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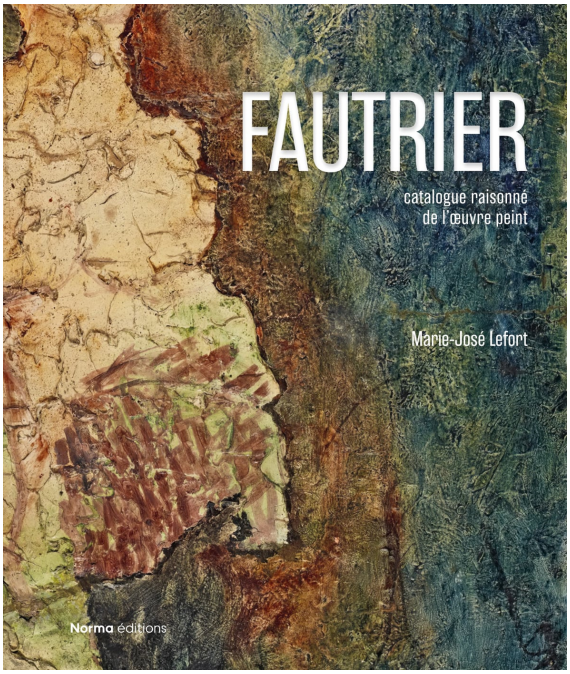

Jean Fautrier

Critical Catalogue of Paintings

Marie-José Lefort

Konstantina Minou

ISBN	9782376660729
Publisher	Editions Norma
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	10.2 in x 12.17 in
Pages	632 Pages
Price	$220.00

- This first critical catalog of Jean Fautrier's paintings
- Accompanied an exhibition at Christie's in Paris in February 2023

Jean Fautrier (1989-1964) was a major 20th century artist. Trained at the Royal Academy of Arts and influenced by J.M.W. Turner, he was quickly noticed by the collector Jeanne Castel in 1923. At first, his style was figurative and played on contrasts of light. He expertly harnessed the essence of reality in order to transfigure it, redefining the genres of landscape painting, still lifes and nudes (especially in his series of dark works) during the inter-war period. A few years later, his approach underwent a radical shift and became much more abstract. He launched the "Informalist" art movement, playing with pictorial materials and combining different substances to create visions of an extraordinary material quality. Close to the great intellectual figures of his time, including Jean Paulhan, Paul Éluard, Francis Ponge, René Char and André Malraux, Fautrier never ceased producing remarkably powerful and politically resonant works, as is attested by his major series Otages (1943-1945), Objets (1947-1948) and Partisans (1956). In 1960, he was awarded the first prize for painting at the Venice Biennale. Boasting an exceptionally exhaustive iconography, this first ever comprehensive annotated catalog of Jean Fautrier's paintings includes the technique, origin, exhibitions and bibliography for each work. It is supplemented with a detailed biography, technical analyses and authoritative scientific texts, as well as transcriptions of interviews and radio broadcasts from Fautrier's time.

Text in English and French.

Marie-José Lefort: President of the Comité Jean Fautrier and a renowned expert on Fautrier for the last 40 years, Marie-José Lefort has been managing the Jeanne Castel gallery in Paris since 1964. **Konstantina Minou:** With a degree in Modern Literature (Lausanne University) and a European DEESS-Master's degree (Nice Sophia-Antipolis University, department of information and communication sciences), Konstantina Minou has contributed to establishing the comprehensive annotated catalog of Jean-Fautrier's painted work under the supervision of Marie-José Lefort.







Published 30th Oct 2023