

LEARNING FROM LOS ANGELES

FRANÇOIS BELLABAS, OLIVIER CABLAT
MARINA GADONNEIX, NICOLAS GIRAUD

FROM 05 NOVEMBER 2022 TO 29 JANUARY 2023

MEDIA
RELEASE

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LEARNING FROM LOS ANGELES

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The Centre Photographique Marseille presents an exhibition featuring four artists, all graduates of the ENSP national school of photography, who produced work in the Los Angeles area.

© Nicolas Giraud

FRIDAY 04 NOVEMBER 2022

• **Media Visit at 11h00**

• **VIP Vernissage at 17h00**

• **Public Vernissage from 19h00 to 21h00**

EXHIBITION FROM 05 NOVEMBER 2022 TO 26 JANUARY 2023

Wednesdays to Saturdays from 14h00 to 19h00.

Closed between 21 December 2022 and 03 January 2023.

Co-produced with the ENSP national photography school in Arles on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, in the framework of the Photo Marseille festival. In partnership with the ENSA Marseille architecture school, FRAC Provence Alpes Côte-d'Azur, FID Marseille and Videodrome2.

Four artists consider a single question: in what way has Los Angeles emerged as a generic model of contemporary society? And how does the city's forms and built environment serve as a prototype for the organization of the post-industrial world?

Leaving behind Hollywood folklore and the fantasy of sunny California, the photographers seek to understand what happens in the research laboratories, on the freeway interchanges, behind the façades, and within the canyons that surround Los Angeles.

Inspired by the seminal architectural work *Learning from Las Vegas* by Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven Izenour, the photographer **Olivier Cablat** explores the vernacular architecture of Los Angeles. By making an inventory of decorative buildings, he traces the idea of a "spectacularization" of architecture. **François Bellabas** deconstructs the city and its infrastructure to create an infinite traffic system. The resulting city model echoes Chris Burden's kinetic sculpture *Metropolis* and its abstract space of perpetual automobile movements. **Marina Gadonneix** explores California's technical history and its role as a vast scientific laboratory where researchers simulate theoretically elusive events that incite wonder or trigger disaster. Her enigmatic interiors prompt observers to contemplate how the image also serves as an instrument for the conquest of space. The world's catastrophic horizons are manifested in the visual compositions developed by **Nicolas Giraud**. The giant fires that ravage California are an embodiment of a world on the brink.

The juxtaposition of these four different perspectives serves as an attempt to decipher the lessons of Los Angeles.

FRANÇOIS BELLABAS

Born in 1989, François Bellabas lives and works in Paris and Los Angeles. A technophile and engineer at heart, he likes to experiment with the different levels of reality that emanate from the practice of photography.

The artistic work proposed by François Bellabas is based on the Los Angeles highway infrastructure. Using a series of photographs he began taking in 2016, he reconstructs 3D modules that allow him to develop virtual road networks. Using technology, he offers a new experience of traffic and its flow. His installation brings together different phases of the project as a form of construction-deconstruction, a passage from one virtuality to another.



François Bellabas, *MOTORSTUDIES_TIRERIBBON_Sculptroad_001*, 2021
© François Bellabas

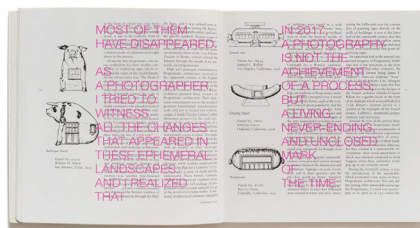
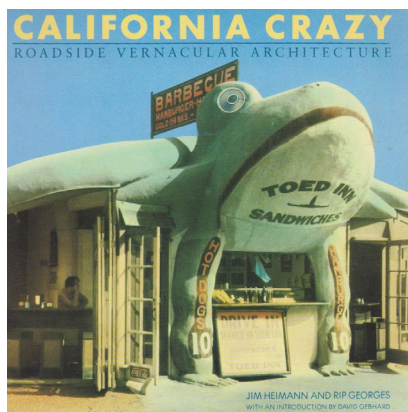


François Bellabas, *MS_DATABASE_Drive by shooting_005*, 2016
© François Bellabas

OLIVIER CABLAT

Born in 1978, Olivier Cablat lives and works in Arles. He is interested in vernacular culture as seen through different media and practices such as photography, architecture, archaeology, publishing, and digital research.

Olivier Cablat presents work that is an augmentation of the groundbreaking book *California Crazy: Roadside Vernacular Architecture*. Thirty years after its publication, Cablat has created an enhanced inventory of the sites in the book, hacking the original work to give it added historical and photographic depth.

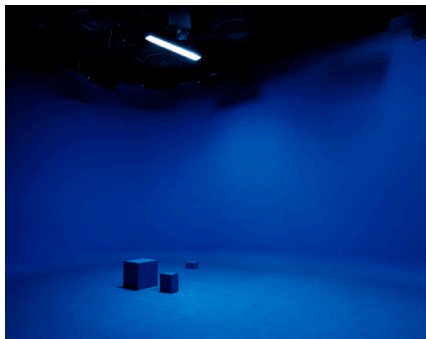


Olivier Cablat, 2022
© Olivier Cablat

MARINA GADONNEIX

Born in 1977, Marina Gadonneix lives and works in Paris. Her work questions the materiality of what we see as it oscillates between fiction and reality, between staged and documentary images. She is represented by the Galerie Christophe Gaillard (Paris).

The work shown by Marina Gadonneix is based on research she conducted for her series *Phenomena*. The images come from the Jet Propulsion Lab, the legendary research center dedicated to the conquest of space, and the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, the experimental facility that detects cosmic rays. The photographs play with the different strata of representations produced by technology and the imaginary.



Marina Gadonneix, *Untitled (Battle Field)*, 2012
© Marina Gadonneix



Marina Gadonneix, *Untitled (moon)*, 2022
© Marina Gadonneix

NICOLAS GIRAUD

Born in 1978, Nicolas Giraud lives and works in Paris. His visual and theoretical work revolves around the mechanisms that underpin the construction and circulation of images. He is represented by the mfc-michèle didier gallery (Paris) and the Dumont Gallery (Los Angeles).

The work presented by Nicolas Giraud is designed around the notion of an archive of disaster. This open archive is composed of several sets of works that explore the shift from a stable to a precarious landscape.



Nicolas Giraud, *Tokyo (Tokyo)*, 2022.
© Nicolas Giraud



Nicolas Giraud, *Twice destroyed by fire*, 2022.
© Nicolas Giraud

THE CENTRE PHOTOGRAPHIQUE MARSEILLE

Everyone is a photographer

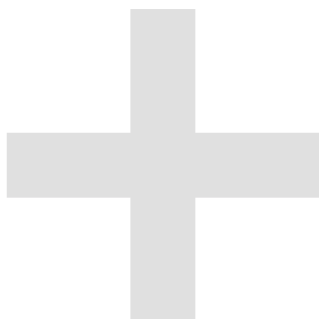
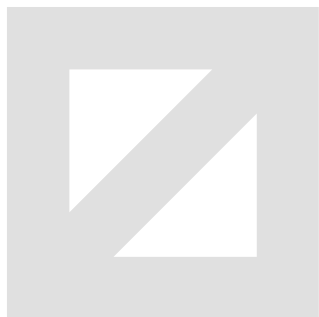
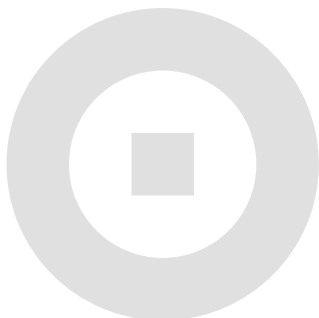
The Centre Photographique Marseille (CPM) is managed by the association Les Ateliers de l'Image. It is an artistic venue that is devoted entirely to contemporary photography and is open to everyone. Its mission is to exhibit, experiment, share, discover, educate, and entertain, as well as to support the general public in their efforts to learn more about photography and to help develop community initiatives based on photography.

The Ateliers de l'Image have been offering artistic and educational activities in and around Marseille for a number of years. Based in the heart of the Le Panier district for 22 years, the association has established a regular working relationship with local and international artists to develop artistic activities linked to contemporary photography that are accessible to the general public. The CPM is nourished by the numerous initiatives already undertaken by the association, whether it be cooperation with schools, social service partners, or stakeholders from the educational, social, or economic sectors.

The CPM motto, *Everyone is a photographer*, is an invitation for discussion. Today, with digital technology and social networks, everyone can take and share images. We increasingly need to take a step back from the image, to take time for contemplation and to exchange ideas about professional practices. The CPM responds to this growing need, in a city that is experiencing a revival of interest in photography, by proposing a multitude of initiatives aimed at supporting creation in all its forms, including Nuit de l'Instant, Polyptyque, Patrimoine Commun, and Pytheas.

Supported and financed by the City of Marseille, the Bouches-du-Rhône Department, the Sud Alpes-Provence-Côte d'Azur Region, the Ministry of Culture, occasional private sponsorships, and its own activities, the priority for the CPM is to support artists and creation and foster education about photography and the image. By focusing attention to the artist's own approach, the Centre also aims to present multiple perspectives, diverse practices, and original works of art..





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For any media request or communication enquiry, please write to us at:
communication@centrephotomarseille.fr

For all group reservation requests, please write to us at:
mediation@centrephotomarseille.fr

TIMES AND ACCESS

Wednesday to Saturday
14h00 to 19h00

74 rue de la Joliette, 13002 Marseille
Metro Line 2: Joliette station (Take the Rue de la République exit)
Tram 2 or 3 / Bus 55 or 82 (République-Dames stop)

Free entry
Reservation required for group visits

Our administrative offices are open Monday to Thursday from 09h30 to 12h30.

The Centre Photographique Marseille is accessible to people with reduced mobility.

www.centrephotomarseille.fr



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