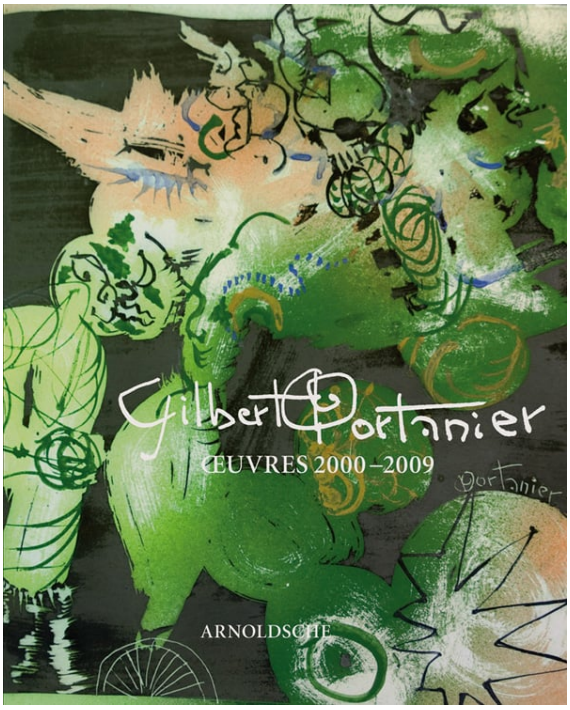
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Gilbert Portanier

Oeuvre 2000-2008

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Susan Jeffries

ISBN	9783897902893
Publisher	Arnoldsche Art Publishers
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	9.65 in x 12.01 in
Pages	200 Pages
Illustrations	119 color, 1 b&w
Price	$85.00

- A vibrantly colorful monograph focusing on the production of this decade by the French grand master of ceramics. Featuring informative essays written with great empathy by internationally known ceramics specialists

In 1948, Gilbert Portanier, a painter, discovered clay as a material to work with at Vallauris, the ceramics centre in the south of France. There he developed his unique style in the medium. What is so significant about his early work is his mastery of drawing on pottery. In the early years, Portanier “drew” with the brush on his pieces mainly Arcadian genre scenes inspired by Greco-Roman antiquity. On the look-out for new color combinations, color textures and color compositions, however, Portanier gradually distanced himself from drawing and switched to free painting on ceramics. “Every one of his pieces belongs in a museum,” thus Picasso commenting on Gilbert Portanier’s “painterly ceramics”. And indeed Portanier, like no other, conjures colorful, surrealist abstract-figurative paintings on the ceramics he has designed. In his pieces, the “Mediterranean delight” in representing and communicating comes into its own.

The inexhaustible riches of Portanier’s teeming imagination are unique in the international ceramics scene, a status that has been justly rewarded with numerous international prizes and awards and is now being showcased in this comprehensive monograph.

Published 3rd Jun 2009