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ESTABLISHED 1937

COLLECTIONS

VOLUME 2 DECEMBER 2009

Erik Desmazières: Infinite Perspectives



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COVER **Le Funambule** 19 5/8 X 25 3/4 INCHES
1974 Fitch-Febvrel 12.
Etching Edition of 90 plus X.

COLLECTIONS

Erik Desmazières: Infinite Perspectives

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COLLECTIONS

VOLUME 2

Erik Desmazières

Infinite Perspectives

GALLERY EXHIBITION
NOVEMBER 23, 2009-JANUARY 3, 2010
Erik Desmazières: Infinite Perspectives

CHILDS GALLERY
ESTABLISHED 1937

169 NEWBURY STREET BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116-2895



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COLLECTIONS

Childs Gallery Collections is the newest publication in a tradition of more than seventy years of gallery publications. *The Childs Gallery Bulletin* (begun 1950), the *Print Annual* (begun 1976) and the *Painting Annual* (begun 1980) have been firmly established and are represented in almost every fine arts library in the country. As early as the mid-1940s, however, Childs Gallery presented a publication entitled *Currier and Ives Prints: A Collection...* which represented the carefully considered collection of a single owner with Charles D. Childs' commentary that "we cannot recall that a representative collection of these lithographs has been shown in Boston for many years."

We continue to celebrate collections, collecting, and collectors as a pivotal axis of the art world with this second Volume of *Childs Gallery Collections—Erik Desmazières: Infinite Perspectives*. This exhibition is presented in association with the Fitch-Febvrel Gallery (Croton, NY), which is gratefully acknowledged.

LEFT **Passage Choiseul**
1990

Etching, aquatint and roulette

24 3/8 X 17 5/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 130.

Edition of 90

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05); Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)



Infinite Perspectives

Erik Desmazières is considered to be one of the finest living printmakers of his generation. He chooses principally to use the traditional techniques of the etched print, but also demonstrates that he is equally adept at drawing and painting. With these masterful works, what he refers to as his graphic autobiography, he builds tension in an ordinary still life; uses odd perspectives to quietly unnerve; and creates troubling fantasy worlds that seem all too real. Equally seductive are the imaginatively mischievous subtexts that alternately amuse and perplex.

Desmazières' distinctive style is one that astonishes by combining brilliant old-world drafting prowess with an uncanny ability to see things as others don't. Though clearly inspired by old masters such as Rembrandt and Piranesi, and influenced by the satirical wit of Bosch and Goya, he makes a very personal statement with his impossible architectural perspectives rendered somehow believable. His technical precision in etching, aquatint, and roulette—mostly self-taught—affirms his reinvention of reality and space. Not surprisingly, he briefly considered becoming an architect.



PHOTO: SYLVAIN LE FORESTIER

Desmazières defines himself as a contemporary artist even though he looks to works of the past. As he has said, “the printmaking techniques of etching are certainly old but their possibilities seem infinite.” For him, printmaking remains a means of contemporary expression, and as such is always current. “To that should be added the pleasure of drawing, the direct use of one’s hand to create an image: cultivating such a pleasure is a way of attempting to remember the passing of time.”

Erik Desmazières: Infinite Perspectives, explores the artist’s dramatic manipulation—and often kaleidoscopic interpretation—of space, as if seen through a skewed lens, or perhaps a magnifying glass. This exhibition is developed thematically, as the artist’s own inspirations have developed from the imagined world to the real world. Desmazières created his own mesmerizing world in *La Grande Bataille (II)* (1978), with dueling terrestrial war machines looming over a battlefield of soldiers. At first glance, *Intérieur, rue Payenne* (1986) appears to be an accurately detailed study of a typical French interior; but the multiple perspectives and sightlines that both confuse and draw us in, depict all four walls at once. And finally, with *Le Magasin de Robert Capia* (2008), the artist comes full-circle depicting the interior of a famed Parisian antique shop, while seeming completely otherworldly in a worldly moment.

Desmazières has been honored with retrospectives at the Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05), the Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07), the Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009), the Telfair Museum, (Savannah, 2009), and currently the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Montreal, 2009-10). He is also president of the prestigious Société des Peintres Graveurs Français, and was further recognized on October 14th 2009, with his election to the Académie des Beaux-Arts de l’Institut de France.

In an introduction to the artist’s show at the Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2004 -5), curator Lauren Laz writes: “Fantasy is not a passing fancy for Erik Desmazières, but on the contrary, a carefully thought-out transportation of assorted elements, drawn from reality and the art of the old masters, to establish a very personal dialogue between tradition and innovation.”

Whether he is working from real or imagined settings, with or without human or whimsically grotesque figures, this soft-spoken French diplomat’s son has a knack for making things look normal in a clearly abnormal world. RICHARD J. BAIANO

Other sources of this essay include:

Desmazières, Erik. “Interview with Erik Desmazières.” Bernard Levy, translated by Oliver Haeffely. *The Fantastical World of Erik Desmazières*. The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, September 2009.

Fitch, Andrew, ed. *Erik Desmazières: Etchings*. Vol. 1-3. New York City: Fitch-Febvrel Gallery.

Maggioni, Laura, ed. *Les Lieux Imaginaires D’ Erik Desmazières*. Translated by Lauren Laz and Christine Le Bœuf. 5 Continents Editions, Milan; Musée Jenisch Vevey, 2007.

McGowan, Courtney. *Constructs and Inventions: The Etchings of Erik Desmazières*. Savannah, GA: Telfair Museum of Art, 2009.

Mirandette, Marie Claude. “Erik Desmazières: From Tradition to Innovation.” Translated by Oliver Haeffely. *The Fantastical World of Erik Desmazières*. The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, September 2009.

LEFT **L’Atelier de Pascal, 1982**
Etching
25 3/8 X 19 1/2 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 69. Edition of 90
EXHIBITED
Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009)



1



2

1
Jardin en Italie
1978

Etching
8 1/4 X 11 3/4 INCHES
Fitch-Febvrel 31. Edition of 90 plus X.

EXHIBITED
Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007)

2
Jardinier
1982

Etching
7 3/4 X 4 3/8 INCHES
Fitch-Febvrel 73-II, final state. Edition of 90.



3

3
Le Débarquement
1975

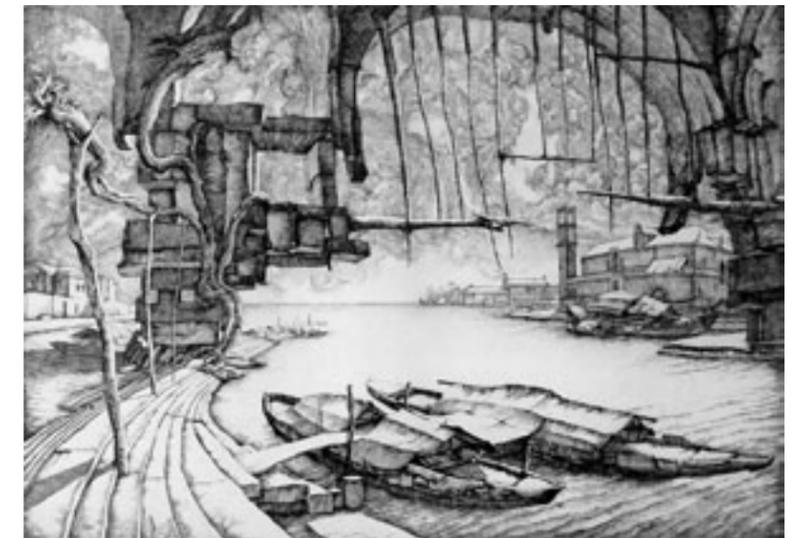
Etching
11 5/8 X 20 INCHES
Fitch-Febvrel 18. Edition of 90 plus X.

EXHIBITED
Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007)

4
L'Embarcadère
1974

Etching
14 3/8 X 20 1/8 INCHES
Fitch-Febvrel 11. Edition of 90.

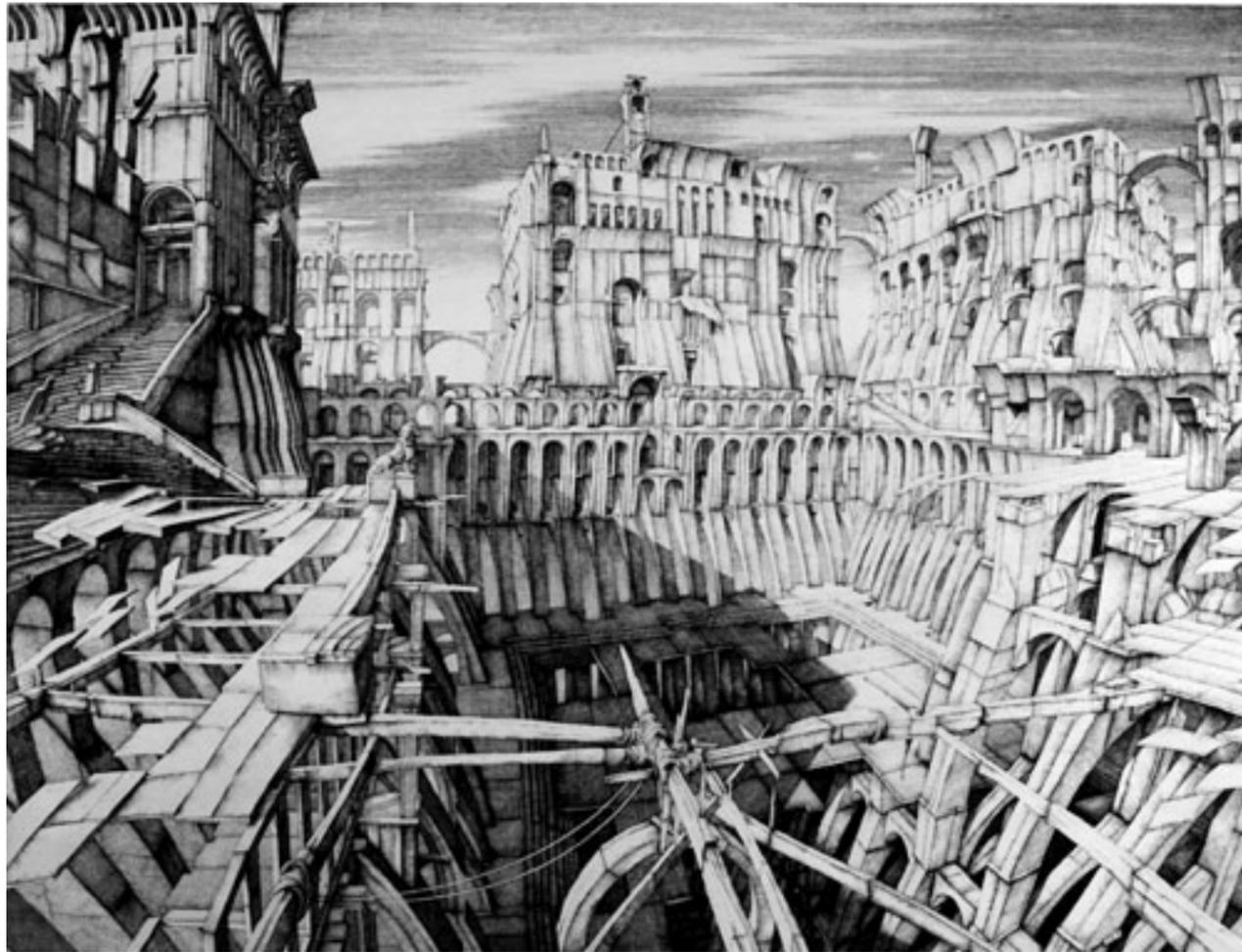
EXHIBITED
Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Telfair
Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009)



4

1. All prints are signed, dated and numbered by the artist unless otherwise noted. In general, most prints are titled as well. Please contact the gallery for specific impression details.

2. All prints are referenced to the Fitch-Febvrel catalogues raisonnés.



5

5
La Place désertée
1979

Etching

19 1/2 X 23 3/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 37. Edition of 90 plus X.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
 Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)



6

6
La Grande Bataille (II)
1978

Etching

19 7/8 X 27 3/4 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 33-II, final state. Edition of 90 plus XV.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
 Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Telfair
 Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-
 Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)

7
Ville souterraine
1982

Etching

16 1/4 X 23 1/2 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 66. Edition of 90.

EXHIBITED

Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Museo
 della Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah,
 Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal,
 2009-10)



7



8



9

8
Ville imaginaire
1990

Etching, aquatint and roulette

7 X 18 3/4 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 124. Edition of 75.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Telfair
Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-
Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)

9
Ville imaginaire II
1999

Etching and aquatint

7 X 18 5/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 171-II. Edition of 75.

EXHIBITED

Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Museo
della Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah,
Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal,
2009-10)

10
Scène de tremblement de terre
1987

Ink, gouache and pencil on paper

26 1/4 X 19 1/4 INCHES

Signed and dated lower right.



10



11



12

11
Tour vue d'en bas
1987

Ink, gouache and pencil on paper

19 3/8 X 26 1/4 INCHES

Signed and dated lower left.

12
Un Songe de Gaspard
1996

Etching and aquatint

11 3/4 X 8 1/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 149. Edition of 75.

EXHIBITED

Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)

13
Frontispice
1991

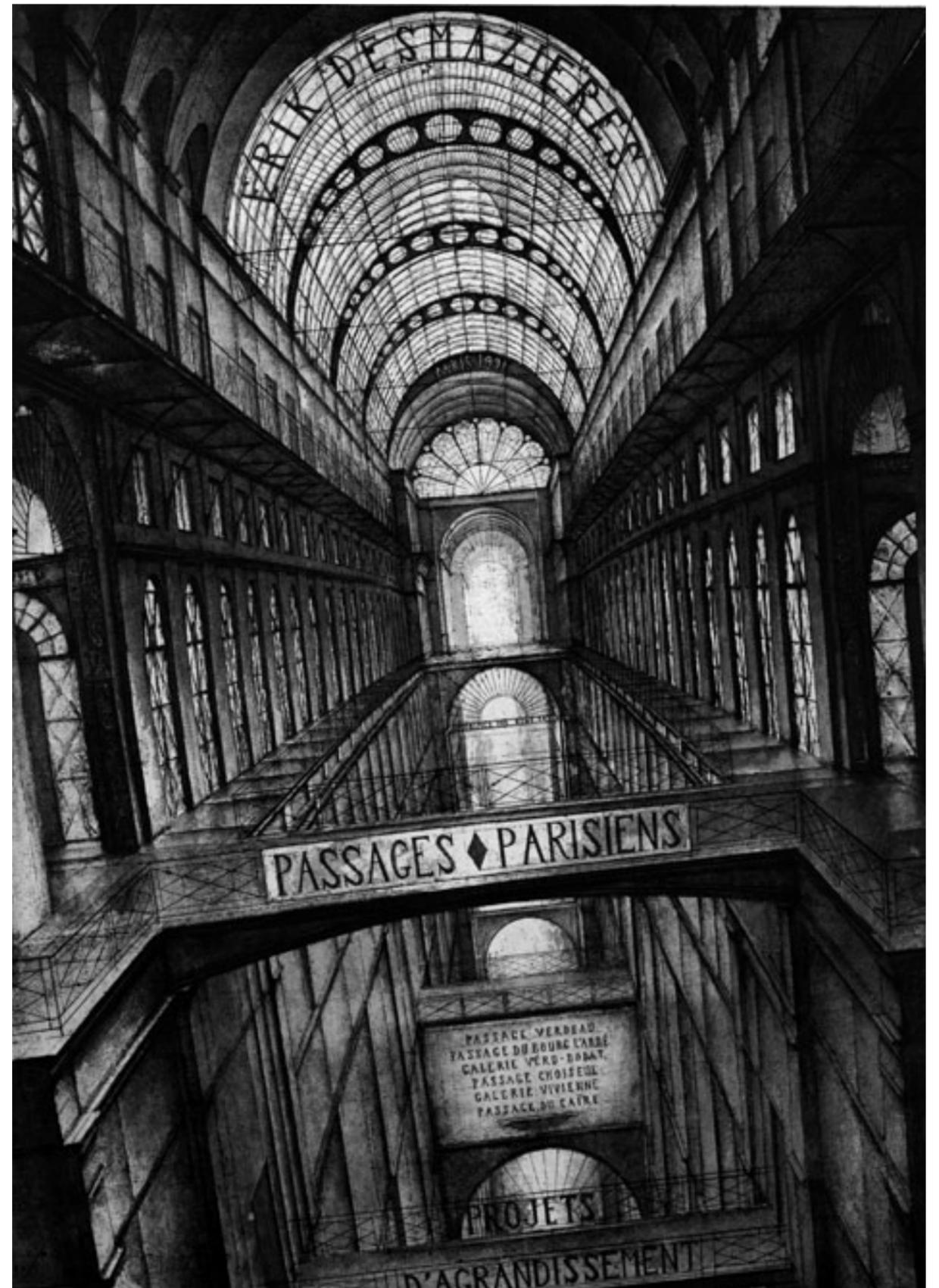
Etching, aquatint and roulette

24 3/8 X 17 1/2 INCHES

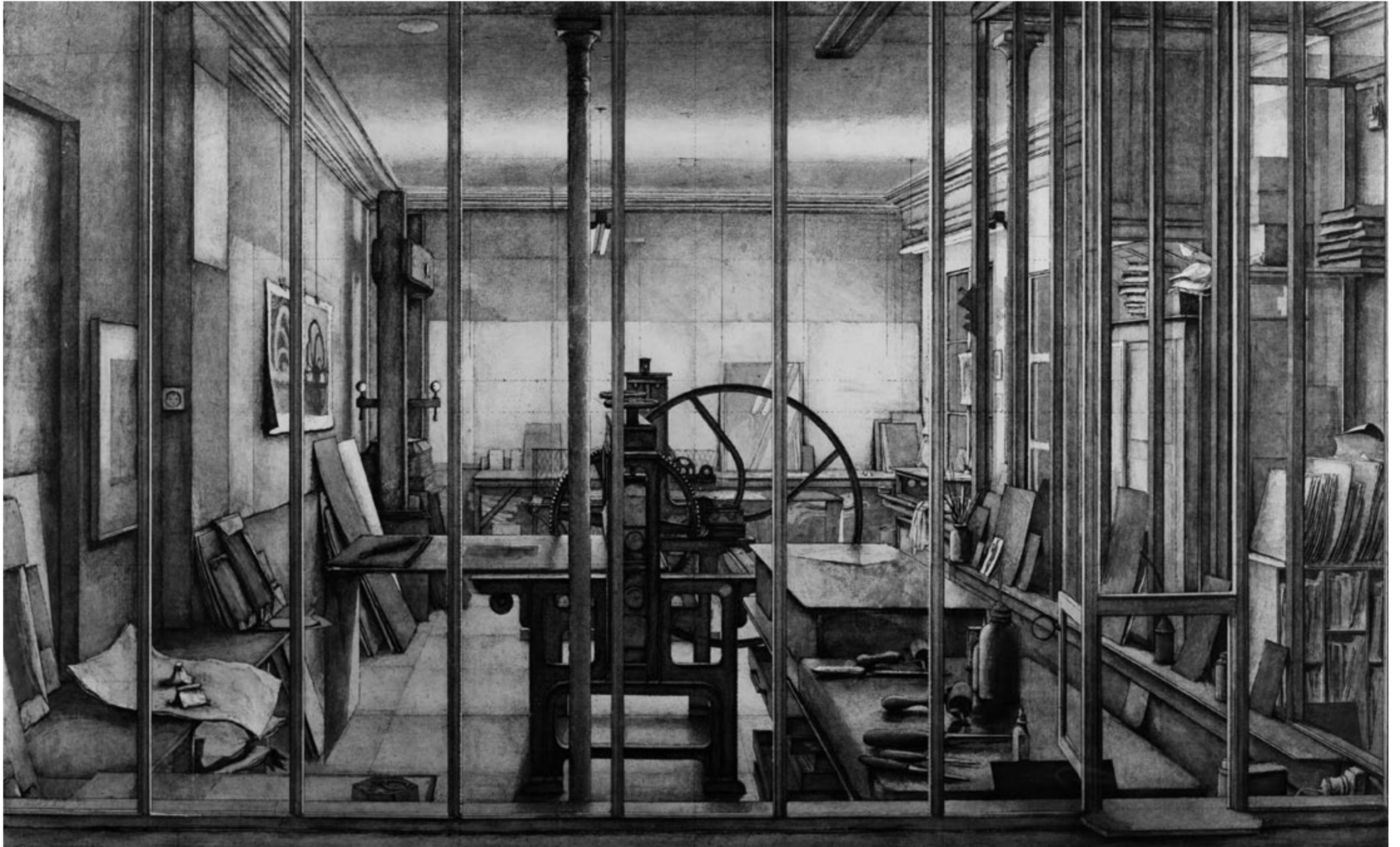
Fitch-Febvrel 126. Edition of 60.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05); Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)



13





15

[PREVIOUS SPREAD]

14
Atelier René Tazé VI
1993

Etching, aquatint and roulette

25 3/4 X 39 5/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 139. Edition of 90.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Musée Jenisch
(Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Museo della Grafica (Pisa,
2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009);
Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)

15
L'Atelier de Louis Icart
1980

Etching with aquatint

23 1/4 X 16 3/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 58. Edition of 90 plus X.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Museo della
Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah,
Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal,
2009-10)

16
L'Atelier René Tazé
1979

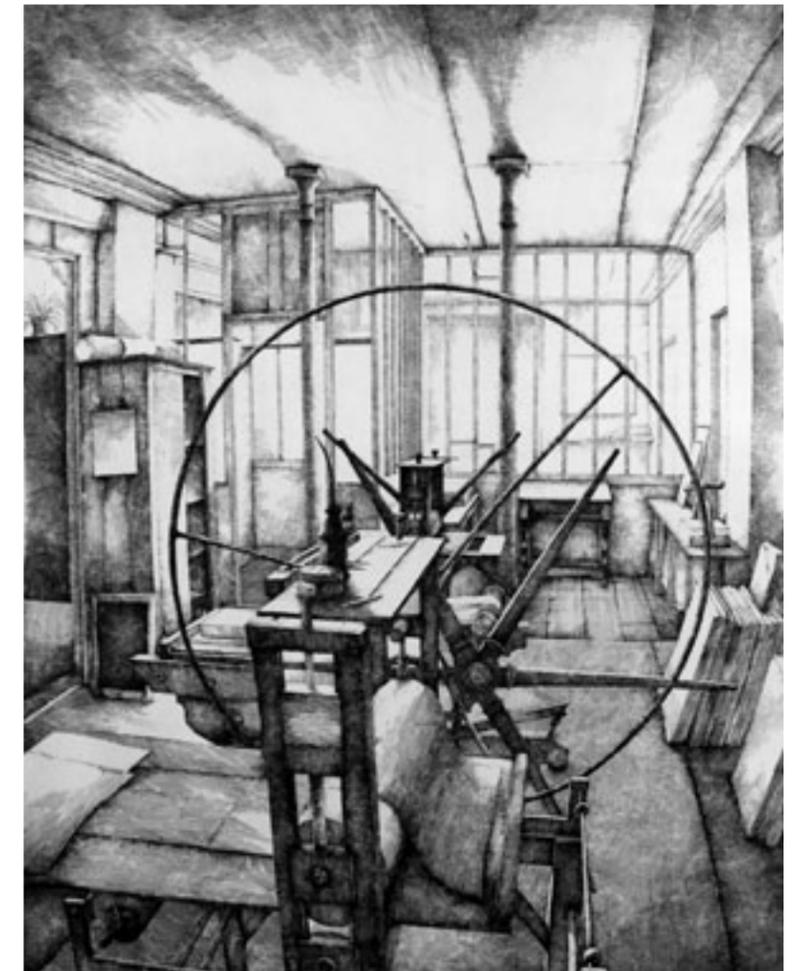
Etching

26 5/8 X 20 1/2 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 40. Edition of 90 plus X.

EXHIBITED

Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Museo della
Grafica (Pisa, 2009)



16



17

17
Le Magasin de Robert Capia
2008

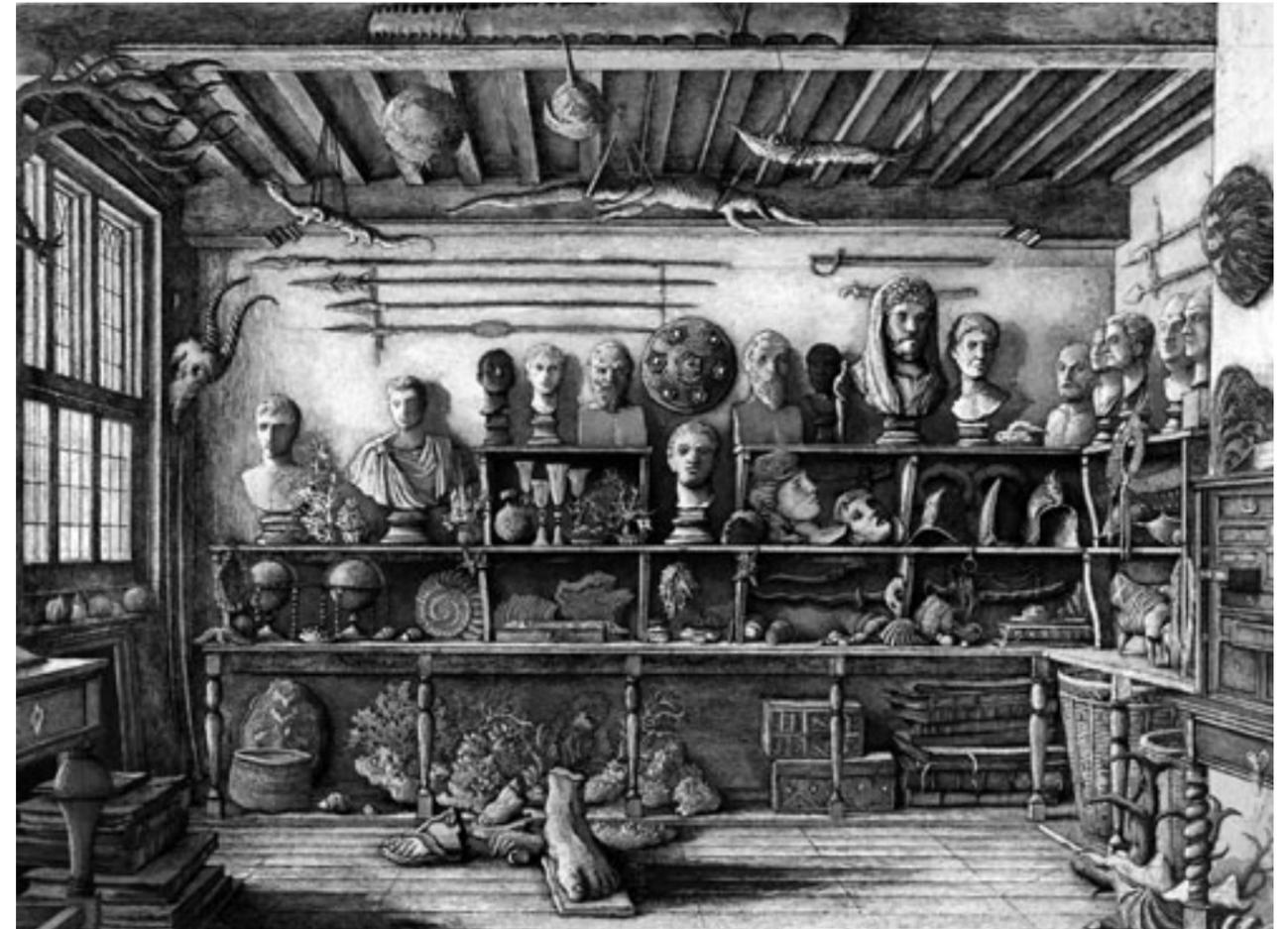
Etching, aquatint, and roulette

28 1/4 X 35 1/4 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel (205). Edition of 90.

EXHIBITED

Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)



18

18
Rembrandts kunstcaemer
2007

Etching, aquatint, and roulette

16 3/8 X 22 1/4 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel (200). Edition of 150.

EXHIBITED

Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)

19
Entrance Hall with a Globe
2009

Etching and aquatint

8 1/8 X 6 1/2 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel (207). Edition of 75.

EXHIBITED

Telfair Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009)



19



20

20
Intérieur, rue Payenne
1986

Etching

24 5/8 X 39 5/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 83. Edition of 90.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Museo della
Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah,
Georgia, 2009)



21

21
Intérieur à Pressy
1991

Etching, aquatint and roulette

24 5/8 X 39 7/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 125. Edition of 90.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009)



22

22
La Rue Charles Nodier
1990

Etching, aquatint and roulette

19 5/8 X 13 5/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 123. Edition of 100 plus X.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Museo della
Grafica (Pisa, 2009)



23

23
Balcon, rue Payenne
1982

Etching and aquatint

11 3/4 X 8 3/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 68. Edition of 90 plus X.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07)

24
Passage Véro-Dodat
1978

Etching with aquatint

11 3/4 X 8 5/8 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 34. Edition of 90 plus X.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Museo della
Grafica (Pisa, 2009)



24

25
Jardin à Bordeaux
1979

Etching

11 3/4 X 8 1/4 INCHES

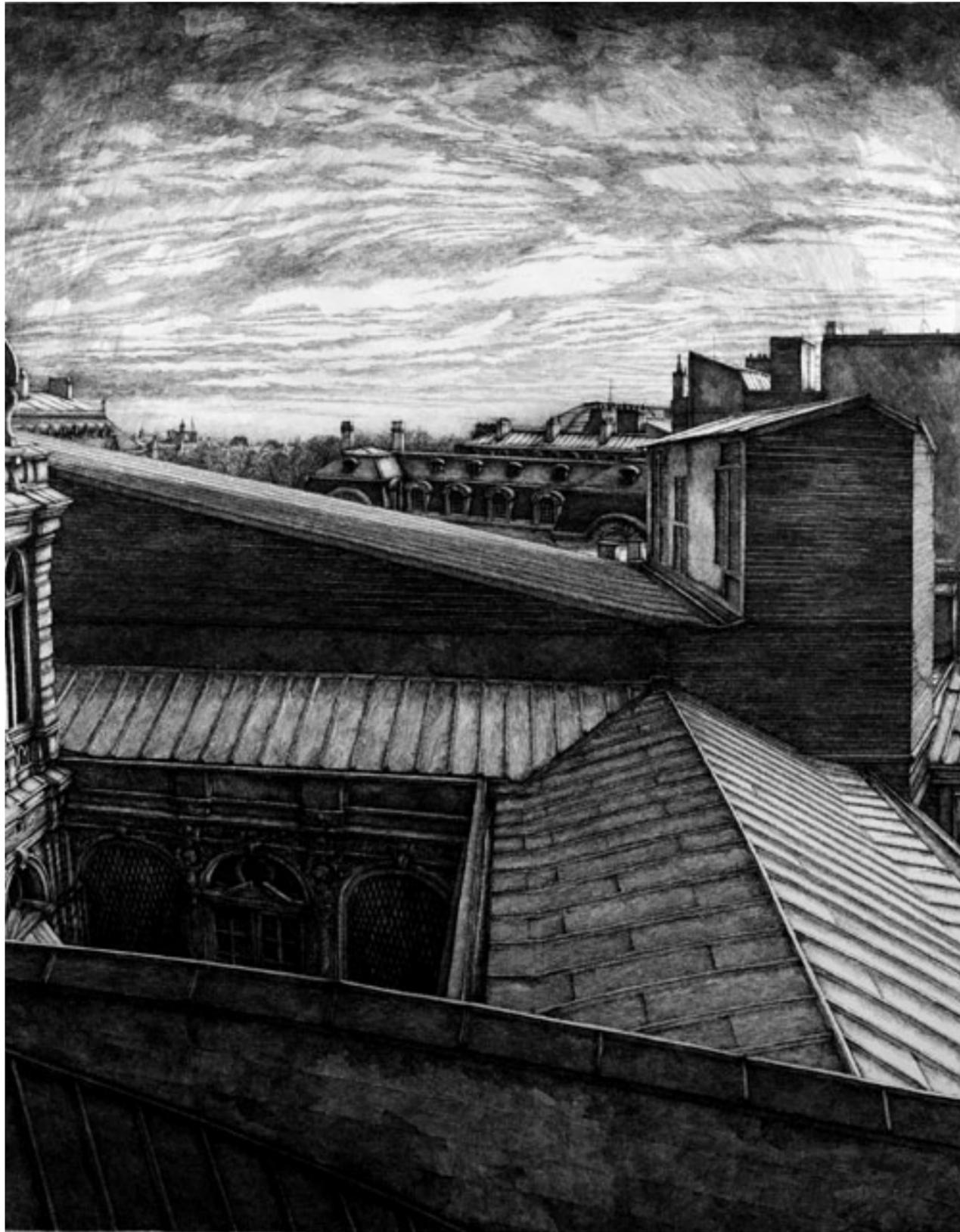
Fitch-Febvrel 38. Edition of 90 plus X.

EXHIBITED

Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009)



25



26

26
Paris, rue de Marignan
1982

Etching
 24 5/8 X 19 1/2 INCHES
 Fitch-Febvrel 71. Edition of 90.

EXHIBITED
 Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
 Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Telfair Museum
 (Savannah, Georgia, 2009)

27
Paris, 11 boulevard de Clichy
1996

Etching, aquatint and roulette, extensively hand-colored
 with gouache
 28 1/8 X 21 INCHES
 Fitch-Febvrel 148. Edition of 75.

EXHIBITED
 Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
 Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07)

28
Les Toits de la rue Livingstone
1991

Etching, aquatint and roulette
 5 7/8 X 17 3/8 INCHES
 Fitch-Febvrel 133. Edition of 150.

EXHIBITED
 Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
 Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07)



27



28



29

29
La Salle Labrouste de la Bibliothèque nationale
2001

Etching, aquatint and roulette

28 1/8 X 39 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel (180-II), final state. Edition of 90.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
 Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Museo della
 Grafica (Pisa, 2009); Telfair Museum (Savannah,
 Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal,
 2009-10)

30
Square d'Orléans, Paris
2005

Etching and aquatint

12 3/4 X 9 1/4 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel (197). Edition of 60.

EXHIBITED

Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07)



30



31

31
Quai de Montebello, Paris
2005

Etching, aquatint and roulette

23 1/4 X 23 1/2 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel (196). Edition of 75

EXHIBITED

Musée Carnavalet (Paris, 2006-07); Musée des Beaux-
 Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)

LIST OF WORKS

TITLE	PRICE	FITCH-FEBVREL	IMAGE	PAGE
<i>Atelier René Tazé VI</i>	\$11,000	FF139	14	16-17
<i>Atelier René Tazé VII</i>	\$3,500	FF(198)		
<i>Balcon, rue Payenne</i>	\$1,200	FF068	23	24
<i>Coloquintes devant une ville</i>	\$1,800	FF076		back cover
<i>Entrance Hall with a Globe</i>	\$425	FF(207)	19	21
<i>Frontispice</i>	\$1,800	FF126	13	15
<i>Galerie Vivienne</i>	\$1,800	FF131		
<i>Intérieur à Pressy</i>	\$5,000	FF125	21	23
<i>Intérieur, rue Payenne</i>	\$4,800	FF083	20	22
<i>Jardin à Bordeaux</i>	\$1,800	FF038	25	25
<i>Jardin en Italie</i>	\$1,600	FF031	1	8
<i>Jardinier (II)</i>	\$600	FF073-II	2	8
<i>L'Atelier de Louis Icart</i>	\$5,800	FF058	15	18
<i>L'Atelier de Pascal</i>	\$2,400	FF069		6
<i>L'Atelier René Tazé</i>	\$2,200	FF040	16	19
<i>L'Embarcadère</i>	\$1,750	FF011	4	9
<i>La Grande Bataille (I)</i>	\$2,000	FF033-I		
<i>La Grande Bataille (II)</i>	\$6,500	FF033-II	6	11
<i>La Place désertée</i>	\$2,000	FF037	5	10
<i>La Rue Charles Nodier</i>	\$1,500	FF123	22	24
<i>La Salle Labrouste de la Bibliothèque nationale</i>	\$4,500	FF(180)	29	28
<i>Le Débarquement</i>	\$2,400	FF018	3	9
<i>Le Funambule</i>	\$2,000	FF012		front cover
<i>Le Magasin de Robert Capia</i>	\$5,000	FF(205)	17	20
<i>Les Toits de la rue Livingstone</i>	\$500	FF133	28	27
<i>Paris, 11 boulevard de Clichy</i>	NFS	FF148	27	27
<i>Paris, rue de Marignan</i>	\$1,800	FF071	26	26
<i>Passage Choiseul</i>	\$1,800	FF130		4
<i>Passage Véro-Dodat</i>	\$1,800	FF034	24	25
<i>Petite controverse (hand colored)</i>	\$3,600	FF145-HC		
<i>Petite controverse sans importance</i>	\$1,000	FF145		inside back cover
<i>Quai de Montebello, Paris</i>	\$2,000	FF(196)	31	29
<i>Rembrandts kunstcaemer</i>	\$1,650	FF(200)	18	21
<i>Scène de tremblement de terre</i>	\$9,000	Drawing	10	13
<i>Square d'Orléans, Paris</i>	\$850	FF(197)	30	28
<i>Tour vue d'en bas</i>	\$9,000	Drawing	11	14
<i>Tulipes</i>	\$2,000	FF074		
<i>Un Songe de Gaspard</i>	\$950	FF149	12	14
<i>Ville imaginaire</i>	NFS	FF124	8	12
<i>Ville imaginaire II</i>	\$1,600	FF171	9	12
<i>Ville souterraine</i>	\$2,400	FF066	7	11

All available works are noted alphabetically and reference to the Fitch-Febvrel catalogues raisonnés.

Works illustrated in this catalogue include an **image** number and page number.

Prices do not include a frame.

NFS Not for sale.



Erik Demazières

Petite controverse sans importance, 1994

Etching, aquatint and roulette 13 5/8 X 10 5/8 INCHES
Fitch-Febvrel 145. Edition of 90.

EXHIBITED

Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05);
Musée Jenisch (Vevey, Switzerland, 2007); Telfair
Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009)

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Erik Demazières
Coloquintes devant une ville, 1983
Etching 7 3/4 X 9 3/4 INCHES

Fitch-Febvrel 76. Edition of 90.
EXHIBITED Rembrandthuis Museum (Amsterdam, 2004-05); Museo della Grafica (Pisa, 2009);
Telfair Museum (Savannah, Georgia, 2009); Musée des Beaux-Arts (Montréal, 2009-10)

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