

## BIOGRAPHY



Jean-Marie Rouart was born in Neuilly-sur-Seine, on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1943, in a family of painters. He is the great-grandson of the painters Henri Rouart, a Corot student and Henry Lerolle; both very close to Degas. From another side of the family, Julie Manet, Berthe Morisot's daughter, and Edouard Manet's niece, married Ernest, one of Henri Rouart's sons.

The harmonious link that existed between the great spirits of the XIXth century and the Impressionists was present in this uncommon family in which Julie Manet had Renoir and Mallarmé as guardians. Paul Valéry became a member of the family when he married Julie Manet's cousin. Louis Rouart, JM Rouart's grandfather, was a friend of Gide and a few others. With such an exceptional heritage, JM Rouart has followed the tracks of the writers that have marked his childhood as strongly as the paintings which hang on the walls of the family houses.

Writer and journalist, he published his first novel *La Fuite en Pologne* in 1974. *La Blessure de Georges Aslo* in 1975 and *Les Feux du pouvoir*, Interallié Prize in 1977 came after. He wrote *Le Mythomane*, in 1980 and received the Renaudot Prize for his novel *Avant-Guerre*, in 1983. Then he published 6 novels in a row: *Le Cavalier blessé* in 1987, *La Femme en proie* in 1989, *Le Voleur de jeunesse* in 1990, *le Goût du malheur* in 1993 and *L'Invention de l'amour* in 1997. He is also the author of a few essays: *Ils ont choisi la nuit*, the French Academy's essay Prize in 1985, *Omar, la construction d'un coupable*, in 1994.

He is the author of a biography on the Duc de Morny: *Morny, un voluptueux au pouvoir*, in 1995, and an essay on the theme of success and failure: *La Noblesse des vaincus*, in 1998. He has received the Prince Pierre de Monaco Prize for his entire work.

While he is a writer, he also leads a journalist career. He was director of the *Figaro littéraire* from 1986 to 2003.

Elected to the French Academy on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1997, to Georges Duby's sit (sit 26<sup>th</sup>), he has welcomed the President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing at the French Academy.