

Edouard Malingue Gallery  
馬凌畫廊

Sixth floor, 33 Des Voeux  
Road Central, Hong Kong  
☎ [edouardmalingue.com](http://edouardmalingue.com)

Laurent Grasso  
Soleil Noir  
Fondation d'entreprise Hermès  
Ginza Maison Hermès Le Forum  
8F, 5-4-1 Ginza, Chuo-ku  
Tokyo 104-0061  
Japan

Opening  
November 10 2015, 6-8 PM

Dates  
November 11 2015 – January 31 2016

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Edouard Malingue Gallery is pleased to announce Laurent Grasso's first major solo exhibition in Japan, 'Soleil Noir', at the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, Tokyo.

A chief conceptual artist of his generation, Laurent Grasso (b. 1972, France) has consistently engaged epistemology and addressed, in particular, one's perception of time. In many instances, his works originate from research into historical or scientific documents, subsequently evolving into portrayals of mystical events, legends, supernatural phenomena and other captivating subject matter. Across a variety of mediums, from painting to video, Grasso probes our notions of temporality, suggesting that what we visually retain is intrinsically tied to our personal consciousness. A mix of the past, present and future, moving back and forth between reality and fiction, Grasso has been widely acclaimed for his works that serve as an apparatus for viewing the world through different lenses, unveiling new histories in bold and elaborate pictures.

'Soleil Noir' presents a new body of work, ranging from sculpture to neon, video and sculpture, that engages with cosmic energy and portrayals of the sublime, whilst also integrating elements of Grasso's recent research on Japan. Following from his previous work, the "Black Sun" motif is repeated, an element that neutralises time whilst posing perennial riddles. When conducting his studies in Japan, Grasso found himself inspired by *dogu* (clay figures), Noh masks, gold-leaf-covered folding screens and other traditional Japanese expressions. Running through the exhibition are works that incorporate these features, whilst combining them with images from Medieval Europe. Further works, ranging from gold screens to sculpture, reflect upon supernatural legends spurred during the Edo period and weave mysterious Japanese architectural structures within their narrative. As such, Grasso builds a dialogue around geographical, historical and literary exchange, whilst evoking his running investigation regards a passage of time.

Laurent Grasso studied at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris; Cooper Union School, New York; and Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, London, with residencies at the Villa Medici, Rome and ISCP, New York. In 2015 he was awarded the esteemed Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture, and in 2008 was awarded the prestigious Marcel Duchamp prize. Grasso was recently the focus of a major solo exhibition 'Uraniborg' at the Jeu de Paume, Paris, which travelled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Montreal and was the subject of a solo show at the Kunsthau Baselland, Basel. Grasso's work has been featured in multiple publications, including Architecture Now! Moreover, his work is held in collections around the world, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo and Leeum, Samsung Museum, Seoul.