



## **NIOISM – A portrait of the artist**

### **François Jean Michel Nio**

Francois Nio was born in 1966 near Bergerac, Périgord, and grew up in the region. This region of France is best known for its natural beauty: vineyards, woods of oak and pine, broad valleys, meadows and fairytale castles on the banks of the Dordogne.

As a result of spending the greater part of his childhood and youth in such an area he learned to love nature. He studied horticulture and worked as a landscape gardener, but turned to art and painting following an accident at the age of 22. He is self-taught and has thus rapidly developed his own individual style, initially influenced by the use of an electron microscope (which had been part of his studies). While looking through the microscope he discovered a new world of colours and forms which are reflected in his early paintings and continue to influence his style today.

Between 1992 and 1995 he lived in the city of Berlin in Germany. The subject of the majority of paintings produced in his "Berlin years" was the "*natural mix of cultures and their social rapprochement*". As a consequence of this he devoted himself largely to those artistic styles most closely related to nature, studying native art and its respective colours and techniques, for example the art of the Andean indigenous people and the Mayans, with their intensive colours and precise shading; the North-African cuneiform script, and the dot painting of the Australian Aborigines.

Their dot painting style has undoubtedly been the greatest influence on Francois Nio's art. Each of his paintings consists of hundreds of large and small dots. By using this native art technique he is trying to show us how nature connects everything to everything else. Thus original life-forms must be at least partially recognizable and not choked by a mass of abstract information. By basing his work on, and continuing to use, the dot, he also shows "*Crescendo and Decrescendo*", the birth and development of all life; illusions are broken down, confusion becomes clarity.

After a long break living on the island of La Gomera in the Canaries, Francois Nio returned to painting in 2007. His representational and abstract paintings are all composed of hundreds of large and small dots, spots and drops that provide the picture with structure and can often remind the observer of brightly-coloured millefiori. The interplay between intensive, soft and metallic colours produces a magical effect, making the paintings change with the light and always leading us on to new discoveries. Diving into Francois Nio's paintings is rather like looking through a microscope. This we call "Nioism".

The artist lives in Bad Nauheim near Frankfurt am Main in Germany