



THE BLUE LINE

WORDS AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY VINCENT DOGNA

WHICH CAME FIRST – ART OR RUNNING?

First it was the painting and drawing – I always loved drawing. I studied art more than 30 years ago, but since I could not make a living out of it, I left pencils behind and became a graphic designer. In 1992, I started to run and did a lot of races, one after another. In 2006 I got injured and I found myself off the road for six months. That's when I picked up the brushes again and started painting what I missed the most: the blue line and a runner.

OF THE PICTURES WE HAVE PUBLISHED, WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE AND WHAT IS ITS HISTORY?

It's hard to choose between your own paintings – each comes with a particular story, and all are very much like my offspring! But I think that "Marathon Man" (opposite) is one of my favourites.

I wanted to make a painting that is powerful – to show the energy of the runner – but also universal and timeless, hence the idea of having him barefoot. I wanted it to be coloured like a group of runners, with the blue line that marks the 42km 195m, which, much more than just the ideal line on asphalt, can also represent a perfect line to transcend in sport or in life... definitely one to meditate.

THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN RUNNING (BOTH AS RUNNER AND SPECTATOR), WHAT ARE YOUR MOST EMOTIONAL MOMENTS?

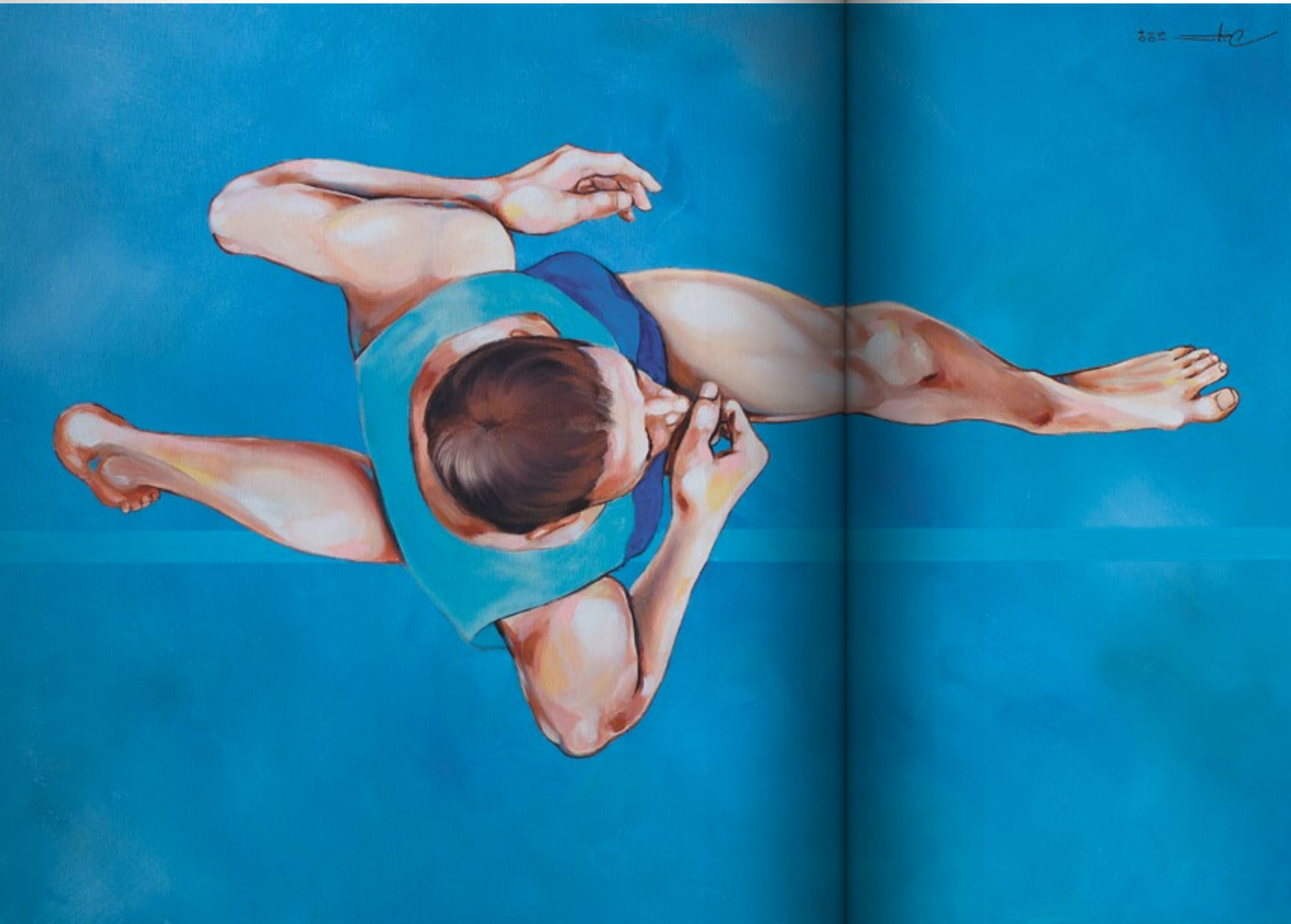
As a spectator, I love the start – such a special atmosphere with a release of energy often accompanied by a powerful musical backdrop.

As a runner, it's the display of solidarity among runners that gives me the most pleasure. From a more personal perspective, I like the start, as it often represents the time when I feel that the worst is over, and that my only job is to enjoy the race to the finish; it's magical.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS.

In general, ideas come to me while running – and racing regenerates my inspiration. Either I manage to transcribe the idea I have in mind directly on to the canvas, or I set up "still life" style compositions with running paraphernalia that I arrange. Or I use photographs taken at races and I gradually reconstruct my original idea. Often in these cases, my graphic designer side rises to the surface and some of my paintings could work well as posters.





In 2009, encouraged by his family, Vincent Dogna decided to show his first paintings, themed around the world of sport. While he held his first exhibition at the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Paris, the painting “Blue Line” was selected to be exhibited at the Salon of French Artists in the Grand Palais.

The turning point in Dogna’s life came in 2010, when he decided to quit his job as a graphic designer to devote himself solely to creating his paintings. From his workshop in his living room, he mostly works in acrylic paint, although he is not locked into a style – only the subject matter connects his paintings. His works represent a passion shared by millions of people and are now being recognised around the world.

“Running is my inspiration, and painting my method of expression” – Vincent Dogna

To date, Vincent has run 30 marathons and a 100km race; his work has been part of 106 exhibitions. His work can be discovered and purchased at www.ArtAndRun.com