

FRANÇOIS RISTORI



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CATEGORIES: [Books](#), [Monographs & Artists' Books](#)

SPECIFICATIONS:

English/French

Publication: September 2023

ISBN: 978-3-03764-603-8

Hardcover, 278 x 220 mm

Pages: 184

Pictures B&W: 20 / Color: 135

Price: CHF 40, EUR 40, GBP 35, USD 45

COMPREHENSIVE MONOGRAPH

French artist François Ristori (1936–2015) is a lesser-known but representative figure of European postwar abstraction, having shared the same artistic milieu as Daniel Buren, André Cadere, Olivier Mosset, Claude Rutault, and Niele Toroni. After a period of gestural experimentation in the 1960s, he began to explore the manifold possibilities of the “Trace-Forme” (“Form–Mark”), the conceptual and visual device he created in the late 1960s in tune with contemporary investigations of painting by his fellow artists. From the early 1970s onwards he dedicated his practice to the “Trace-Forme,” which was also a way to renew the painterly process at a time when the future of painting was widely debated on the French art scene. Combining blue, red, and white hexagon-like shapes as his preferred and only motif, he employed a systematic process in painting, drawing, and public interventions, at different scales, sometimes in singular works, but also in polyptychs that play with the walls and the work’s surroundings.

This first comprehensive monograph on François Ristori offers a generous insight into the many incarnations and expressions of “Trace-Forme,” and an archival section accompanied by an interview with his wife Renée Ristori that retraces the life and work of the artist. Two extensive portfolios document the artist’s recent exhibitions at MAMCO, Geneva, and Centre Pompidou, Paris, while an array of renowned art critics and curators including Julien Fronsacq, Michel Gauthier, and Marjolaine Lévy offer scholarly approaches to Ristori’s oeuvre.

Born in 1936, François Ristori lived and worked in Paris. He graduated from the Beaux-Arts de Paris in 1962 before

spending three years at the Casa de Velásquez in Madrid. He showed his “Trace-Forme” paintings for the first time in 1969 at the 5th Biennale de Paris. During the 1970s, he regularly showed at the Galerie Yvon Lambert in Paris, and participated in important group exhibitions in Brussels and New York. His main period of activity was during the 1970s and 1980s.

This book is published on the occasion of the artist’s solo exhibitions at MAMCO, Geneva, and Centre Pompidou, Paris, in spring 2023.