

Towards Boundlessness

Previously - in what people now call my old style - it seems to me that my primary concern was "expression." Yes, expression with no regard for the medium: violence and perturbation with very explicit declination and colour and deliberately obvious construction.

I was forgetting that my earliest work manifested a dream-like inclination, a longing to be infinite, a taste for the secret within the visible: the aim to be, at the same time, *perceptible* and *concealed*.

After so many seasons spent in the Hades of art, fate decided that I would be cast forth from it, only to find myself again faced with the choice: that of stressing the poetic aspect of painting rather than the mechanical construction and formal paroxysm, in order to accentuate the *pictorial* in preference to the *linear*.

I uncover boundlessness, expansion through light, universal fusion (primitive color and the panorama dissect and narrow the pictorial field). A delicate sensualism makes me burst the last chains that still bind me to the "spirit of weightiness." I learn to know the genuinely open and discontinuous form. Of course, I no longer lean on the dimensions of the canvas. From the object, which has become free and no longer oppressive, there emanates a tension more and more diaphanous, prolonged in echos in every direction, to the very limits of the given surface. The supreme lesson of Turner and the spiritual message of Zen painting have become to me: that which goes counter to the prevailing taste is, for me, the most precious of things.

Whatever is scorned , despised, or not understood by the society in which one lives has prospects for the future. In any case, with this hope in the future, I have no thought of abandoning my subject: after all, we are dealing with *boundlessness*, but on another plane!

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- André Masson

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Derselbe Text unter dem Titel:

"Towards the illimitable" in: Catalogue of a retrospective exhibition of works from 1930 to 1955 by André Masson, The Leicester Galleries, London, 1955, S. 8-9.

Auch am Schluß des Textes statt boundlessness : "dealing with the illimitable".