



# Constant

Frieze Masters 2022

BorzoGallery - The Mayor Gallery



*Bommen op Ziekenhuis / Bombs on Hospital, 1972*  
Watercolor, chalk, newspaper clippings, paper  
91 x 103 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant 23.12.'72" center right in pencil on sanguine fond

# Constant

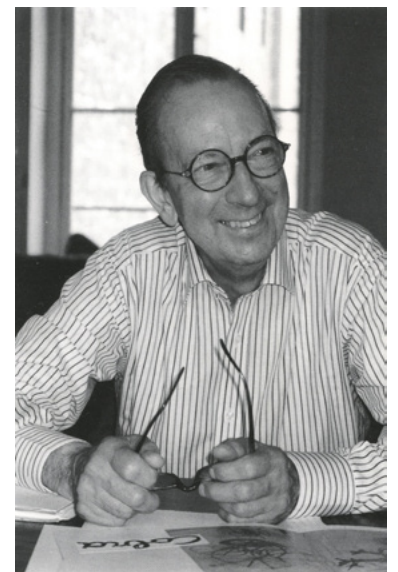
(1920-2005)

## Radical Changes

Constant is one of Holland's most important and innovative artists from post-war times. He was co-founder of the international CoBrA movement, he was initiator and inventor of his visionary New Babylon projects in the fifties and sixties, a revolutionary artist in the seventies during the Vietnam war, but also a vibrant, almost romantic colourist in his major late paintings.

After his time as co-founder of the painters' movement CoBrA (1948-1952) Constant leaves for London. Here he witnesses the urban development challenges and also the solutions for this war-ravaged city. He meets Henry Moore, Ben Nicholson, Barbara Hepworth, Victor Pasmore, among others. His London residency remains crucial for his future work in which architecture plays a key role.

Back in the Netherlands he works with the architects Aldo van Eyck and Gerrit Rietveld. He likewise fosters and maintains his many international contacts, which also include those with the Danish artist Asger Jorn. Constant becomes ever more convinced that a new social and cultural order will advance the cause of humanity. His visionary spirit anticipates that the automation of production will provide mankind with increasing amounts of free time (thereby creating scope for the "Homo Ludens", the man who is playful and creative) and that this futuristic view would become feasible in what, from 1960, is to be known as New Babylon.



This vision is what will dominate his oeuvre from that moment on. He makes drawings, models, photo collages, plans, constructions and paintings. In addition, he substantiates New Babylon with numerous written works, talks and lectures in various countries.

The social and political turbulence of the sixties threatens to turn New Babylon into a utopia: the New Babylon project stops in 1974.

Like so many artists worldwide, Constant was deeply concerned by the Vietnam war, changing his artistic direction into a more revolutionary and political way. He creates collages and works on paper, as well as impressive paintings which he will continue to do during the Balkan war of the early nineties.

In his late years he turns towards a very colourist way of painting, sometimes even romantic with series of impressive gouaches.

'Radical Changes' could be Constant's life motto.

Detail cover:  
*Observatorium / Observatory [III] / Construction in green and white, 1956*  
Brass, Perspex  
52 x ø 48,5 cm  
Signed "Constant" on the inside foot, bottom center,  
scratched with black ink on white fond





*Nixon musste etwas tun / Nixon Has to Do Something*, 1972  
Newspaper clippings, paper  
38,9 x 26,8 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant 4.12.'72" bottom right in pencil on white fond

*Sind Sie bei der nächsten / Are You Next*, 1972  
Newspaper clippings, paper  
41,9 x 30,3 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant 1.12.'72" bottom right in pencil on white fond

*Die kleinen Freuden / The small Pleasures*, 1972  
Newspaper clippings, paper  
41,9 x 30,9 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant 4.12.'72" bottom right in pencil on white fond

*Das Leben / Life*, 1972  
Newspaper clippings, paper  
38,8 x 26,8 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant 1.12.'72" bottom right in pencil on white fond



*Happening*, 1973  
Oil paint, linen  
139,8 x 130 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant '73" bottom center in white paint on black fond





*De Labyrist / The Labyrist*, 1963  
 Oil paint, linen  
 185 x 162 cm  
 Signed and dated "Constant '63" bottom right in white paint on black fond



*Kat / Cat*, 1949  
 Oil paint, linen  
 99,7 x 60,5 cm  
 Signed and dated "Constant '49" top left in redbrown paint on black fond



*Junkies*, 1994  
Oil paint, linen  
185 x 194 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant '94"  
bottom left in green paint on green ocher fond







*La Dompteuse / The Lion Tamer*, 1981  
Watercolor, paper  
73 x 70 cm  
Signed and titled "Constant" bottom left in black ink on blue/green fond



*Orpheus I*, 1981  
Oil paint, linen  
100 x 105 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant '81" bottom left in black paint on black/green fond





*Lola de Valence*, 2000  
Watercolor, paper  
55 x 40 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant 2000" center left in black watercolor

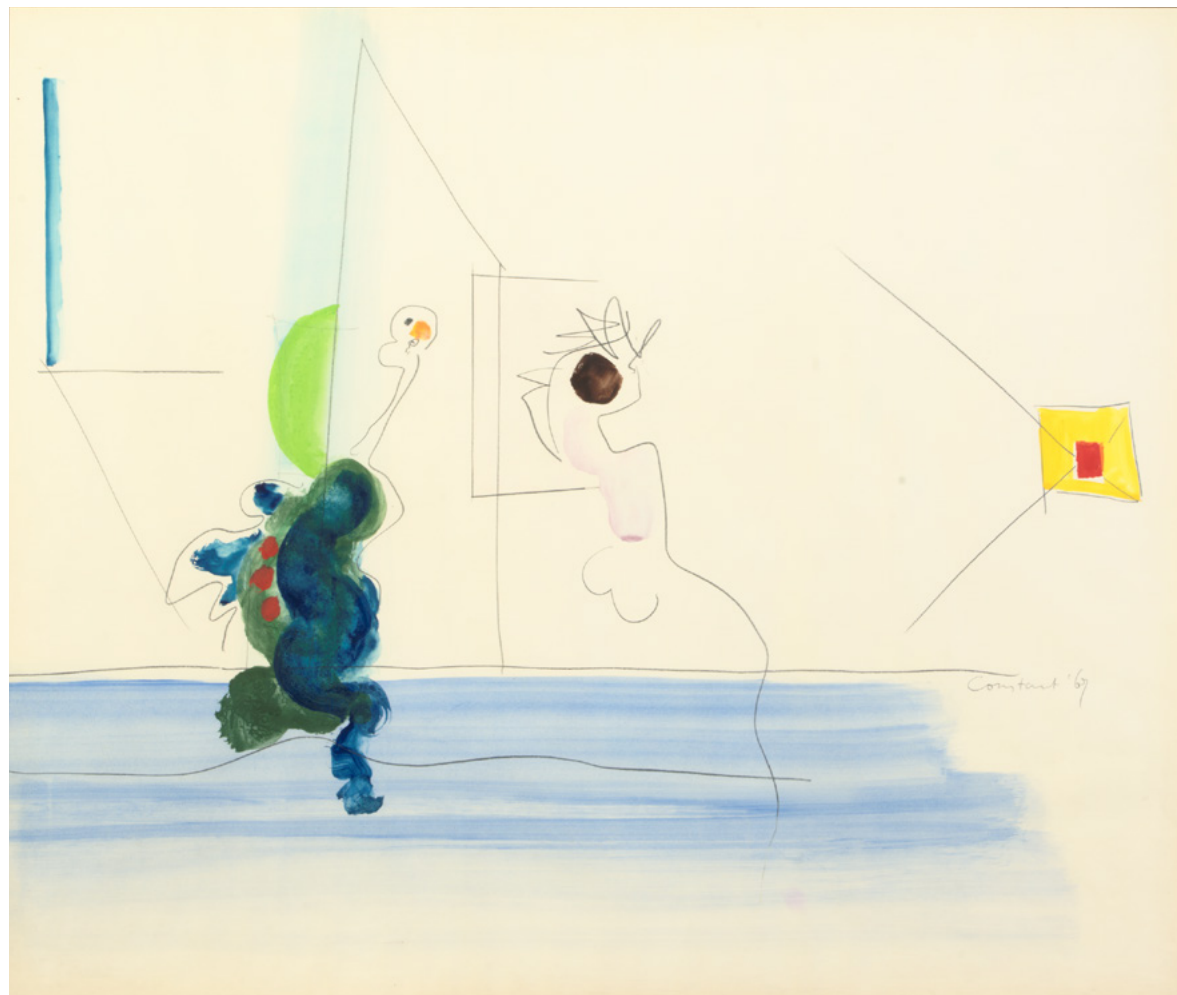


*De Filosoof / The Philosopher*, 1999  
Watercolor, paper  
51 x 42 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant 1999" bottom left in white pencil



*Mensen in de Sneeuw / Group Figures*, 1971  
Washed ink, paper  
74,5 x 104 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant '71" right from the center in pencil on white fond





*Homo Ludens*, 1967  
Watercolor, paper  
109 x 132 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant '67" bottom right in pencil on white fond



*De stier II / Compositie / Composition*, 1952  
Oil paint, linen  
130 x 97,5 cm  
Signed and dated "Constant '52" center left in red paint on black fond



# Frieze Masters 2022

12 - 16 October 2022

Regent's Park, London

The extensive listings of provenance, exhibitions and literature of the exhibited works is available on request.

## BorzoGallery

Keizersgracht 321  
1016 EE Amsterdam - NL  
T +31 20 626 33 03  
info@borzo.com

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**text:** Paul van Rosmalen

**photography:** Tom Haartsen

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## THE MAYOR GALLERY

21 Cork Street, First floor  
W1S 3LZ London - UK  
T +44 20 773 435 58  
info@mayorgallery.com

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