



THE SEASONS

An exhibition by **Harold Ancart**
September 15, 2017 - November 19, 2017

The game finds its origins in the very beginning of civilization. The earliest representations of it date as far back as 2000 BC in ancient Egypt. Since then, the game has remained virtually unchanged. All you need is a ball and a wall. In the 1800s, Irish immigrants were largely responsible for spreading the game known as handball in America. The handball court was a place for immigrants who had no other means for leisure to meet each other, gather, and play. Nowadays the game has grown into one of the most widely played games in the country. New York has become the Mecca of handball.

The walls are made of cinderblock covered with cement - dimensions are variable. Two painted stripes mark the limit of the playground. They are mostly double sided, but not always. There are over two thousand of them across the five boroughs. Most commonly they are single freestanding walls, but you can also find them aligned next to each other in sets of two or three. The walls are often repainted because of graffiti, or re-patched, because of the poor quality of the cement coating. I noticed that the people appointed by the department of Parks & Recreation to fix them always used a cement or a paint of a different color. A little more green or a little less beige than the underlying one. As if they were putting a point of honor on using a color that was slightly off from the original. The fields of colors overlap, framing the underlying graffiti typically in the shapes of squares or clumsy rectangles that resemble clouds. This often allows the underlying colors to show through. The stripes that mark the limits of the playground are constantly being repainted too, in the same nonchalant way.

Harold Ancart (b. 1980, Brussels, BE) lives and works in New York. His work has been exhibited at The Menil Collection, Houston, USA; The Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA; Arnstrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo, NO; Yuz Museum, Shanghai, CN; Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR; Wiels, Brussels, BE; Witte de With, Rotterdam, NL; as well as Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, BE and David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, USA. His work is part of the collections of The Menil Collection, Houston, USA; MOCA, Los Angeles, USA; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC, USA; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, USA; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, FR; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, FR; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, IT; Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA.