

# DOMAIN OF CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE CENTRE FOR ARTS AND NATURE



DOMAINE  
DE CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE  
CENTRE D'ARTS ET DE NATURE

## CHAUMONT-PHOTO-SUR-LOIRE WINTER EXHIBITIONS

19 NOVEMBER 2017  
28 FEBRUARY 2018

ELGER ESSER  
THIBAUT CUISSET  
GÉRARD RONDEAU  
ROBERT CHARLES MANN  
FRANÇOIS MÉCHAIN  
HANNS ZISCHLER  
ÉRIC SANDER

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND    [WWW.DOMAINE-CHAUMONT.FR](http://WWW.DOMAINE-CHAUMONT.FR)    T. +33 (0) 254 209 922



**CHAUMONT-PHOTO-SUR-LOIRE**  
**INNER LANDSCAPES / 7 EXHIBITIONS FROM NOVEMBER 2017 TO THE END OF FEBRUARY 2018**

New in 2017-2018, Chaumont-sur-Loire's Arts and Nature Centre is devoting all its winter exhibitions to photography.

From 18 November 2017 to 28 February 2018, the works of seven photographers, each expressing their unique viewpoints on landscape and nature, will be presented on over 2000 square metres of exhibition space in the Château itself and its Farmyard.

A special tribute will be paid to two great names in the world of photography who died before their time: Thibaut Cuisset and Gérard Rondeau.

Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire will also be hosting France's first exhibition devoted to Elger Esser, one of the Düsseldorf School's major photographers. Pinhole-camera enthusiasts both, the American photographer Robert Charles Mann and German artist Hanns Zischler will also be guests at this winter photography festival, alongside Éric Sander and François Méchain.

Eulogising wide open spaces in equally wide shots, Thibaut Cuisset's landscapes have the power to draw the viewer's eye willy-nilly. The artist preferred the noonday light, when the sun was at its zenith, when "perspectives are flattened". In his eyes, a successful photograph was "an excess of reality tending towards fiction". His taste for "cold poetry" illuminates and transcends the views of the Loire and Icelandic landscapes on exhibition at Chaumont-sur-Loire this winter.

Although more focused on a world of unresolved shadows, Gérard Rondeau, another ardent lover of travel to faraway places, knew how to capture the essence of a single instant in his timeless black-and-white images. He liked to play with silence as much as with words. And just as he was immediately able to grasp the very depth of a being, he instantly understood the profound reality of a landscape

While Thibaut Cuisset was inspired by Corot, Cézanne and Richter, the German photographer Elger Esser professes to draw inspiration from romantic painting and claims literary affinities with Proust, Flaubert and Maupassant. His highly pictorial images, caught between history and memory, are also "landscapes of the soul", dear to the writers he feels close to.

Elger Esser's photographs require very long exposure times. Pinhole photography, a venerable technique used by Robert Charles Mann and Hanns Zischler, also involves slow shutter speeds, enabling all of a scene's or landscape's vibrations to be captured. Although from elsewhere, both photographers are fascinated by the Loire's poetic power, which Robert Charles Mann discovered and glorified during his haphazard wanderings, while Hanns Zischler contemplated the river from the baskets of hot-air balloons high in the skies above. Chaumont-Photo-sur-Loire will also acquaint visitors with Eric Sanders' fascinating lowering skies and the magical charms of a nature transformed by art under the aegis of François Méchain.

In the heart of the Centre-Loire Valley region, just 2 hours from Paris, these exhibitions are invitations to take motionless journeys to unexpected inner landscapes.

Chantal Colleu-Dumond  
Curator, Chaumont-Photo-sur-Loire



## ELGER ESSER

### "DU NIL À LA LOIRE" CHATEAU'S HIGH GALLERIES

Elger Esser's photographs, suffused with gold and blue, are immediately recognisable, the impression of aesthetic perfection, tranquillity and timelessness leaving all those that contemplate them wonderstruck.

These fascinating "landscapes of the soul", whose pictorial quality the artist so insistently upholds, are the fruit of a new romanticism fully assumed by this great photographer from the Düsseldorf School.

The evocative power of Elger Esser's landscapes generates emotions that go well beyond a simple documentary vision.

A Franco-German artist, Elger is represented in such major collections as the Guggenheim in New York and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, with an international reputation rooted in art history. A pupil of Bernd and Hilla Becher at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf, he broke away from their teachings when he discovered landscape. Armed with his camera, he travels from country to country, photographing and inventorying timeless landscapes in which neither humankind nor its imprint is visible. His photos, testimonies caught between history and memory, are inspired by the writings of Proust, Flaubert and Maupassant. He finds his literary and pictorial inspirations in the 19th century, along with the techniques he experiments with and reinvents

(heliogravure and copperplate).

#### Exhibitions (selection)

2017

*De Sublime*, Stelline Foundation, Milan, Italy

*Delfts Blauw*, Galerie de Zaal, Delft, The Netherlands

*Morgenland*, Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art, London, United Kingdom

*Mix*, Galerie de Zaal, Delft, The Netherlands

*Aetas*, Landesgalerie Linz, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Linz, Austria



© Nicolas Cattelain



Nil, © Elger Esser

2016

*Zeitigen*, Oskar Schlemmer State Prize, Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany

*From Shivta to Lifta*, Loushy Art & Projects, Tel-Aviv, Israel

2015

*Irides*, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg, Austria

*Cabinet de travail*, Katz Contemporary, Zurich, Switzerland

*New Works*, Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, USA

*Australian Journal*, Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney, Australia

2014

*Ninfa*, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany

*Combray*, The Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Tampa, USA

*L'âge d'or*, Kewenig Galerie, Berlin, Germany

*Ab Olympe*, Galleria Alessandra Bonomo, Rome, Italy

*Elger Esser*, Fundació Palma Espai d'art, Casal Solleric, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

*Saeculum Aureum*, Sonnabend Gallery, New York, USA

2013

*Heliogravue*, Galerie de Zaal, Delft, The Netherlands

*Nocturnes à Giverny*, Pôle Image Haute-Normandie, Rouen, France



Chouzé-sur-Loire, © Elger Esser

*Giverny*, Heliogravuren, Schirmer/Mosel Showroom, Munich, Germany

*Meseglise*, Institut für moderne Kunst Nürnberg, Nuremberg, Germany

*Elger Esser*, Sonnabend Gallery, New York, USA

2012

*Stille Wellen*, Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany

*Elger Esser*, Galeria Kewenig, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Katz Contemporary, Zurich, Switzerland

Galleria Alessandra Bonomo, Rome, Italy

*Leichte Weite*, LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany

2011

*Voyage en Égypte*, Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, USA

*Landscapes and heliogravures*, Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney, Australia

*Et nous avons des nuits plus belles que vos jours*, Sonnabend Gallery, New York, USA

*Voyage en Égypte*, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

*Nocturnes*, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris, France

*Arc, Lys et Douville*, Neue Heliogravuren, Kunstforum Baloise, Basel, Switzerland



Lair-et-Cher, © Elger Esser



## THIBAUT CUISSET

"PAYSAGES DE LOIRE ET D'ISLANDE"  
CHATEAU'S HIGH GALLERIES



A great landscape photographer who died before his time early in 2017, Thibaut Cuisset spent his life travelling the world to capture images of out-of-the-ordinary places. For Thibaut Cuisset, "taking photographs means travelling". Seeking out noontday light, he preferred pared-down scenes devoid of shadow, encouraging contemplation and inspiring a unique sense of peace, as in the images of the Loire and Iceland presented at Chaumont-sur-Loire this winter.

*"Thibaut Cuisset's photographic work is carried out in successive campaigns, with a different country as the subject of each series. And in these generally rather lengthy campaigns, in which location gradually dissolves away in the shot itself, no room is left for improvisation or accident, all the less so as this is the very opposite of reporting: a country is not the setting for a piece of news that needs covering or for a mass of intimations that need capturing, but rather for a set of landscapes whose essence is revealed bit by bit, via fixed scenes that are like so many hideaways. Turkey, Australia, Italy, Switzerland, Iceland, the Loire area, and others that have slipped my mind, have all been visited and prospected [...]"*. L'Étendue de l'Instant by Jean-Christophe Bailly

Thibaut Cuisset was born in Maubeuge in 1958 and died in

Paris in 2017. From the 1980s onwards, he devoted himself to photographing the world's landscapes, from Namibia to Japan via Venezuela, Syria and France (in Corsica, Brittany, the Loire Valley, Normandy and Hérault among other locations).

He won the Treilles Foundation's 2015 Residency Prize for Photography (Paris).



Loire, © Thibaut Cuisset

### Exhibitions (selection)

2017

*Campagne française*, Château Coquelle, Lieu d'art et action contemporaine / LAAC, CIAC, Galerie Robespierre, Région de Dunkerque, France

*La rue de Paris*, Festival Image Singulières, Sète, France

*Campagne française*, Sundgau Centre de photographie de Lecture, France

2016

*Campagne française*, Fondation Fernet-Branca, St-Louis, France

2014

*Ecarts*, Hôtel Fronfreyde, Centre Photographique, Clermont-Ferrand, France

2013

*Le Pays Clair*, Galerie Espace pour l'Art, Arles, France

2012

*Le Fleuve Somme*, Hôtel du département, Hôtel des Feuillants, Amiens, France

*Une campagne photographique – le pays de Bray*, Espace Séraphine Louis, Clermont-Ferrand, France

2011

*Paysages à la chambre*, Estivales Photographiques du Trégor, L'Imagerie, Lannion, France

*Nulle part ailleurs – La Bouilladisse*, Mairie de La Bouilladisse

*Une campagne photographique – le pays de Bray*, Maison des Arts Solange- Baudoux, Évreux, France

2010

*Une campagne photographique – le pays de Bray*, Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris, France

*Syrie, une terre de pierre*, Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris, France

*Paysages de Syrie*, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, Chaumont-sur-Loire, France

*Campagne française, fragments*, Académie des Beaux-Arts, Paris, dans le cadre du Mois de la Photo, France

*Une campagne photographique dans l'Eure au temps de l'impressionnisme ; échos contemporains avec Thibaut Cuisset*, Musée de Vernon, France

2009

*Une campagne photographique – Le pays de Bray*, Galerie du Pôle image, Rouen, France

2007

*Un Hérault contemporain mission photographique regard sur un département*, Domaine de Lézigno Centre d'Art privé, Béziers, France

*Un Hérault contemporain mission photographique regard sur un département*, Château d'O, Montpellier, Galerie du Conseil Général de l'Hérault, France

*Le Dehors Absolu*, Galerie de la philharmonie de la Baltique, Transfotografia, Gdansk, Pologne

*Le Dehors Absolu*, Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Bruxelles, Belgique

*Campagne Japonaise*, Galerie Confluence, Nantes, France

*Thibaut Cuisset*, Atelier de Visu, Marseille, France



Islande, © Thibaut Cuisset



Islande, © Thibaut Cuisset



## GÉRARD RONDEAU

"PAYSAGES" DE GÉRARD RONDEAU  
A TRIBUTE TO THE PHOTOGRAPHER, WHO  
DIED IN SEPTEMBER 2016  
GARDENERS COURT GALLERIES



© Gérard Rondeau

A great traveller who never tired of seeking out our planet's many testimonies to beauty and to suffering, Gérard Rondeau was as much interested in people, whose portraits reached into their depths, as he was in heritage and nature. It is his landscapes that are on display here, black-and-white and often dreamlike reflections of the artist's passion for the mysteries and vibrations of nature, which he celebrated on all five continents.

From the Grand Palais' National Galleries in Paris to the National Gallery in Jakarta, from the European House of Photography in Paris to the Festival de la Luz in Buenos-Aires, and from the Elysée Museum in Lausanne to the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin, Gérard Rondeau held numerous solo exhibitions, producing special series in Istanbul, New York, Sarajevo and Rome.

Gérard Rondeau spent twenty years exploring what went on in museums behind the scenes, chronicled life in Sarajevo during the siege, and created a portrait of contemporary Morocco in a brilliant and timeless dialogue with Delacroix's paintings and drawings; for fifteen years, he accompanied Médecins du Monde missions to all four corners of the globe.

A great portraitist who worked regularly for *Le Monde* for over twenty years, he produced an extensive collection of portraits of contemporary painters and writers.

He spent many years accompanying the painter Paul Rebeyrolle, trod the First World War's battlefields with the novelist Yves Gibeau, visited the world's great stages with the Ysaÿe Quartet, and, along with the writer Bernard Frank, created an inventory of the streets of his life.

Rondeau travelled in a black-and-white world, taking countless roads, playing with words, interplays of shadow and silence, bringing stories to life and recreating worlds in pain.



© Gérard Rondeau

The author of numerous works, on travel, the scars of war, French and European heritage and the world of contemporary painters, Rondeau was a truly unique artist. His books and exhibitions resemble private journals, are even akin to novels.

He won the "Artist of the Year Prize" in the "Visual Arts" category at the 2007 Globes de Cristal Awards in Paris.

Gérard Rondeau was born on 10 April 1953 and died on 13 September 2016.

### Exhibitions (selection)

2017

*Hors cadre. Des musées, des artistes*, Château de Courcelles, Montigny-Lès-Metz, France

*Dans l'intimité du monde*, espace Rebeyrolle, Eymoutiers, France  
*Entre silence et ombre*, Festival Photomed, Galerie Barthélémy de Don, Sanary-sur-Mer, France  
2016

*Dans l'atelier. L'artiste photographié*, d'Ingres à Jeff Koons, Petit Palais, Paris, France (exposition collective)

Festival Map, château de Laréole, France

*Le cellier*, Reims, France

2015

Maison européenne de la photographie, Paris, France

2014

*Du chemin des dames à Sarajevo*, Sarajevo 5 pour l'inauguration du centenaire de la Première Guerre mondiale

2013

*Hors cadre*, Marseille culture, Marseille, France

Mois européen de la photographie, ENSAD Paris, France

2012

Photomed, Sanary-sur-Mer, France

Washington, ambassade de France, USA

2011

Palais du Tau, Reims, France

2010

Paris-Sarajevo, Agnès b, Paris, Ouradour, France

*La caverne du dragon*, Musée du Chemin des Dames, France

2009

Espace Rebeyrolle, Eymoutiers, France

Galerie Soho China, Pékin

New York "972th" 5th avenue, USA

Rencontres européennes du livre, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

2008

Galerie nationale, Jakarta, Indonesia

2007

Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany

Galerie 127, Marrakech, Morocco

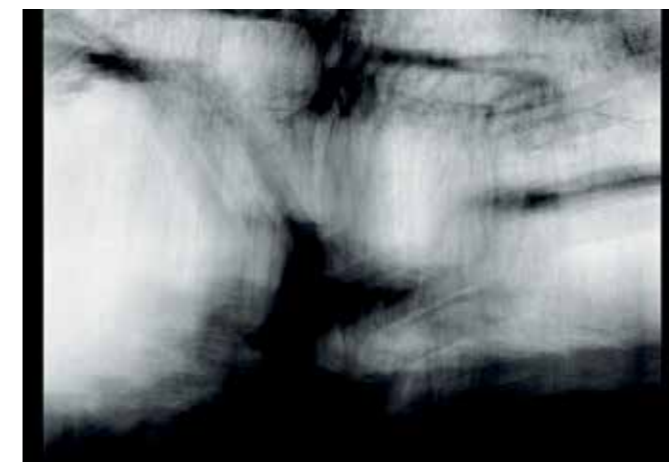
2006

Mois européen de la photo, Paris, France

Hôtel de Ville de Paris, France

2005

Grand Palais, Paris, France



© Gérard Rondeau



© Gérard Rondeau



## ROBERT CHARLES MANN

"MÉTA PAYSAGES"  
CHATEAU'S HIGH GALLERIES



© Jan Welters

A demanding photographer who prints his photos himself and is regarded as one of his native country's most sought-after experts in the field, Robert Charles Mann is an American who divides his time between two worlds: Los Angeles and Loir-et-Cher.

He uses a very old technique, pinhole photography, to refract and help us share the impressions and emotions that The Loire's landscapes arouse in him.

*"I hope to share an experience rich in dreams with whoever looks at my photographs, and that they induce an exploration of the psyche. Several different lensless cameras are used to accomplish this. The pinhole camera has a way of suggesting objects rather than representing them because of the particular quality the pinhole image produces. This suggestive character carries with it a more profound mystery, which is not found on the surface of the image but rather in the possibilities of interpretation.*

*When this technique is combined with my themes and choice of subjects, the photographs begin to breathe and become metaphoric environments. A singular characteristic of pinhole photography is the fact that exposures are quite long, varying from seconds to several hours. This cumulative exposure produces effects that cannot be seen by the eye. Moving objects become translucent, having a vibrating quality, and some objects may become completely transparent in the process due to displacement during exposure.*

*The "Reflection" series is an experiment both as regards method and concept. Using the idea that water in motion and long exposure produce an accumulation of images, I point the camera at the surface of the water in direct opposition to the sunlight. Standing in the water, I discover the shapes of sunlight's reflections across its surface, pushed by the currents and submerged objects. If I use a red filter, the reflection produces an abstract shape on an opaque background. These photos are not just simple abstractions, their origins are entirely organic.*

*The "Head" series was photographed with a handmade pinhole camera, using 4x5-inch film and an orange filter. I directed the subject, choreographing his movements*



© Robert Charles Mann

*during a single two-minute-long exposure. The result is not so much a montage of several portraits as a unique performance, as the subject changes position during exposure, so accumulating a variety of images on a single piece of sheet film. Francis Bacon's paintings helped inspire this series.*

*The "Window" series was photographed with a handmade pinhole camera using 4x5-inch film, and was inspired by an 18th-century window found in my attic. The window acted as support and inspiration for this series of images, which I'm continuing to add to. My intention is to make the public aware of the voyeur that exists in all of us.*

*My work is entirely an analogue process, no Photoshop is used in any of these photographs. The prints for each image are made on either silver chlorobromide baryta fibre-based paper or photo-sensitised linen, using a lithographic developer which yields its unique color and granularity due to the fibres of the paper being revealed in the surface image itself.*

*A photographic image can be printed in thousands of ways. The tactile quality of the print is as important as the choice of materials. The print constitutes half the aesthetic of the photograph. Conscious decisions bring about unconscious effects. The world of printing has a range only equalled by that of the world of the image.*

*Infinite numbers of parameters and variables are involved in the creation of an image, and they sometimes produce powerful emotions." Robert Charles Mann*



© Robert Charles Mann

When eight-year-old Robert developed his first print in his father's lab, he understood what the world of photography held of magic even before he had actually taken his first photograph.

Born in the United States in 1960, Robert Charles Mann grew up in an artistic world: his mother was a concert pianist and his father a photographer. The influence of his family environment led him to combine musical and photographic studies. He attended music classes at Ohio State University, obtaining a degree in Theory and Performance in 1980 from the Hollywood Institute of Music in California.

He then went on to study astronomy, photography and contemporary musical composition, obtaining a diploma in Platinum Printing from the Maine Photographic Workshop in Camden, Maine, in 1990 and another in Pigment Printing from Düsseldorf Museum's Fine Print Studio in 1992.

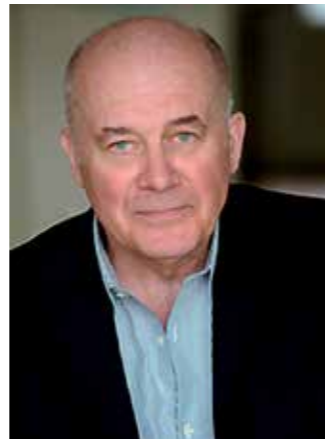
In the 1980s, he took part in a wide range of projects, eventually becoming involved with the Art Club, which lent its support to the production of avant-garde musical shows in Los Angeles. He returned to photo printing and set up his own business in order to fund his various artistic projects. He soon became one of the most sought-after printers, spending two years as studio manager and printer for Herb Ritts, and collaborating with Helmut Newton, Mary Ellen Mark, Peter Lindbergh, Sheila Metzner and Dennis Hopper among many others. At the same time, he held the position of Chief Photographer for the magazine "Exposure". He has also produced countless prints for Twelve Tree & Twin Palms photographic books, as well as for the Hollywood Archives. Over the last twenty years, Robert Mann has printed over a million photos! In 1989, having earned a solid international reputation as photographer and printer, he moved to Paris, where he now lives.

He continues to collaborate with many other photographers while still producing his own images, only using a pinhole (i.e. lensless) camera to create them. Robert also composes music for films and television. He has recently been working with Brad Pitt, producing a photo report on the daily life of the Pitt-Jolie couple for W Magazine and continuing his collaboration with the actor by printing negatives from the latter's extensive archives. Pitt has acquired 11 large-format prints from the "Orbit" and "Flowers" series.



## HANNS ZISCHLER

"SUR LOIRE"  
CHATEAU'S HIGH GALLERIES



This series of pinhole photographs by Hanns Zischler was created during several balloon flights the artist made over the Loire, whose mysterious daybreak ambience he has succeeded so well in capturing.

*"Over the last 25 years, my experiments with the pinhole camera have taken me back to the inexhaustible origins of photography. Pinhole photographs make visible and express the passage of a fleeting moment, they cross a silent world: wind, smoke, the falling snow, the drizzling rain.*

*On my balloon flights, above all during those above the Loire, I rediscovered and found an entirely new way of capturing the visual impact of the great river of my youth: the Danube. My passion for landscape recognition – a discipline that has largely fallen into oblivion these days – was enhanced by an instrument as scientific as it was aesthetic". Hanns Zischler*

Born in Nuremberg in 1947, Hanns Zischler has lived in Berlin since 1968.

Best known as an actor, he has appeared in films directed by such famous names as Wim Wenders, Peter Handke, Jean-Luc Godard, Claude Chabrol, Liliana Cavani, Istvan Szabo and Steven Spielberg, as well as in numerous television productions.

In addition to his film and television work, he records radio

plays and audiobooks, gives regular literary readings and is an equally regular participant in colloquia and conferences. He is also a translator (of Jacques Derrida among others), publisher (Alpheus Verlag), essayist and writer.

Hanns Zischler is a member of several Academies (Berlin, Munich and Mainz) and has been a Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin since 2010. He was awarded the Berlin Academy of Arts Heinrich Mann Prize in 2009, the German Houses of Literature Prize in 2013, and the Cicero Prize for Public Speaking in 2016

His photographic work began in 1970 and for the last twenty or more years he has mostly used a camera obscura (Rigby Pinhole Camera).



Double page : Sur Loire, © Hanns Zischler

### Individual exhibitions

- 2017  
*Sur-Loire*, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, France  
*I Wouldn't Start from Here*, Stiftung Schloss Neuhardenberg, Germany  
2016  
*Hanns Zischler, Tours et Détours*, Goethe-Institut Paris, France  
*Look Right ! Straßenbilder*, Werkbund, Galerie, Berlin, Germany  
2015  
*Hanns Zischler Farbfilm*, Budersand Hotel, Sylt, Germany  
2014  
*Die Sonne bringt es an den Tag*, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, France  
*Die Zeit erstarrt-Flora tanzt*, Westwendischer Kunstverein, Gartow, Germany  
2013  
*Nach der Natur-camera obscura*, Alfred Ehrhardt Stiftung, Berlin, Germany  
*Irdische Unsterblichkeit!*, Galerie f5,6, München, Germany  
2008  
*Lichtbilder*, Photokina, Cologne, Germany

### Publications (selection)

- 2016  
*Errata - Fehler aus zweiter Hand*, Marbacher Magazin 153  
*La fille aux papiers d'agrumes*, Bourgois, Paris  
*Berlin est trop grand pour Berlin*, Macula, Paris  
2014  
*Das Mädchen mit den Orangenpapieren*, Galiani, Berlin  
2013  
*Nach der Natur - camera obscura*, Kehrer Verlag  
*Galerie der Namenlosen*, édité avec Elke Schmitter, Alpheus Verlag  
*Berlin ist zu groß für Berlin*, Galiani Berlin  
2012  
*Lady Earl Grey*, illustrations de Hanno Rink, Arche Verlag  
2011  
*Schmetterlingskoffer*, illustrations de Hanna Zeckau  
2010  
*Vorstoß ins Innere - Streifzüge durch das Berliner Naturkundemuseum*, édité avec Ulrich Moritz et Agnieszka Pufelska, Alpheus Verlag  
2008  
*Großes Kino, Kleines Kino, 1968 Bilder*, avec Jörg Probst, Merve Verlag  
*Lichtbilder*, Alpheus Verlag

2000

- Borges im Kino*, Rowohlt Literaturmagazin  
*Berlin est trop grand pour Berlin*, Édition Mille et une nuits, Paris  
1996  
*Kafka geht ins Kino*, Rowohlt Verlag  
1992  
*Tagesreisen*, Merve Verlag





## ÉRIC SANDER

"CIEL ET MER"  
DONKEY STABLES



© DR

Ever on the move and the author of a remarkable number of images, most of them connected with nature, Éric Sander is always on the lookout for moments of eternity. In the constant procession of possibilities and sensations, in the incessant movement of light, he succeeds in capturing that sublime moment when the invisible seems to appear and beckon to us. The shimmering of a colour, the fragility of a garden, the suggestion of a fragrance, the vibration of a sky or cloud inspire the photographer with ineffable images whose imprint endures in our thoughts.

In Éric Sander's eyes, photography enables "liberation of the emotions", fostering "the passage from one world to another, without transition". He seeks to "capture moments that will never be again: an instant, a movement, an emotion, an expression, a landscape...". "Photography is an extension of the eye", and the photographer must always be available, awaiting the perfect moment.

With numerous photobooks to his credit, Éric Sander devotes most of his time to commissions from publishers of books of photographs and photo reports on unusual places.

Among others, he collaborates with the landscaper Louis Benech, the architect and interior designer Jacques Garcia, the Heritage Foundation, *Pierres d'Histoire*, *Le Figaro Magazine*, *The Demeure Historique* association, VMF and Architectural Digest.

With thirty years in the business, his countless press reports and the many photobooks he has published, Éric Sander is a seasoned photographer well used to working in unusual situations and remarkable places.

He began his career in 1977, as a photo editor at the GAMMA agency. 6 years later, he took himself off to Los Angeles to cover the American west, and stayed there to work as a photojournalist. He went on to spend 16 years in America, during which he made a speciality of the more out-of-the-ordinary aspects of California.



Ciel et Mer, © Éric Sander

Éric Sander is a correspondent for many of France's top magazines (VSD, L'Express, Le Figaro Magazine, Grands Reportages and Point de Vue) as well as for the American press (Time Magazine, Newsweek, Business Week, Smithsonian and National Geographic World).

### Publications (selection)

2017

*French Chateau Living: The Château du Lude*, Éd. Flammarion

*Art et nature à Chaumont-sur-Loire*, Éd. Flammarion

*Villa Astor: Paradise Restored on the Amalfi Coast*, Éd. Flammarion

2016

*Le Patrimoine, une passion, des hommes*, Éd. Autrement

2015

*Un jour à Fontainebleau*, Éd. Flammarion

*Monet à Giverny*, Éd. Gourcuff Gradenigo

2014

*Paris à fleur de pierre*, Éd. Actes Sud

*The Architecture of Diplomacy: The British Ambassador's*

*Residence in Washington*, Éd. Flammarion

*Jardins pérennes et parcs du Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire*, Éd. Eugen Ulmer

2013

*Jacques Garcia: vingt ans de passion, le château du champ de bataille*, Éd. Flammarion

*La Chatonnière Azay-Le-Rideau*, Éd. privée



Ciel et Mer, © Éric Sander

2012

*Louis Benech, douze jardins en France*, Éd. Gourcuff Gradenigo

*Chronique du Barhein*, Éd. Chronique

2011

*Les jardins du Bois des Moutiers*, Éd. Eugen Ulmer

2010

*Marqueyssac: Les jardins suspendus*, Éd. Eugen Ulmer

*Dans les jardins du Périgord*, Éd. Eugen Ulmer

*Instants de jardin*, Éd. Rustica

*Chaumont au fil des saisons*, Éd. Gourcuff Gradenigo

2006

*Attitudes*, Éd. Periplus Publishing France

*Vélos californiens*, Éd. Periplus Publishing France

*Las Vegas Mania*, Éd. Periplus Publishing France

*Le Cambodge*, Éd. Periplus Publishing France

2005

*Haciendas de Mexico - Yucatan*, Éd. Reditar Libros

*Les Copistes du Louvre*, Éd. Periplus Publishing France

2002

*La traversée des états-Unis en traction-avant*, Éd.

Techniques pour l'Automobile et l'Industrie

2004

*Le Temps Perdu des Haciendas*, Éd. Tana

2000

*Talentos Argentinos En Paris*, Éd. Larivière

1991

*Beyond the Grapes: An Inside Look at Napa Valley*, Éd.

Atomium Books



Ciel et Mer, © Éric Sander





## FRANÇOIS MÉCHAIN

"LIEUX D'ÊTRE(S)"  
LOWER "LE FENIL GALLERY"



The images by photographer and visual artist François Méchain presented in the context of Chaumont-photo-sur-Loire are reflections of the artists' in situ creations connected with nature, whose fragilities he continues to emphasise and whose beauty he exalts.

François Méchain is a French photographer and sculptor born on 27 June 1948 in Varaize, a village in Charente-Maritime that dates back to Gallo-Roman times.

He grew up in a family of farmers, and their culture, their way of life and relationship with the countryside and landscape had a profound effect on him. The idea of the horizon in its broadest sense is everywhere in his work. Not forgetting archaeology, also in the widest sense of the term, which he has made one of the major focuses of his research in the field of visual art and which he has regularly drawn upon.

In 1969, after completing his secondary schooling (literature branch) at Saint-Jean-d'Angély's, he enrolled at the Bourges School of Fine Arts, where he finished his student days as an assistant in the Art Department's photography section.

He went on to take up a career in higher education, joining Saint-Etienne's School of Fine Arts (now known as the School of Art and Design) in 1977, continuing there as a teacher of the history and practice of photography up until 2010. In parallel, from 1997 to 2008, he was regularly involved in teaching sculpture at Jean Monnet University in Saint-Étienne. He has also given a good many

masterclasses during his various artist's residences and by invitation in France and across the world, including in Canada, University of Chicoutimi UQAC (1995), masterclass



on Landscape in the context of the Arles International Photo Festival, (1996), masterclass at the Chicago Art Institute's school (2001), Provence Aix-Marseille University, with the philosopher Michel Guérin (2003 and 2006), Reunion Island School of Fine Arts, Indian Ocean (2004-2005 and 2013), Walferdange University, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (2005), Michel de Montaigne University, Bordeaux (2007), and Michel de Montaigne University Bordeaux 3 (2008) among many others. He is a life member of the Reunion Higher School of Art, Le Port, Reunion Island. The artist defines himself as a wandering photographer and sculptor. He produces sculptures, drawings and large-format photographs along with in situ installations.

He started off being represented by the Zabriskie Gallery (Paris), and then, for over thirty years, by the Michèle Chomette (Paris), with parallel representation by the Spectrum Gallery (Saragossa), the Bodo Niemann Gallery (Berlin) and the Alfa Delta Gallery (Athens).



He has been awarded a range of grants during the course of his career, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Leonardo da Vinci Prize for his Quebec project (1990), the Visual Arts Delegation's FIACRE grant for his Crestet project (1991) and the Canadian government's research grant at the Banff Art Centre (1991).

Starting off with silver-process photography, his work has continued to evolve ever since: "Equivalences" series, "Animal Geographies" series and "Sculptures Fictions" series, to finally focus on in situ work, the fruit of numerous commissions in France and abroad.

He has shown his work in over 400 solo and collective exhibitions in 27 countries.

His works feature in many private collections, including Angers' Artothèque, Annecy's Artothèque, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (Paris), National Collection of Contemporary Art (Paris), FRAC Pays de Loire, FRAC Poitou-Charentes, L'Imagerie (Lannion), Crestet's Art Centre (Vaison-la-Romaine), Galería Spectrum-Sotos (Saragossa, Spain), National Museum of Modern Art - Centre Pompidou (Paris), Calais' Museum of Fine Arts and Lace, Museet for Fotokunst, Kunsthallen Brandts Klaedefabrik (Odense, Denmark), City of Niort, Bühl Foundation (New York, USA), Museum of Photography and Contemporary Art (Charleroi, Belgium), EDF-Centrale Collection in Civaux, Nei Licht Collection (City of Dudelange, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg), Centro de Artes Visuais Collection, Encontros de Fotografia (Coimbra, Portugal), Chasanoff Collection, Fine Arts Museum (Houston, USA), Centro Galego de Artes da Imaxe Collection (Saint James of Compostela, Spain), Centro de Arte y Naturaleza "Fundación Beulas" Collection, (Huesca, Spain), Amiens' Artothèque, and La Casa de la Imagen (Logroño, Spain).