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# Ricardo Cavallo - Life is a Landscape

**12.03.2024-01.11.2025**

Revealed on screens on November 15, 2023, Ricardo et la Peinture opens with a picaresque scene: carrying a heavy burden dominated by a multicolored palette, an elderly painter spends long minutes crossing grassy and rocky cliffs, then, upon reaching the sea, wades through the waves until he settles at the heart of a cave. There, he pulls wooden plaques from his gear and patiently covers them with what he sees; the light, colors, and textures that surround him gradually transform into the painting.

For many years, Barbet Schroeder wanted to dedicate a film to this remarkable painter, discovered by the great gallerist Karl Flinker, *a master of vision* for an entire generation of art lovers, who exhibited his paintings alongside those of Jean Hélion and Gilles Aillaud. In this unique documentary, in official competition at the Locarno Film Festival, Schroeder invites us to follow his friend Ricardo Cavallo (born in 1954) and explore his life as one would traverse a landscape entirely shaped by art. Whether he is observing it (transmitting, with modesty and emotion, his scholarly admiration for Velázquez or Monet), teaching it (at the experimental associative school Blei Mor, which he founded in 2007 in the village of Saint-Jean-du-Doigt, where he lives), or, most of all, painting it himself—working with admirable determination, even under sometimes grueling conditions—on his stunning compositions, art is indeed, for Ricardo Cavallo, the very condition of existence.



**Photo-portrait of Ricardo Cavallo : Simon Cohen**

For nearly forty years, without seeking to create a persona for himself, living a solitary career, Cavallo has invented his own path. Born in Argentina and arriving in Paris in the early 1980s, he immersed himself in museums, absorbed the history of art, and found himself at the Beaux-Arts. There, among his teachers and surrounded by companions, a new life began. This would become his life, his entire life. *A life in the landscape*, to echo the title of the biography of Monet written by Marianne Alphant. Or better yet: *a landscape-life*, because this landscape sometimes merges the imaginary with the real, and he knows how to reconcile observation with fantasy.

The true biography of Ricardo Cavallo is reflected in the places that his gaze has seized. His studios, simple rooms under the roof, filled with notebooks, scattered sheets of paper, toys, and modeled figurines. The skies of Paris, with mansard rooftops stretching to the horizon. The Bois de Boulogne, desolate and icy in winter. Childhood memories, images of Italy. Masks. And later, a change of life: the granite cliffs of the wildest coastline in Brittany, the one facing the North. It is in this space, with its rocks, torn skies, and fierce winds, that he finally settled. Immersed, even, diving into the rugged and grandiose sites, working tirelessly, without artifice or pretension, offering us these gigantic compositions that strive to capture the entirety of what the eye can embrace, revealing the vertigo of vision.

After his solo exhibitions at the Domaine de Kerguehennec and the Pierre Brullé Gallery in Paris in 2013, this new exhibition finally allows us to discover recent monumental paintings by Ricardo Cavallo, which the writer, illustrator, and editor Frédéric Pajak, who dedicated a monographic book to him in his *Les Cahiers dessinés* collection, believes *explore nature in a way that no one else has done, making him truly unique*.

**Olivier Amiel, Stéphane Corréard & Hervé Loevenbruck**

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**Ricardo Cavallo**

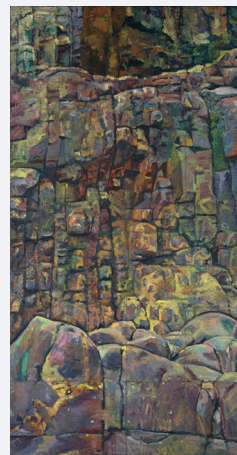
*The Beach*  
2018-2019  
Oil on panel  
210 × 420 cm



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**Ricardo Cavallo**

*The Snake Queen II*  
2021  
Oil on panel  
210 × 108 cm



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**Ricardo Cavallo**

*The Eagle*  
2019  
Oil on panel  
210 × 240 cm



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**Ricardo Cavallo**

*Incipit Vita Nuova*  
2018  
Oil on panel  
180 × 420 cm

