

山水

SHANSHUI

**At the Source - Paintings of
Jean-Baptiste Née**

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Amont

Lorsque nous cherchons à écouter, comme le fait un animal aux aguets, nous commençons intuitivement par nous immobiliser, et rester silencieux. Vides, tendus vers l'extérieur.

Je m'installe dans la montagne pendant quelques heures. Son mouvement apparaît. Les brumes remontent les pentes ; la pluie devient plus fine ; le vent se lève ; la nuit s'approche. J'entends quelques éboulements épars.

Il ne me suffit pas de rester fixe : je dois aussi faire taire en moi quelqu'un qui parle constamment. Il nomme les choses, dresse devant elles un écran, y reproduit le monde en trompe-l'œil, en schémas, et vit en vase clos dans ce décor savant — aveugle aux choses mêmes. Je peins pour me taire, et lui rendre la vue.

Déchirer silencieusement l'écran des mots, voir le monde en amont.

At the Source

Translated by: Didier Legaré-Gravel

When we try to listen, as a watchful animal would, intuitively, we start by making ourselves still. Empty, turned outwards.

I set up in the mountain for a few hours. Its movement starts appearing. The fog climbs up the slopes; rain gets thinner; the wind rises; night approaches. I hear a few scattered rockfalls.

Standing still is not enough: inside me I must silence someone that talks constantly. He names things, puts up a screen before them, on which he reproduces the world in trompe-l'oeil, in diagrams, and lives in the vacuum of this sophisticated set - blind to reality itself. I paint to stop talking, and to restore his sight.

Silently tear apart this screen of words, and see the world at the source.



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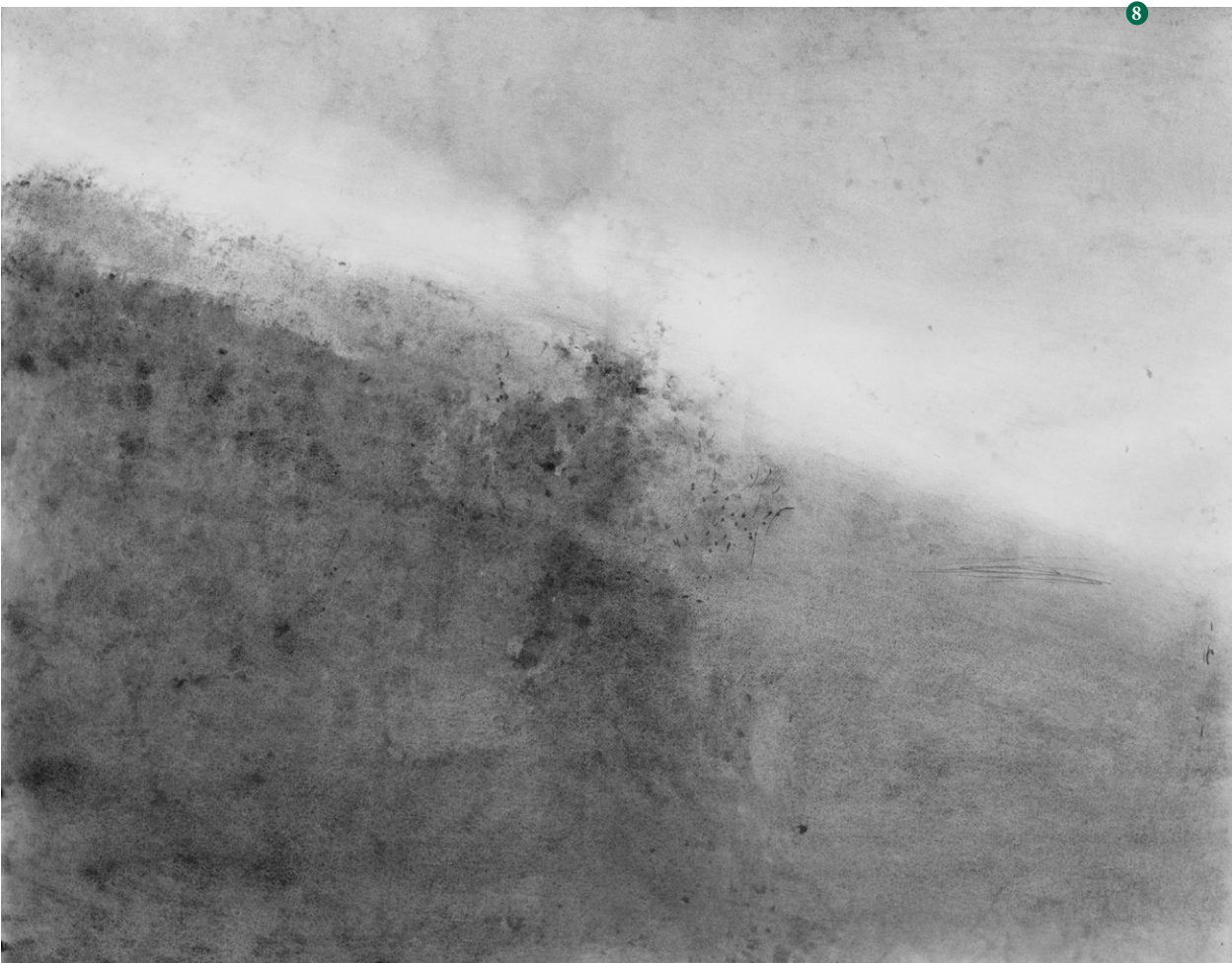
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1. *Massif, nuée (III)*
gouache on paper
113 x 175 cm, 2021

2. *Terre, ciel, nuée*
gouache on paper
86 x 112cm, 2021

3. *Nuée, masses*
gouache on paper
56 x 76 cm, 2021

4. *Massif, brumes (VI)*
gouache on paper
32,5 x 50 cm, 2021

5. *Massif, nuit, brume*
watercolour on paper mounted on
canvas
56 x 76 cm, 2021

6. *Nuée, soir, pluie*
watercolour on paper
38 x 56 cm, 2021

7. *Mouvement, origine*
gouache on paper mounted on can-
vas
113 x 175 cm, 2020

8. *Versant, neige, vent*
gouache on paper mounted on can-
vas
89 x 113 cm, 2020

9. *Dévoilement (XVI)*
gouache on paper
32,5 x 50 cm, 2020

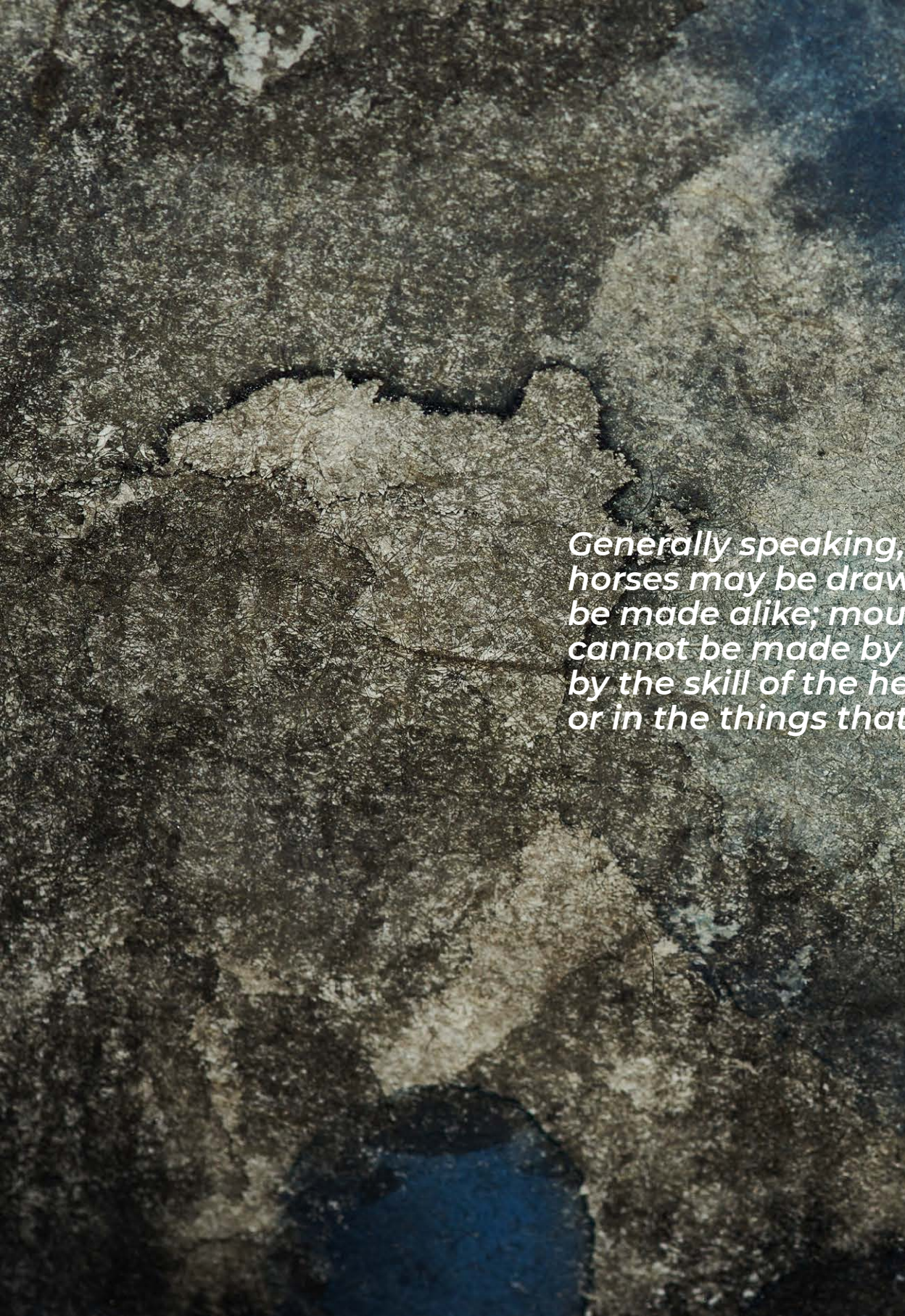
10. *Dévoilement (XVII)*
gouache on paper
32,5 x 50 cm, 2020



Jean-Baptiste Née, born in 1986, he is a French painter and plastic artist, who graduated in 2012 from les Arts-Décoratifs, Paris. Jean-Baptiste Née works on location in the mountains, facing the impermanence of the elements. Since 2015, he gives them a growing role in the creating process: rain, snow, frost are part of the painting. He sets up his “great studio” in the Swiss Alps or in the French



massif du Vercors—notably in winter—, as well as during long treks in the Italian Alps. In winter 2018, he worked in the Wudangshan and Lushan massifs, China, and developed an interest in the daoist idea of “Heaven” (or “Sky” according to the french translation). In 2021, he published *The Naked World*, a monograph of his work on paper. His studio is in Montreuil, France.



Generally speaking,
horses may be drawn
be made alike; mould
cannot be made by
by the skill of the hand
or in the things that



figures, bulls and
vn after models and
ntains and waters
copying but only
part which is superi-
it grasps.

Mi Fu