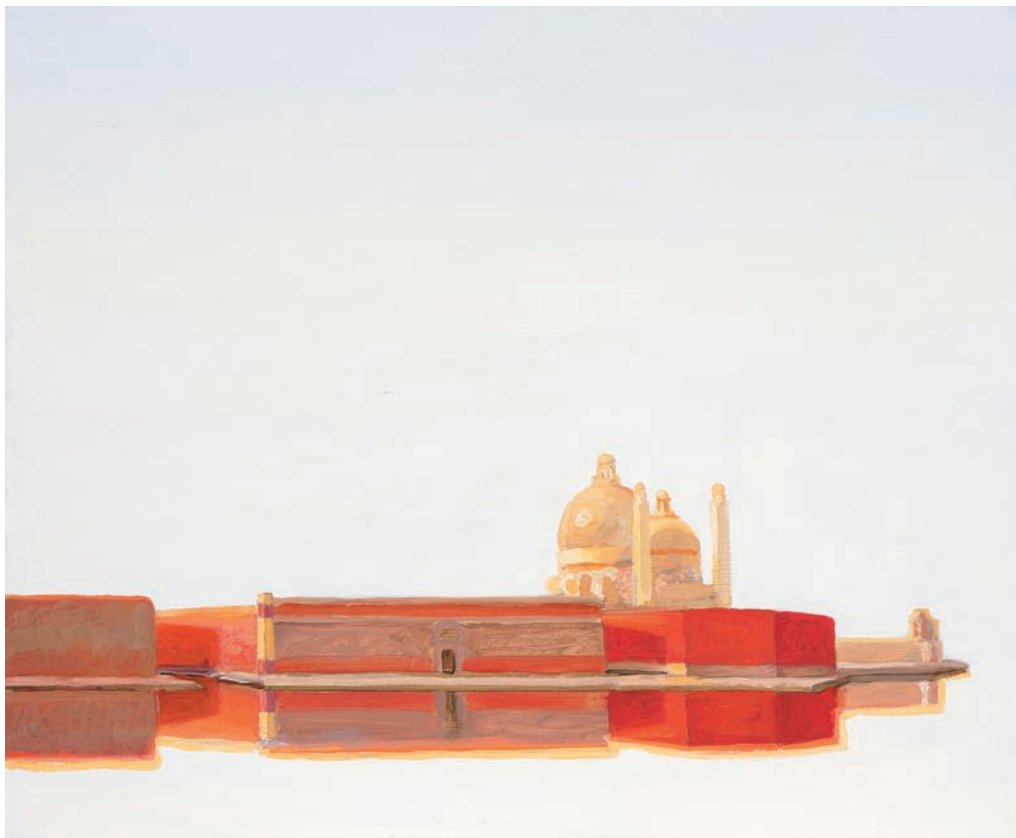
Waterfront - Here and Now oil on panel 89x116cm



Waterfront - Shelter oil on panel 89x116cm



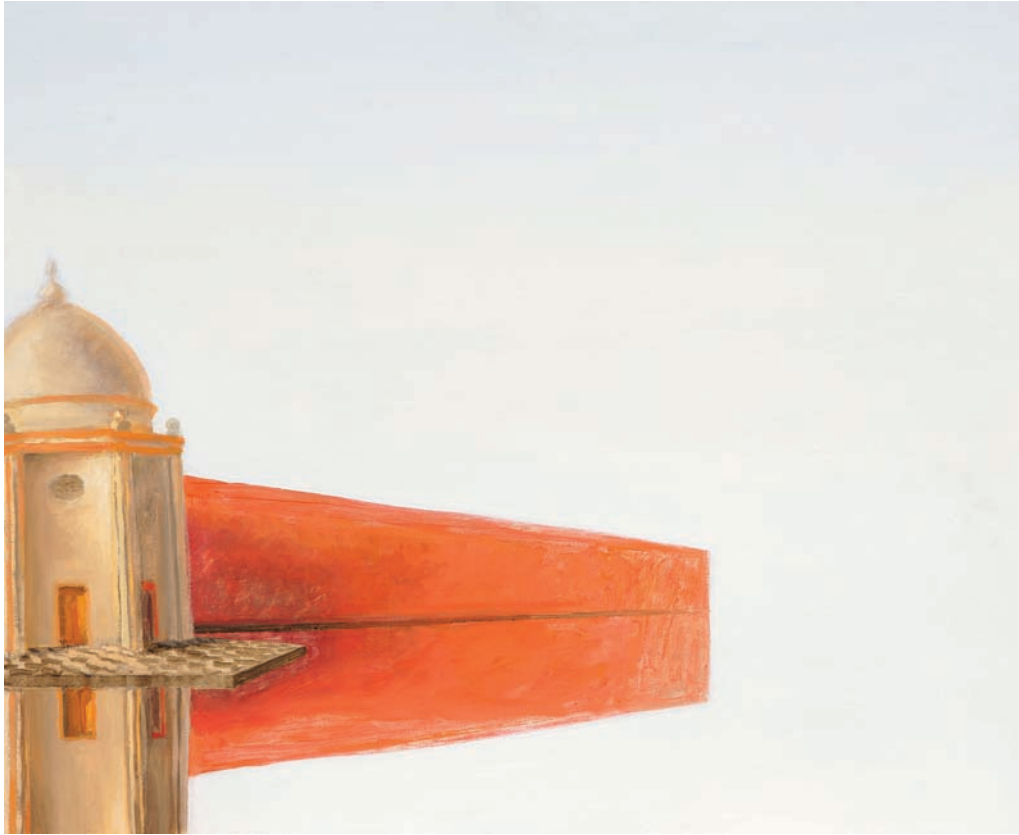
Waterfront - Sky oil on panel 60x70cm



Waterfront - Ethereal oil on panel 49x60cm



Waterfront - Fortress oil on panel 49x60cm



Waterfront - Checker Board oil on panel 49x60cm

Roger de Montebello

Roger de Montebello was born in Paris in 1964. He has received a classical training in painting and art history. After studying at the Facultad de Bellas Artes de Sevilla, he attended Harvard University, where he studied art history/theory and studio art, graduating in 1988 (Bachelor of Arts).

In 1992 he had his first solo show in Paris. Soon after, he moved to Venice.

He now lives and works in Venice, Paris and Seville.

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS:

- 2010 Bernard Chauchet Contemporary Art, London
- 2010 Artheme Galerie, Paris
- 2009 Artheme Galerie, Paris
- 2005 Galeria Estandarte, Madrid
- 2004 Gallery Holly Snapp, Venice
- 2004 Galerie Pelar, Newport, New York
- 2003 Bernard Chauchet Contemporary Art, London
- 2002 Artemis Fine Arts, Paris
- 1999 W.M. Brady & Co., New York
- 1996 Alliance Française, Venice
- 1993 Services Culturels de l'Ambassade de France, New York
- 1992 Showroom 97, rue de la Boetie, Paris

Photograph: © Valerio Vincenzo

