

Simon Morley THE PARIS '68 SERIES

Spurred on by the anniversary of the 'Events of May' in 1968, I researched the graffiti written on walls in Paris during that dramatic period, and used them as the basis for a series of paintings. I was struck by the utopianism of the texts, which especially in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris in 2017 and the general lurch to the right in France, seemed especially poignant. The dark and brooding colours are intended to suggest something tragic and in danger of being lost. The gold vertical bars can be read as hopeful, but also as a form of erasure. In using gold I had in mind the tradition of icon painting. So, one way of describing these paintings is to call them 'humanist icons.'

The graffiti texts used in the paintings in the exhibition are:

'Prenez vos désirs pour des réalités' ('Treat your desires as realities')

'Plutôt La Vie' ('We Prefer Life')

'Sous les pavés la plage' ('Under the paving stones, the beach')



Simon Morley, 'Paris 68: *Prenez vos désirs pour des réalités*', 2018, acrylic on canvas, 50x50cmx5cm



Simon Morley, 'Paris 68: *Plutôt La Vie* 1, No. 1', 2017, acrylic on canvas, 60x60x5cm



Simon Morley, 'Paris 68: *Plutôt La Vie* 1, No. 2, 2017, acrylic on canvas, 60x60x5cm



Simon Morley, 'Paris 68: *Plutôt La Vie* 1, No. 3,' 2017, acrylic on canvas, 60x60x5cm



Simon Morley, 'Paris 68: *Sous les pavés la plage*, No. 1,' 2017, acrylic on canvas, 25x25x5cm



Simon Morley, 'Paris 68: *Sous les pavés la plage*, No. 2,' 2017, acrylic on canvas, 25x25x5cm



Simon Morley, 'Paris 68: *Sous les pavés la plage*, No. 3,' 2017, acrylic on canvas, 25x25x5cm