

PRESS RELEASE

orbis
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Galerie

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mardi > samedi 11h > 19h

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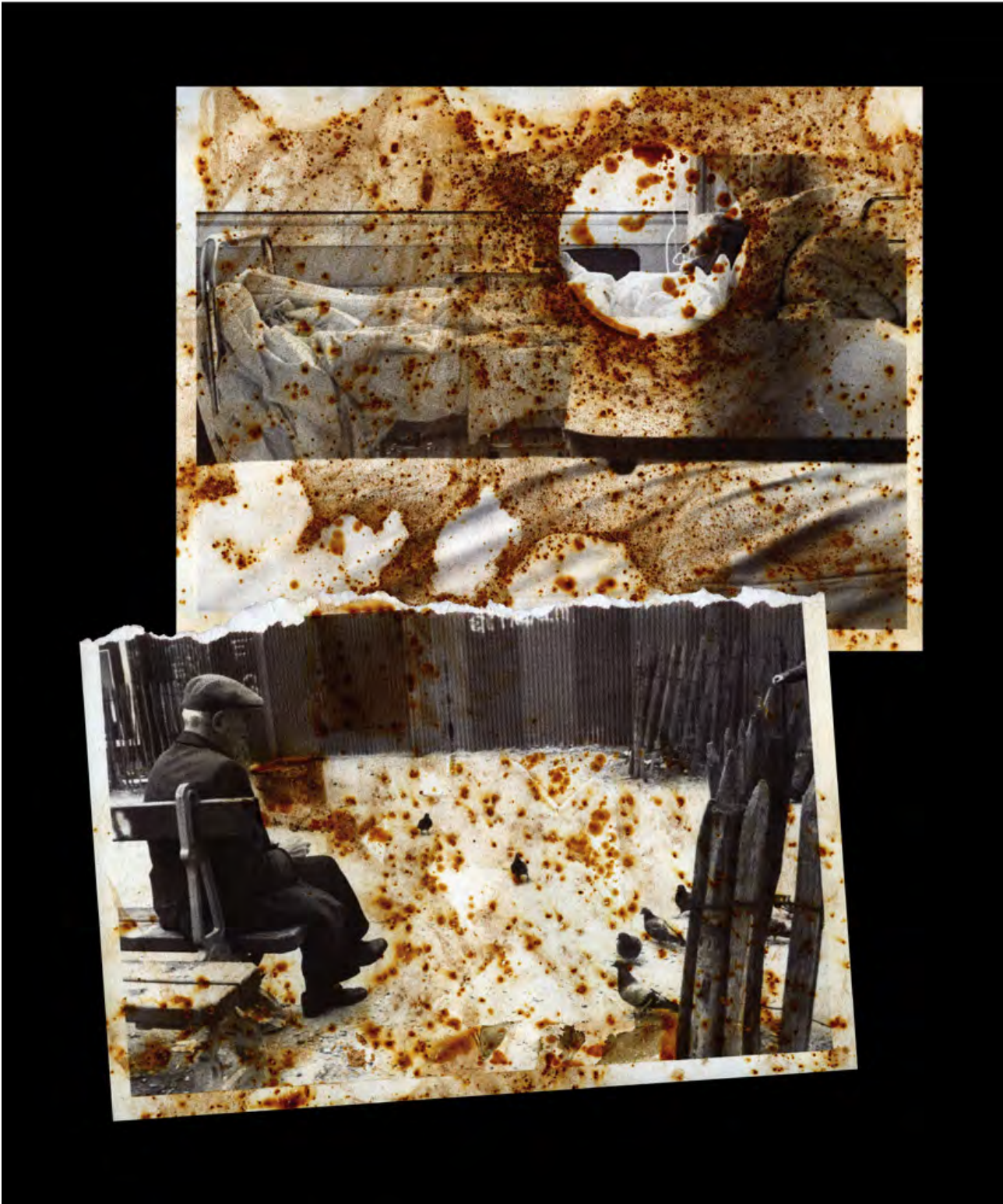
Jean Yves Cousseau

QUOI QU'IL EN SOIT (BE THAT AS IT MAY)

Exhibition

25 May / 1 July 23

Opening reception on 1 June from 6pm



Voir venir et venir voir

© Jean Yves Cousseau

Valence, 2013/2023

Oxidized prints on Arches paper 1/1

Diptych 50 x 42 cm



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Is it the passage of time or the timelessness of situations? With his photographs, Jean Yves Cousseau invites us to enter into the details of the world, to look closely, often even very closely, as if it were a question of making us feel its radical materiality. He confronts us with a certain reality, making it tangible without much explanation, forcing our gaze to stop on what we could naturally turn away from, too quickly.

The viewpoints in his new series *Quoi qu'il en soit...* presented at Orbis pictus are crossed and staged in singular diptychs whose images are repeated and linked to unfold a story that is often intimate, sometimes familial, always modest despite the very explicit details, yet timeless thanks to a perfect mastery of the process of oxidation that the photographer employs and masters, intervening after the chemicals take effect over time.

As always, Jean Yves Cousseau transforms the photographs, erasing any notion of temporality in order not to risk being confined to a nostalgic posture.

An iconoclastic gesture?

He chooses to flay all his photographs and to oxidize many of these prints.

Subjected to this assault, the photographs undergo metamorphoses that reinforce or alter the meanings they carry: rust, stains and scratches are inscribed on them, reviving them by instilling a new memory and contributing to the work's reflection of time.

For Jean Yves Cousseau, to take a photograph is not to record reality but to work upon the medium. Isn't this an approach worthy of a contemporary ecologist who is devoted to his environment?

Like the photographic impression, these images of the artist with their evocative and poetic titles remain engraved in our memory without our being able to locate them in space and time.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a book co-edited by art3 Plessis Editions and Orbis pictus, enriched with poems by Alain Madeleine-Perdrillat, especially composed for his long-time friend, and an afterword by Gaëlle Périot-Bled, who knows how to define all the facets of the oxidation with subtlety and precision.

Photography and poetry will cross paths throughout the month of June at the Orbis pictus gallery.

Sitor Senghor
director





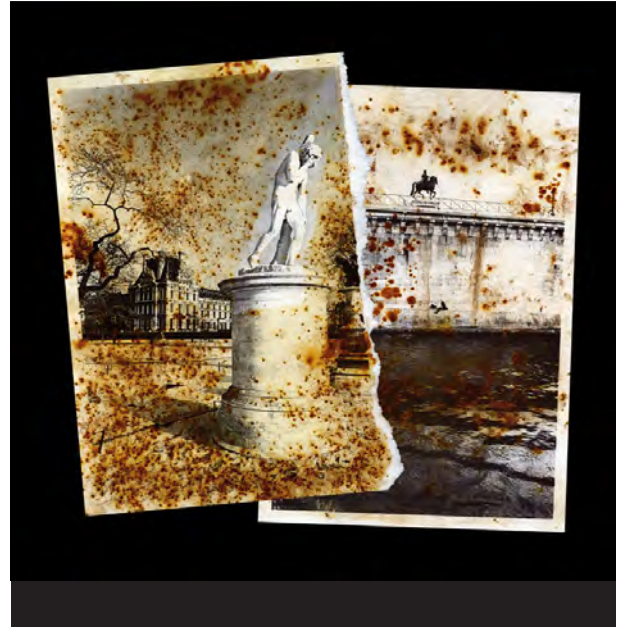
Adam et Cain

Valence, 2013/2023

Oxidized prints on Arches paper 1/1

Diptych 43 x 41 cm

© Jean Yves Cousseau



Sites et rondes-bosses

Valence, 2013/2023

Oxidized prints on Arches paper 1/1

Diptych 43 x 41 cm

© Jean Yves Cousseau



Dans le silence

Valence, 2013/2023

Oxidized prints on Arches paper 1/1

Diptych 41 x 43 cm

© Jean Yves Cousseau



Métaphore

Valence, 2013/2023

Oxidized prints on Arches paper 1/1

Diptych 39 x 53 cm

© Jean Yves Cousseau





Tendre la main
Rodin, Monument à Victor Hugo, détail
Fonderie de Coubertin, 2005/2009
Oxidized prints on Arches paper 1/1
Dptych 90 x 120 cm
© Jean Yves Cousseau



Biography

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© Janaka Samarakoon. Courtesy Jean Yves Cousseau

French artist Jean-Yves Cousseau lives and works in the greater Paris area. Born in 1953, he graduated from the École des Beaux-arts de Nantes.

For many years, his artistic approach has been mainly linked to photography, with occasional incursions, explorations, and experiments, over the course of exhibitions, in fields as different as video and installations.

His personal writing is as much about the photographic subject, its representation and immediacy, as it is about the alteration of the photographic work itself. By subjecting his photography to prolonged stays in water, to bad weather, making it shift from one state to another, modified by organic deposits or by chemical phenomena (oxidation, erosion of the sensitive emulsion...), he reveals the working of time; time putting its mark on it, endowing the work with a new memory.

My images undergo metamorphoses that free them from their terrible stasis. That the photograph which always speaks to the past - to what has been - exposes itself to the vicissitudes of the present.

Jean Yves Cousseau, interview 2022



© Alain Longuet –
Courtesy Jean Yves Cousseau

His photographs are often assembled, creating polyptychs or installations, intimate or monumental, in which elements such as old mirrors, broken windows and various materials guide us towards an increasingly sensitive and penetrating approach to the work.

Author of several works and artist's books in collaboration with other writers, Jean Yves Cousseau has been exhibiting his works in France and Europe for over 30 years. He has also worked as a scenographer and has provided the graphic design for numerous museum catalogues.

His works can be found in numerous public collections such as: the Musée Rodin (Paris), the Musée Départemental des Hautes-Alpes (Gap), the Fondation de Coubertin (Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse), the Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris), the Bibliothèque Municipale de Nantes (heritage sector), the Fonds Départemental d'Art Contemporain in Chamarande...



© Philippe Dureuil – Courtesy Jean Yves Cousseau



Selection of solo exhibitions

2023

Galerie Orbis pictus, Paris | *Quoi qu'il en soit...*

2019

Médiathèque Jacques Demy, Nantes | *Pas perdus*

Domaine départemental, Chamarande | *Vis à vis*

Alliance française, Chicago (USA) | *Pas perdus*

2018

Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Cholet | *Pas perdus*

2017

Maison européenne de la Photographie, Paris | *Dans la nuit, la matière*

Galerie Robert Art Room, Paris | *Petites poses et autres dispositifs*

2014

Musée Museum départemental, Gap | *Quand la matière devient forme*

2011

Fondation de Coubertin, Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse | *Un Regard sur Rodin* Centre culturel international, Cerisy-la-Salle (video) | *Vestiges*

2009-2010

Galerie du Théâtre, scène nationale, Privas | *Vestiges* Château de Montmaur | *Oxydations*

2007-2008

Musée Museum départemental, Gap | *Quantités discrètes*

Musée Museum départemental, Gap | *Oxydations*

Chapelle Saint-Éloi, Domaine de Soucy | *Rescapés*

Studio Carl-design, Paris | *Nuée*

Domaine de Quincampoix | *Immersion*

2005-2006

Musée Museum départemental, Gap | *Sentiments*

Musée Museum départemental, Gap | *Nuée*

Fondation Pierre Gianadda, Martigny (Switzerland)

Centre culturel international, Cerisy-la-Salle | *Manière noire*

2004

SUN Executive Center, Paris | *Photographies 1990-1993*

2003

Centre d'art contemporain, Viviers | *Intimités*

2002

Galerie Pierre Brullé, Paris | *A tempera*

2001

Musée du Luxembourg, Paris | *Une voie vers la sculpture durant Rodin en 1900* Centre Boris Vian, Les Ulis | *Photographies*

2000

Centre d'Art contemporain, La Passerelle, Brest

1999

Galerie Pierre Brullé, Paris | *Assez peu et autres choses*

Pennings Gallery, Eindhoven (Netherlands) | *Assez*

peu et autres choses Vízivárosi Galéria, Institut français, Budapest (Hungary) | *Intervalles*

1998

Galerie du théâtre, scène nationale, Évry | *Hommages et Petites poses*

Musée français de la Photographie, Bievres | *photographie(s)*

1997

Fotografie Forum, Frankfurt (Germany) | *Mémentos*

1994

Espace Cotos, Saint-Tropez | *Images plurielles*

1992

Centre national de la Bande dessinée et de l'Image, Angoulême

Galerie Archide, Paris

1991

Centre international de Poésie, Marseille | *Intempéries*

1990

Centre d'Art contemporain, Chatou | *La Fureur de lire*

1989

Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt (Germany);

Bibliothèque municipale, Lyon

1988

Festival « Poétiques », Marne-la-Vallée

1987

Fondation Royaumont | *Lieux d'écrits*

Selection of group exhibitions

2022

Galerie La Ralentie, Paris | *Trio*

2016

Autour des éditions I.S., galerie Arts 06, Nice; médiathèque Les Quatre-Chemins, La Trinité

2013

Autour des éditions I.S., Espace Lucien Prigent, Landivisiau



2010

Musée Museum départemental, Gap | *Repères*

2009

Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris (video) | *Eaux dormantes?*

2006

Musée Museum départemental, Gap | *Subtiles présences*

2005

Red Box, Barjols (projections vidéo) | *Nuée et nébulés*

Festival midi/minuit, Viviers (projections vidéo) |

Immersion

Bolt Galéria/Óbudai Társasköi Galéria, Budapest

(Hungary) | *Still life*

2004

Centre culturel Olivier de Serres, Le Pradel

Red Box, Barjols (video) | *Parole sèche, parole humide et*

immersion

2000

Galerie Pierre Brullé, Paris | *Photographie*

Galerie du théâtre, scène nationale, Évry | *Du fonds, du cœur*

Domaine de Trévarez, Saint-Goazec | *Apparitions*

1999

La Collection, Hôtel de Ville, Choisy-le-Roi

Paris Photo, Fotografie Forum de Frankfurt

(Germany), Carrousel du Louvre, Paris

1997-1998

Musée national de la Coopération franco-américaine,

Blérancourt | *Une fleur, des photographes, l'arum*

Paris Photo, Fotografie Forum de Frankfurt

(Germany), Carrousel du Louvre, Paris

1986

Archipel, Grand Palais, Paris

1985

Nouvelles fictions vidéo en France, Musée d'Art

Moderne de la Ville de Paris, ARC, Paris

Selected bibliography

2023

Quoi qu'il en soit..., photographies, texts Alain Madeleine-Perdrillat, afterword Gaëlle Périot-Bled, coéditions Art3 Plessis / Orbis pictus.

2022

Dualités, photographies, texts by Claude Ber,

Claudine Bohi, Sarah Clément, Hania Daoud, Carole

Darricarrère, Catherine Jullien, Claire Le Cam,

Marcelline Roux et Anne Talvaz, éditions Art3 Plessis,

2022.

2019

Une Ombre dans les intempéries de l'œil, text Alain

Madeleine-Perdrillat, éditions Art3 Plessis.

2018

Pas perdus, photographies, textes de 65 écrivains disparus, éditions Art3 Plessis. 2016

Intempéries, photographies, texts Éric Audinet, Tom Raworth, Sarah Clément, Plounéour-Ménez, éditions isabelle sauvage.

2015

Petite épopée, photographies oxydées, text Édith Azam,

coéditions isabelle sauvage, Plounéour-Ménez and

école supérieure d'Art et Design, Grenoble-Valence.

2011

Sommes, photographies, text Jean-Pascal Dubost,

Plounéour-Ménez, éditions isabelle sauvage.

2006

Manière noire, text Alain Madeleine-Perdrillat and Antoinette Le Normand-Romain and Alain Rebours, éditions Fage.

Quantités discrètes, text Jean-Louis Poitevin, Sarah

Clément, Carole Darricarrère, Tom Raworth, Alain

Rebours, Alain Madeleine-Perdrillat, Stéphane

Crémer, Frédérique Verlinden, Musée Museum

départemental, Gap, éditions Fage.

2002

A tempera, texte Alain Madeleine-Perdrillat, Paris,

Galerie Pierre Brullé.

2001

Une voie vers la sculpture, text Alain Madeleine-Perdrillat, within the exhibition « Rodin en 1900 », Paris, Musée du Luxembourg.

1991

Les Animaux de personne, illustrations Marie Borel,

poems Jacques Roubaud, Paris, Seghers.

1988

Mise au point-virgule, photographies coloriées, texts Nicole Peskine and Françoise Pillet, ouvrage collectif, éditions du Centre national d'Art dramatique pour l'Enfance et la Jeunesse.





Dans "la forêt obscure", Mulleron, 2019

Oxidized barita paper 1/1 - 53 x 68 cm



Alcools, Paris, 1987 / 2004

Oxidized barita paper 1/1 - 101 x 149 cm