

Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles

Baritone, Painter, Draughtsman, Writer and Man of Culture

Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles is an artist and man of culture whose distinctive career brings together opera, painting, drawing, historical research and literature. An operatic baritone, festival founder, painter and writer, he has developed a multifaceted body of work over several decades, inspired by music, imagination, memory and the desire to pass on cultural heritage.

Opera: The Voice and the Stage

A former opera singer in the baritone repertoire, Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles devoted part of his life to vocal music. He took part in recitals, concerts and operatic productions, while making several recordings devoted notably to opera, operetta, French art songs, sacred music and traditional repertoire.

His commitment to opera extended into cultural organisation. As founding president of the Volcadiva International Festival, he directed the event for twenty-five years, helping to sustain a festival dedicated to the human voice, music and operatic heritage.

The Boucheix Museum in Vichy

Alongside his artistic activities, Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles served as curator of the Boucheix Museum in Vichy for twenty years, from 2006 to 2026. This experience reflects his commitment to preserving, promoting and transmitting artistic heritage.

His work in cultural outreach has been guided by the same ambition: to preserve works of art, introduce audiences to artistic approaches and maintain a living dialogue between creativity, history and the public.

Painting: Lyrical Abstraction under the Name Baryton

Between 1992 and 2012, during his career as a lyric artist, Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles developed a substantial body of paintings under the signature *Baryton*. Nearly two thousand paintings are catalogued as part of this artistic undertaking devoted to lyrical abstraction.

In this artistic universe, painting enters into dialogue with music. Gesture, rhythm, form and visual balance become the elements of a personal visual language in which the expressive power of the voice finds an extension on canvas.

This period represents a distinctive chapter in his artistic journey: that of an artist whose musical sensibility directly nourished his exploration of painting.

Drawing: Chivalric and Minimalist Art

Drawing occupies an equally important place in his work. From 1978 to 2018, Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles pursued an artistic practice he calls *Chevalieriste*, combining chivalric inspiration with minimalist expression.

More than ten thousand drawings are catalogued from this period. This body of work reflects a sustained practice spanning four decades, founded on the repetition of gesture, the search for essential forms and the development of a personal graphic universe.

Chevalerisme as an artistic approach thus constitutes a creative path distinct from lyrical abstraction. Whereas the paintings signed *Baryton* emphasise expression and movement, the *Chevaleriste* drawings explore concision, symbolism and simplicity of form.

History and the Memory of the Mothers of French Gastronomy

As a writer and researcher devoted to heritage, Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles has focused particularly on the history of the *Mères de la restauration française*—the celebrated women who played a major role in French gastronomy and hospitality.

His work explores culinary traditions, prominent women in the restaurant industry, and the connections between local history, collective memory and French culture.

Through his publications on the *Mères auvergnates*, the *Mères lyonnaises*, Breton women innkeepers and other emblematic figures, he helps bring to light the lives of individuals who form part of France's social and gastronomic history. His approach combines historical research, the promotion of regional heritage and a desire to pass on a frequently overlooked legacy to future generations.

The Writer and “The Man of 10,000 Quotations”

Literature represents another essential dimension of his work. The author of numerous books, Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles explores a wide range of subjects, including regional history, heritage, art, genealogy, culture, nobility, the philosophy of life and personal reflection.

He is also known for his work collecting and composing quotations and aphorisms, earning him the description “*the man of 10,000 quotations*.” This expression conveys the scale of his literary undertaking, rooted in observation, reflection and the search for memorable phrases capable of distilling a thought into just a few words.

His publications reflect a constant desire to preserve records, transmit knowledge and offer a personal interpretation of history and the human condition.

A Career Dedicated to Creativity and Cultural Transmission

From the opera stage to the artist's studio, from the museum to the printed page, Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles has built a career in which different disciplines enrich one another. Music nourished his painting; drawing gave form to a chivalric imagination; historical research extended his interest in memory; and writing and quotations opened up a space for personal reflection.

His work is distinguished by the diversity of its forms and the sustained nature of his artistic and intellectual pursuits: a body of paintings signed *Baryton*, an extensive collection of *Chevaleriste* drawings, studies of the *Mères de la restauration française* and numerous publications.

An operatic artist who went on to become a painter, draughtsman and writer, as well as a festival director, Bernard Boucheix de Reyvialles embodies an artistic journey marked by versatility and a desire to transmit knowledge and culture. His career brings together voice, image, history and writing in pursuit of a common ambition: to keep culture alive through creativity, research and sharing in the world of the Arts and Letters.

Nathalie NICOL de LABESSIÈRE