



FONDATION
FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

EAUX TROUBLES, EAUX CALMES



Font du surf, Série Paparazzis, 2012 © Mazaccio & Drowilal

An exhibition of photographs and video
Curated by François Hébel

18th June – 11th September 2016
Press Meeting and PV on Friday 17th June

Table of contents – press release

Press statement	3
Artists	6
Curator – François Hébel	10
Events linked to the exhibition	11
The François Schneider Fondation	12
Practical Information	13
Available pictures	15

Press Statement :

Eaux troubles, Eaux calmes

At the *Fondation François Schneider*

Exceptional artists all presented in one exhibition:

An exhibition of photographs and video of Philippe Chancel, Lucien Clergue, Jean Gaumy, Brian Griffin, Harry Gruyaert, Naoya Hatakeyama, Mazaccio & Drowilal, Arno Rafael Minkinen, Gonzalo Lebrija, Martin Parr, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Alain Willaume.

« Water is life's basic component. Its impurity can be frightening; its absence instigates conflict; its abundance leads to generosity and joy. These contrasts are inherent to its nature. For the artist who, through photography or cinematography, is in search of poetry, water is a challenge, a difficult matter to handle. Once again, we deal in contrasts: water, snow, fog, waterfall, wave, these aspects are visually too flat, too fluid, too plain, to be food for a visual artist, unless it is to make those visionless pictures of nature that are often lumped under the term "postcard".

In this exhibition, 12 great photographers and cinematographers who have overcome these difficulties to bring us visual essays where water, liquid, solid, or gaseous, is the central theme. These projects showcase the extraordinary diversity of this ever-so-familiar element, in styles ranging from documentaries to introspections, some graphical, some contemplative, and always with water as their lead actor.

Hiroshi Sugimoto's minimalist marine horizons are now an important part of photographic history. Several generations have been moved by

Lucien Clergue's photos of nude models stepping out of the waves or bathing in the Camargue sun. Although it took him a long time to realize it,

Harry Gruyaert has been attracted to the shore his whole life, so much so that he gathered all his coastal landscapes into a highly successful book.

Martin Parr first achieved success with his black & white photos of English people in the rain, a success confirmed by his colour photos of popular beaches. Through cuttings, collages, and montages from tabloids,

Mazaccio & Drowilal observe, with bemused detachment, how the press often combines celebrities and water-side leisure.

Jean Gaumy witnesses the hard life of a fisherman, positing that only the rough sea is worth photographing.

The Japanese coast has been ravaged by the sea, a fact that **Philippe Chancel** has recorded in his spectacular geo-localised photos.

In an effort to cure the sufferings of the soul, **Arno Rafael Minkkinen** twists bodies in a quest for an absolute beauty whose only equivalent can be found in nature.

Brian Griffin invented a machine to take portraits through water, and it only took him 40 years to find the perfect use for it.

Alain Willaume demonstrates the coherence of the European territory, a land whose many extremities are confined by oceans, seas, and lakes.

Gonzalo Lebrija takes us on a leisure trip on sail boat, but in the absence of a helmsman, we know not where we are headed.

In photography, no subject is considered poor. The most difficult subjects are those who stray from the event or the three dimensional representation, the most demanding are those that deal with the immaterial. These two aspects are gathered here around exceptional artists who take us on a bridge over both quiet and troubled waters.

François Hébel

Curator of the exhibition

A Foundation, a theme:

Directed by Léa Guzzo, the *François Schneider Fondation* encourages the imagination of the visitors thanks to its theme: the water. This exhibition brings new perspectives on this element. A gorgeous exhibition catalogue of 104 pages is also available for sale.

« In the heart of the Alsatian village of Wattwiller lies our wonderful Foundation:

2 500 m² of exhibition space dedicated to contemporary art and, more specifically, to the discovery of new and emerging talents. Water is at the core of our program. We have invited the curator François Hébel to share his vision of our theme, through the eyes of well-established and rising artists.

This exhibition will undoubtedly inspire many people and I am delighted that you are able to bring a part of it home with you.

Capture the quiet sensuality of Sugimoto's landscapes; imbibe in the threatening atmosphere of Hatakeyama's work; meet Martin Parr's rain-soaked yet phlegmatic British; and smile at the photo-collages of Mazaccio & Drowilal.

Where water is not at life's core, it is at the very least on the outskirts. This idea is one of the Foundation's pillars: to bring all the richness of contemporary art to a rural setting.

Through various initiatives, such as the "Talents Contemporains" competition, we help artists develop their work, gain visibility, and further their career. As an incubator for contemporary art, we support and accompany artists on their paths through the acquisition of their work, financial support, exhibitions, publications, residencies, training programs to develop new skills, and by giving them access to our networks. Possibilities are endless, as is our ambition.

And for the public, who will always be at the heart of our considerations, our exhibitions are punctuated by various exchanges, meetings and events, bringing you a deep and meaningful experience.

With the hope of welcoming you back soon.»

Léa Guzzo

Director of the Fondation François Schneider

Artists :

Texts from François Hébel



Philippe Chancel : After years spent chronicling the world of art, the French photographer has been looking for new ways to visually translate various special regions of the world: North Korea, petro-dictatorships, and for this project, the tsunami that hit Japan. All of his projects, whether in book form or exhibits, have been very successful. The photos here are presented with their geo-localisation, to confront the brutality of the facts with the reality of the planetary stakes.

Fukushima, Fukushima, 2011



Lucien Clergue : In the 60s, his nude photos in the Camargue were highly successful. They illustrated a celebration of life and the sexual liberation. The cover art of his first books were drawn by Picasso, while the photos illustrated poems by Paul Éluard. He was the founder of the annual photography festival “Les Rencontres d’Arles” and was the first photographer to become a member of the Institut de France.

Nu de la mer, Camargue, 1957



Jean Gaumy : Armed with the conviction that only photos of a rough sea can convey the hardships of a fisherman’s work, this member of Magnum Photos, who is also known for photographing and filming in submarines, has received many prizes for his work. As a photographer, he has been made a part of the French Académie des Beaux-Arts in 2016.

A bord du chalutier français «Koros»



Brian Griffin : With his deadpan humour, the British photographer has constantly challenged the genre of portrait photography, be it for corporate commissioned photos or rock album covers. His uncommon touch with people has allowed him to manipulate his subjects into the oddest positions.

His work for Iceland's water management company is another testimony to his imaginative methods.

Une personne de l'eau, série «The Water People



Harry Gruyaert : The Belgian member of Magnum Photos was a pioneer in the use of colour in documentary photography, and its retrospective at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris was as popular as his best selling book "Rivages". His interest lies not so much in the photo's subject, but in the landscapes as material to be organised in a frame.

France, Baie de Somme, Fort Mahon plage, 1991



Naoya Hatakeyama : With already many famous collections and a passion for industrial and urban landscapes, Hatakeyama is one of the rare Japanese photographers to use colour. The work presented here, commissioned by the "Rencontres d'Arles", was taken on two neighbouring shores of the Mediterranean sea, the Crau and the Camargue, and is a comparison between their swamplands and industrial atmospheres.

Atmos,2003



Mazzacio et Drowilal : With an alias that sounds like a stage name, these two young French artists make fun of the tabloids' tendencies to redundantly picture famous people on holiday, using repetition as a source of humour in their photomontages: surf, seaside mansions on tiny islands, golfing... The exceptional made trivial through accumulation.

L'île, Série Paparazzis, 2014



Arno Rafael Minkinen : His rejection by his own mother because he was born with a harelip has lead Arno Rafael Minkinen to a life of selfportraits, in order to prove to her how beautiful his body was.

His alliance with Nature, especially in Finland, is an expansive work of art, as beautiful as it is deeply painful, and as cheerful as it is to us, it is doubtful whether it soothes him.

Le roi de Fosters Pond, 2013



Gonzalo Lebrija : A calm sea, a light breeze, its all so quiet. How far and where will this skipper-less boat drift to? Such is the fascinating, and gradually frightening, question posed by the video of this multi-talented Mexican artist.

Golden Hours - Vidéo couleur et son. 11 mn 21. 2015.



Martin Parr : This British member of Magnum Photos is famous for his sense of humour vis-à-vis his contemporaries, a characteristic that has also made him very influent. He qualifies himself as a "middle class photographer", sharing the same background as his subject matter: the British, in the rain or on the Liverpool area's popular beaches.

Grande Bretagne, Angleterre, Brighton. De la série «The last resort» [La dernière station balnéaire], 1983-85



Hiroshi Sugimoto :

This Japanese artist is one of the most highly regarded contemporary photographers, particularly admired for his seascapes and immaculate silver screens.

His subjects' starkness together with the use of long exposure allows him to create full and rich photos. Hiroshi Sugimoto expresses quietness through the contemplation of the meeting between air and water.

Mer celtique, Boscastle,1994



Alain Willaume : This great traveller and member of the "Tendance Floue" collective has spent three years aboard a truck visiting the furthest extremities of Europe, most of which are bordered by water. His world transforms the banality of these scenes into actor-less cinematic backdrops.

Série De Finibus Terrae. Duncansby Head.Royaume-Uni.

Curator – François Hébel

Since 1980, François Hébel has created or produced many exhibits, books, photographic shows, and educational projects.

In 2017, François Hébel will be the artistic director for the first edition of the Mois de la Photo du Grand Paris (April) that succeeds to the Mois de la Photo à Paris (biennial since 1980), and for Foto-Industria (October), third edition of the festival he created in Bologna, Italy.

Recently, François Hébel carried out an exhibition about war memorials of the First World War at the Panthéon (Paris) in May 2016, the “French Protocole” season at the FIAF (New York) in 2015 and 2016, the Harry Gruyaert exhibit at the MEP (Paris) in 2015, the Lucien Clergue exhibit (with Christian Lacroix) at the Grand Palais (Paris) in 2015. He co-curated the Chongqing biennial (China) in 2015 and is a consultant for the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson.

He has also twice redefined the Rencontres de la Photographie d’Arles, which he was in charge of in 1986, 1987, and from 2002 to 2014.

As director of Magnum-Photos from 1987 to 2000, he structured the Paris office as well as its international network, digitalised the archives as early as 1989, created events around the archived collections and the photographers, and developed production in various domains.

As vice president of Corbis, in charge of the integration of the European editions from 2000 to 2001, he was instrumental in the creation of a new type of contract that helped usher photographers into the digital age.

Events linked to the exhibition...

Exceptional tour commented by the artists Philippe Chancel, Harry Gruyaert and Alain Willaume. With the presence of François Hébel –curator of this exhibition and Léa Guzzo – Director of the Fondation François Schneider.

Saturday 18th June – 2:30pm

Price : Free tour if you buy your entrance fee for the foundation

Guided tour in French and in English

Guided tours on Sunday at 3 PM in French and 4:30 PM in English (booking on info@fondationfrancoisschneider.org)

Sundays 10th July, 24th July, 21st August and 11th September 2016.

Price : Free tour if you buy your entrance fee for the foundation

Night of the Stars

Saturday 5th August from 9PM to 11 PM

9PM : guided tour of the exhibition *Eaux troubles, Eaux calmes* in echo with the Night of the Stars. From 10PM, spend time on our terrace and get attracted by the stars!

Booking compulsory: info@fondationfrancoisschneider.org

Price : Free event if you buy your entrance fee for the foundation

Workshops

Thursday 28th July: children workshops (6 to 12 y.o) 2PM to 4PM + a delicious cake break

Booking compulsory: info@fondationfrancoisschneider.org

Price : 3 euros

Sunday 14th August: a fun visit of the exhibition + workshop for children and their adults friends – 2PM to 5PM with Cake Break

Price : Free event if you buy your entrance fee for the foundation+ 3 euros per child

Event day

Thursday 14th July : Bastille Day – As you are waiting for the “fire show”, spend some time with us!

Price : Free event if you buy your entrance fee for the foundation

La Fondation François Schneider



The *Fondation François Schneider* was created in December 2000, and officially recognised as a public interest organisation in 2005.

Since day one, it has pursued the two goals expressed by its founder: help underprivileged youths to obtain higher education, and support contemporary artists to gain recognition.

The Foundation's centre for contemporary art is situated in the Alsatian village of Wattwiller (France). Its 2 500m² of exhibition space are dedicated to one central theme: water. Through several initiatives, such as the "Contemporary Talents" competition, the Foundation helps artists develop their careers by acquiring their work and giving them the visibility they need



Practical information :

Director	Léa GUZZO
Press Contact	Elodie GRAFF e.graff@fondationfrancoisschneider.org + 33 (0)3 89.82.10.10
Press Trip Press Meeting	individual, on request Friday 17th June at 2PM with: François Hébel, Curator, Léa Guzzo, Director of the Foundation Brian Griffin, Artist Philippe Chancel, Artist
Dates	Du 18 juin au 11 septembre 2016
Entry	7€ 5€ (Jobseekers, children from 12 to 18 y.o, teachers, students, group of 10 minimum, disabled, and visitors over 65) Free admission: children under 12, ICOM card, Museums-PASS-Musées and PASS WATT
Opening Times	From Wednesday to Sunday – 10 AM to 6 PM
Guided Tour	On request for groups Program of events: page 17
Publication :	Eaux troubles, Eaux calmes –Catalogue of 104 pages, available for sale at 30€

Fondation François Schneider

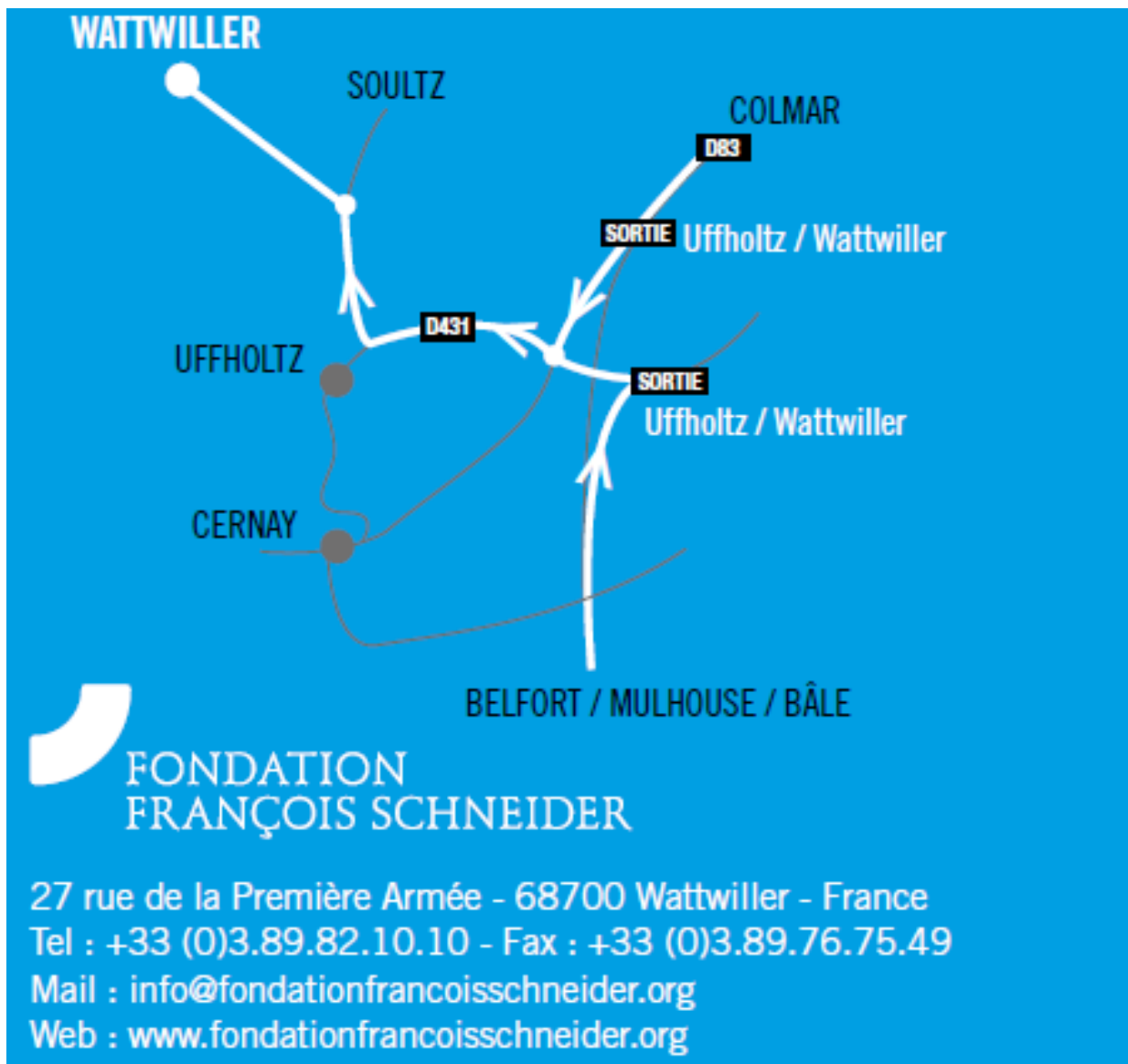
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www.fondationfrancoisschneider.org

Accès



Mulhouse Train Station - 30 min by car

Colmar Train Station - 30 min by car

International airport of Mulhouse/Basel at 30 min by car

From Paris, direct trains between Paris Gare de Lyon and Mulhouse.

Pictures available on request + credits

On request: 0033 33 89 82 10 10 / Elodie GRAFF - e.graff@fondationfrancoisschneider.org



1/ Font du surf, Série Paparazzis, 2012 © Mazaccio & Drowilal



2/ De Finibus Terrae © Alain Willaume



3/ France, Picardie, Baie de Somme, Fort Mahon Plage, 1991 © Harry Gruyaert /Magnum Photos