

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Visual Discoursing

Maurice Amiel · Wednesday, June 17th, 2020

### « La belle noiseuse »

That was the title of a film featuring the late Michel Piccoli in the role of an aging painter seeking to complete his magnum opus, or what he called his “first posthumous painting” to his gallerist.

*La belle noiseuse*, or the bothersome beauty, was initially the model who became his wife. In the film, it is now a recalcitrant chain smoking beautiful model who will not stop talking and who, out of frustration, will ask him “*What are you thinking about when you ask me to take this or that pose?*”

His answer was: “*I do not think ... I do what my eyes require me to do*” ... that is what I interpret as **visual discoursing** ... which is my current preoccupation to fight preventive confinement.

### The three trees

A rather peaceable scene, per the feature photographic image, I started to sketch to uncover a graphic structure as shown below.



three trees ... first step to abstraction

I changed colors of trees and shadow pattern from brown to mauve and blue respectively, as a first step toward what I was envisioning as an abstraction of the scene.

The next step was to schematize land and foliage massing and move toward a radical formal and color scheme as follows



Three trees ... second step toward abstraction

The final step was to move from pen and ink, wax pastel and water color to a colored paper collage as the final step toward the level of abstraction my eyes were seeking ... subtitled in French!



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## End words

They are to be the two in this post title, i.e. *Visual discoursing* ... with hopefully more to come!

## Credit

**“La belle noiseuse”**: French film directed by Jacques Rivette, featuring Michel Piccoli, Jane Birkin and Emmanuelle Béart, 1991

All **image and sketches**, credit Maurice Amiel

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