

# MARYSE-ANNE COUTEAU

b. 1957, Saint-Denis La Réunion  
Lives in Ermont Val d'Oise France



Maryse-Anne Couteau's drawings, made in colored pencil, black pencil or ink, intertwine characters, constructions with complex architecture, animals, objects of all kinds, to give birth to a very personal universe. All in finesse and softness, the lines and colors have found a balance between the inner life of this artist with inexhaustible imagination, and the acute gaze she poses on reality.

"A drawing begins with a desire to capture the world inspired by a face, a silhouette, an animal or even an object or a place on paper. It is very important for me to stay as close as possible to the object as it appears and that is why I work with photographs or, when possible, with the object that I draw. This desire to reach my model in its very essence, not to limit myself to the face it offers, to go under its surface, to project it onto paper in the future and the past through overlaps, slides, transparencies, the répétition of shapes at different scales or the juxtaposition of different angles of views, give birth to imaginary compositions where the precise and detailed representation of reality mingles with the expression of my inner world.

I have never used the technique of exfoliation, shading or dilution. It is by patiently superimposing the layers of color on a very smooth paper that I obtain the mixtures of tones and the very varied nuances which are one of the characteristics of my work. Over 30 years ago, after a professional life and studies that had nothing artistic about it, I decided to devote myself to the passion that drawing has always been for me, and I have never regretted my choice."



*Les Premiers Mots* Ink 18 x 24 cm