



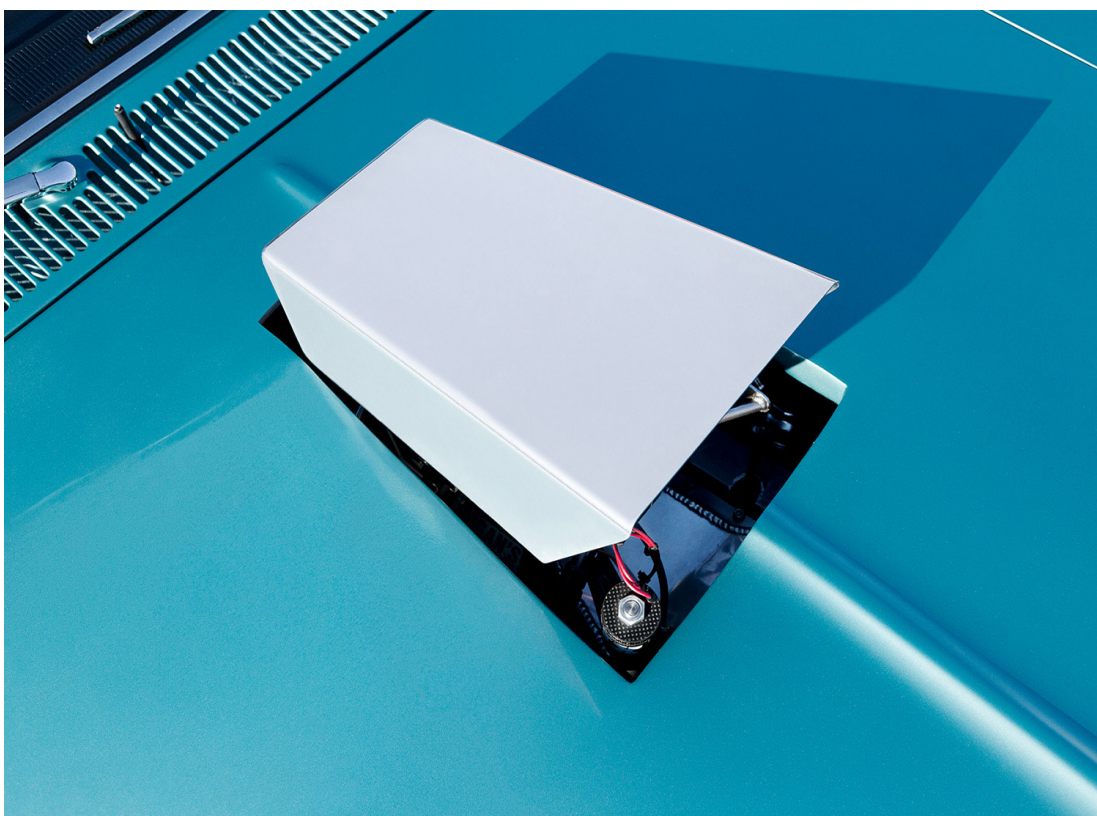
CENTRE PHOTOGRAPHIQUE
D'ILE-DE-FRANCE

PRESS RELEASE - March 2024

Blank Memory

François Bellabas

From April 28th to July 21st 2024



François Bellabas, *MOTORSTUDIES_Powerform_009*, 2016, pigment print, 100 x 150 cm, © Adagp, Paris, 2024, courtesy the artist

PRESS CONTACT :

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BLANK MEMORY

• Press conference

Friday, April 26th from 11 am

In the presence of the artist

Free shuttle from Paris (place de la Bastille)

Reservation required, please contact

Francesco Biasi:

07 71 87 88 79

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• Opening

Saturday, April 27th at 3 pm

In the presence of the artist

Free shuttle from Paris, Place de la Bastille (reservation required)

• Artist talk with the artist and

Antonio Somaini

Saturday, June 8th

Preceded by a visit of the exhibition

Unconcrete [Skateboard] by François

Bellabas and Benjamin Roulet at the

Lavoir Numérique (Gentilly)

Free shuttle (reservation required)

More information on cpif.net

The fruit of a long period of research, *Blank Memory* makes use of the machine considered as an object and a system of thought to question visual culture and more particularly the widespread image of California fashioned by photography, cinema and video games.

Since 2016, François Bellabas has been photographing and scanning California, creating and adding to his vast database, an accumulation of thousands of files that bears witness both to his profound fascination with the subject and a widely-shared feeling of concern.

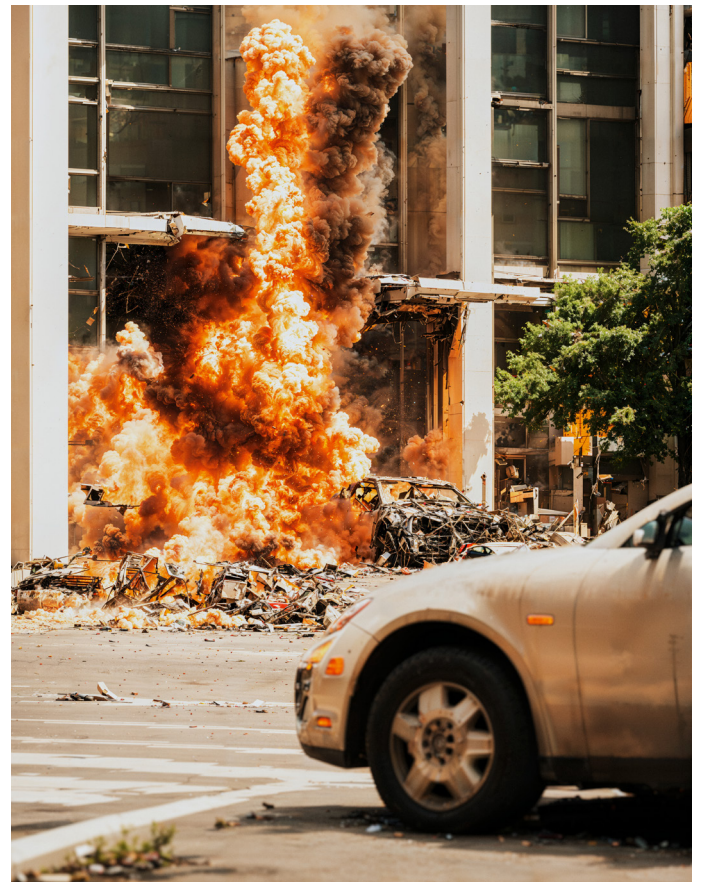
In parallel, he delves into this mass of images, taking samples and using artificial intelligence and the digital tools at his disposal to produce new representations. Following a method of successive activations, he explores the interactions between collective and individual imagination, while constructing a narrative that conveys his reflections on the medium of photography.

At this exhibition at the CPIF, François Bellabas is presenting an installation that creates a dialogue between photographs, sculptures and interactive digital environments. The art centre is transformed into a unique space-time continuum traversed by a flow of images in the making, a place where the physical and virtual worlds meet. Transported into this fantasised world, visitors actively experience how photographic images and data are used to construct both a space and a way of thinking.

The expression “blank memory” has been borrowed from the field of computers. It refers to the volume of available memory and defines a potential for storing and processing data. As such, the exhibition title evokes the collaboration between human and artificial agents. In the light of this exchange, photographs are portrayed as computational objects that are constantly being redefined, thereby raising questions as to their production and consumption.

This exhibition is part of the *Les Précipités (#8)* programme. It follows on from the artist's research and postproduction residency at the CPIF in 2018.

The research that led to the works presented in this exhibition received the support of the Centre Photographique d'Île-de-France, Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée, Centre National des Arts Plastiques and Gourau Phong studio.



François Bellabas, *Synthetic Roots*, 2023, video installation, variable dimensions, © Adagp, Paris, 2024, courtesy the artist*

*Images generated with the help of artificial intelligence.

FRANÇOIS BELLABAS

François Bellabas (born 1989) is a French artist. He graduated from the École Supérieure d'Art de Lorraine (Metz, 2012) and the École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (Arles, 2015). He was nominated for the Prix Robert Schuman in 2018 and his works have been presented at numerous events including: Art-o-rama (Marseille, 2017), Biennale de l'Image Possible (Liège, 2018), Jeune Création (Paris, 2020), 100% l'EXPO (Paris, 2021), Rencontres d'Arles (2021), Palais Augmenté 2 (RMN/Grand Palais, Paris, 2022) and Pla(t) form FotoMuseum Winterthur (2022). In 2018, François Bellabas was awarded a research and postproduction residency at the CPIX as part of which he continued working on his project *Escape from L.A.* (which has also received the support of the CNAP and the CNC/DICRéAM).

In 2017, François Bellabas founded creative studio Gourau Phong together with Benjamin Roulet. A technophile and an engineer at heart, in his work he forges connections between the different levels of reality produced by and resulting from the medium of photography, while exploring the image as data.

<https://francoisbellabas.com>

IN PARALLEL



UNCONCRETE [SKATEBOARD]

François Bellabas and Benjamin Roulet

An exhibition from March 1st to August 18th at the Lavoir Numérique
4 rue de Freiberg
94250 Gentilly

<https://lavoirnumerique.fr>



François Bellabas and Benjamin Roulet, *Curvyscape-002*, 2023

ARTIST TALK / EXHIBITION VISITS

On Saturday June 8, 2024, the CPIF and the Lavoir Numérique offer a cross-tour combining the two exhibitions.
After the two visits with the artists, an artist talk with François Bellabas will take place at the CPIF.

A free shuttle upon reservation will be available between Gentilly and Pontault-Combault.

The times and schedule for the coming day will be communicated soon.

CPIF

The Centre Photographique d'Île-de-France (CPIF) is part of a national network of contemporary art centres. It focuses on still and moving images in the broadest sense.

The CPIF endeavours to support emerging and established French and foreign artists by producing creative projects, organising exhibitions and helping artists to find residencies (research and postproduction workshops, international residencies and the "Ici, maintenant !" [here and now] residency programme).

The centre addresses the relationship between contemporary photography and other creative fields. As part of this interest in the connections between contemporary photography, other artistic disciplines and the human sciences, it organises three solo or group shows every year. These exhibitions address the many and varied practices of photography today, as well as conceptual and reflective approaches to contemporary art.

As a place of exchange and meaningful experiences, the CPIF is also conscious of its role as a relay between artists and the public. To this end, it implements a bespoke outreach programme (guided visits, conferences, workshops, meetings), organises amateur photography workshops (digital and analogue) and residency projects, as well as hands-on workshops in schools.

The CPIF was created in 1989. Located in the granary of an old farm in the Brie region of France, its distinctive architecture and vast 380 m² exhibition space make it unique.

