



**CENTRE PHOTOGRAPHIQUE  
D'ILE-DE-FRANCE**

PRESS RELEASE - July 2020

## ***La Photographie à l'épreuve de l'abstraction***

A three-exhibition programme in  
partnership with Frac Normandie  
Rouen and Micro Onde -  
Centre d'Art de l'Onde

A group exhibition with works by : Anne-Camille Allueva, Driss Aroussi, Mustapha Azeroual, Eric Baudart, Camille Benarab-Lopez, Jesús Alberto Benítez, Walead Beshty, Juliana Borinski, Broomberg & Chanarin, Michel Campeau, David Coste, Philippe Durand, Nicolas Floc'h, Marina Gadonneix, Jean-Louis Garnell, Isabelle Giovacchini, Lukas Hoffmann, Karim Kal, Anouk Kruithof, Isabelle Le Minh, Chris McCaw, Constance Nouvel, Aurélie Pétreil, Diogo Pimentão, Sébastien Reuzé, Evariste Richer, Meghann Riepenhoff, Alison Rossiter, Doriane Souilhol, Thu-Van Tran, Laure Tiberghien, Wolfgang Tillmans and James Welling.

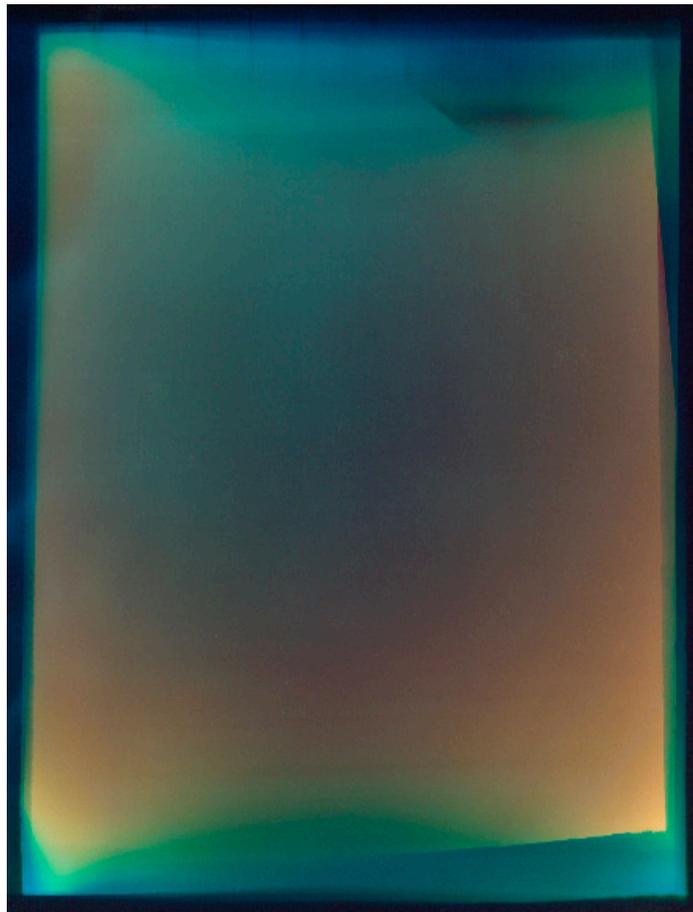
Exhibition at the  
CPIF from  
26<sup>th</sup> September to  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Curated by:

CPIF Director  
Nathalie Giraudeau

Micro Onde -  
Centre d'art de l'Onde supervisor  
Audrey Illouz

Frac Normandie Rouen Director  
Véronique Souben



Laure Tiberghien, *Screen #8*, 2019, © Adagp, Paris, 2020

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• **There will be a press trip to the three venues on Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> departing at 9.30 am.**

Schedule:

9.20 - Meet in front of the Opéra Bastille.

9.30 - Depart Paris for the CPIF.

10.00 - Visit and breakfast at the CPIF.

11.15 - Visit of the Micro Onde - Centre d'art de l'Onde exhibition.

12.30 - Lunch at Micro Onde - Centre d'art de l'Onde

3.30 - Visit of the FRAC Normandie Rouen exhibition.

6.30 - Arrival in Paris, Metro Porte Maillot.

Free shuttle. Reservation required.

To reserve, please contact Francesco Biasi:  
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In partnership with the Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain (Frac) Normandie Rouen and Micro Onde - Centre d'Art de l'Onde, the Centre Photographique d'Île-de-France (CPIF) has produced an exceptional three-exhibition programme that will be presented simultaneously in the three venues. This collective exhibition focuses on the question of abstraction in the field of contemporary photography.

***La Photographie à l'épreuve de l'abstraction*** invites visitors to explore the strong new ties between photography and abstraction. The exhibition's four complementary sections address this flourishing current of abstraction, which informs a multitude of approaches and which is closely linked to the evolving status of the image and the rapid rise of new technologies since the 80s.

**The CPIF has opted for a formalist approach that uses colour to immerse visitors in the exhibition.** It takes the separation of light into a spectrum of colours, a theme that inspired the champions of abstract expressionism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as a way of addressing the formal approaches of these contemporary artists who, guided by their fascination with light, are revisiting their relationship with the visible world. The exhibiting artists make use of contemporary digital techniques, as well as looking back to analogue photography and appropriating historical techniques, outdoing each other by creating ever more inventive processes on a quest to develop new means of expression. In their images, surfaces, volumes, spaces and colours become (often equivocal) elements in abstractly rendered compositions. Other works simply recreate the interplay of light, chemistry and the photographic support, taking on sculptural or installation-like forms that shift the notion of what defines an image and its status.

**The exhibition at Micro Onde - Centre d'art de l'Onde focuses on a resolutely experimental and materials-based approach to photography.** To provide an overview of contemporary artistic practices which explore the materiality of images, from scientific imaging to a new approach to landscapes, this exhibition takes as its starting point the photographic activity of the famous Swedish playwright August Strindberg. The latter's study of crystals and night skies gave rise to his renowned *Crystallographs* and *Celestographs* (which were actually chemigrams).

In fact, as artists take a greater interest in the physical world, lifelike representation gradually disappears and is replaced by abstraction.

**Frac Normandie Rouen explores three aspects with a first section that considers an almost archaeological approach to photography,** from its purely scientific aspects up to the appearance of an iconography that was specific to analogue photography. **Conversely, the second section brings together artists whose quest for abstraction is above all dependent on technological process that can be complex in nature.**

Techniques related to different printing modes, such as the creation of sophisticated computer programmes, facilitate the creation of a new visual language that no longer possess any apparent reference to the material world.

Finally, the third section (which is also present at the CPIF) showcases overtly formal strategies using prisms, sculpture and architecture, as well as playing with surfaces and volume.

Artists apply a wide formal vocabulary as they pursue their reflections on the notion of reality and the mechanisms called into play when producing an image, the possibility of redefining its status and even its potential “disappearance”.

The exhibition brings together works by the **young generation** of artists such as: Anne-Camille Allueva, Pauline Beaudemont, Matan Mittwoch, Constance Nouvel, Aurélie Pétreil, Sarah Ritter and Laure Tiberghien, as well as by some of the **most important artists** in the field of contemporary photography, such as Liz Deschenes, Stan Douglas, Paul Graham, Barbara Kasten, Zoe Leonard, Alison Rossiter, Thomas Ruff, Wolfgang Tillmans and James Welling. This rich selection leads us to question possible affiliations, but also underlines the unique nature of the younger generation’s practices and their increasingly complex protocols.

A **bilingual (French/English) book published by Hatje Cantz** will accompany the exhibition with a collection of thoughts and original essays written by specialists.

#### • Previews:

##### Preview of the exhibitions at the CPIF and Micro Onde - Centre d’art de l’Onde

Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm

The CPIF and Micro Onde - Centre d’art de l’Onde are running a free shuttle service for those wishing to attend the preview. It departs from Place de la Bastille in Paris at 2.15 pm and arrives at the CPIF at 3 pm, before departing for Micro Onde - Centre d’art de l’Onde at 5 pm.

You will be back in Paris by around 8.30 pm.

The preview at Frac Normandie Rouen, will take place on Friday September 11th at 6.30 pm.

#### • Study day in Rouen at Panorama XXL Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup>

A study day organised by Frac Normandie Rouen in collaboration with ESADHaR-Campus de Rouen.

The Centre Photographique d’Île-de-France would like to thank all those who lent the works that made this exhibition possible: the Centre National des Arts Plastiques, FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, FRAC Grand Large – Hauts-de-France, FRAC Normandie Rouen; galleries Binome, Ceysson & Bénétière, Christophe Gaillard, Eric Dupont, In Situ - fabienne leclerc, Laurent Godin, Maubert, Un-Spaced, Valeria Cetraro (Paris), Meessen De Clerq (Brussels), Lisson Gallery (London); Catherine Bastide ; Cadre en Seine ; and our benevolent collectors, including Philippe Journo and Benoit Strowel; not forgetting the artists themselves.

