

Pierre-Yves Racine
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My work tries to report on the experience of a place. To build, to wander, to show or portray it : these gestures allow us *to be in* the place. I initiate actions that have to do with the documentary or the conceptual in order to tell or to grasp a place, the people who live in it, those who make it what it is.

The length of the experience and the size of the place may vary : I could be hiding and be on the lookout for a few minutes or slowly going from one place to another during several years, walking for a couple of hours or endlessly going back and forth. Stretching the place, stretching the time, time of the experience or time for experimentation.

Whether it takes the form of a collection of materials and documents, or that of an installation or a publication, these gestures often begin with a walk and with photography, and try to deploy on location, in the public place or in the place where they originate. They try to raise debate and actions, to get the archive out of the shelf and art out of the workshop.



Prairies
(2012- in progress)



Près de chez Amélie (2012), series *Le fonds*, inkjet print on baryta paper, 42x60cm

In 2012, I began working in the Prairies Saint-Martin, a rapidly changing neighbourhood in Rennes, France, that will soon be changed into a public park. Beyond its local anchoring but also thanks to it, this project raises questions about the circumstances and the modalities of urban renewal. It also asks what it means to represent a place with fragments of it, be it with photography, video, sound, performance, etc. What is the role and what are the tools of a documentary project, and what are the circumstances and the temporality for its communication ?

Prairies

Le fonds

Alain (2014), series Le fonds, inkjet print on baryta paper, 30x42cm

The series of photographs that I build in the Prairies Saint-Martin neighbourhood gradually turns into a collection with numerous contributions : Le fonds builds itself as I meet inhabitants or passers-by who have photographed or filmed the area. A collection of pictures whose construction is organic and recalls the topography of the place : territories with porous boundaries, exchange zones where anyone can draw, contribute and learn. It began as a way of establishing contact with the neighbourhood and it progressively allows an understanding of it. It also leads to a redefinition of the recording and exhibition methods, it brings ideas of new series, new forms or collaborations. Le fonds will be printed (c. 300 plates containing 2.000 pictures) and deposited in a local history organisation where anybody can come and study it. Mention will be made of its localization at the City Archive.



Prairies
La Matelote



La Matelote [The Eel-stew] (2014), 29 inkjet prints on Rives paper, 7,5x10cm ; flipbook, 10x4,5cm, 58p.

The day before his gardening house is demolished, Charles invites us for an eel-stew. The eel has been fished in the Prairies Saint-Martin. At the end of the meal, Charles begins to dance.

Prairies
Dérives



Dérive, 26/04/2014 [Drift 2014.04.26] (2014), HD video, 16:9, color, 20 min

With the artist Frédéric Dupont, we let us drift on board of a kayak, down a stretch of the river L'Ille, supposed not to be navigable. We let us go with the flow, which determines what we record.

Prairies

Bric-à-brac



Bric-à-brac, (2012 – in progress), found objects, inkjet prints, variable dimensions

With artist Frédéric Dupont, we collected numerous objets abandoned by the gardeners when they left the place. We photographed them to build an inventory.

Plants, seed pouches, tools, pieces of furniture, games, ropes, odds and ends. Beyond their conservation, it is the narrative power of these objects which interests us.

Prairies
Disparitions



La Castor, (2014), series *Disparitions*, [Disappearances] (2012-in progress), C-prints, 64x48cm

I photographed the garden houses soon after they were abandoned by the gardeners. When they disappeared, I looked for my original point of view so as to take a new picture. The frame of the picture is determined by what once was, the new series brings us to look at something which is empty of what constituted it, devoid of what had brought me to take a picture. A landscape may hide another.

Prairies

Parcelles 104, 132, 133 & 157



Parcelles 104, 132, 133 & 157, (2014-ongoing), 4 puzzles in a cardboard box including a poster and a CD with two soundscapes, 64x48cm ; 4 partially-assembled puzzles on a C-Print mounted on dibond, 64x48cm ; installation, variable dimensions.

Parcelles 104, 132, 133 & 157 is a series of four puzzles designed with the artist Frédéric Dupont. They take the shape of an installation, a work of art or a publication, depending on the context. The puzzle, the fragmented picture of a gardening house, rebuilds itself over the photograph of a wasteland which bears the traces of a demolition. It is in fact the very same point of view, as can be seen in some of the details in the vegetation, which remains the same in the two pictures.

Prairies
Tollé



Tollé [An Outcry] (2014), series *Disparitions*, [Disappearances], C-print, 64x48cm, sound-piece

With artists and sound-engineers Samuel Racine and Frédéric Dupont, we recorded the sound of the sheets of metal of a gardening house. At times noisy, at other times percussive, the performance pays a resounding tribute to the beauty of the material and its assemblage.

Prairies

Le chant des sirènes

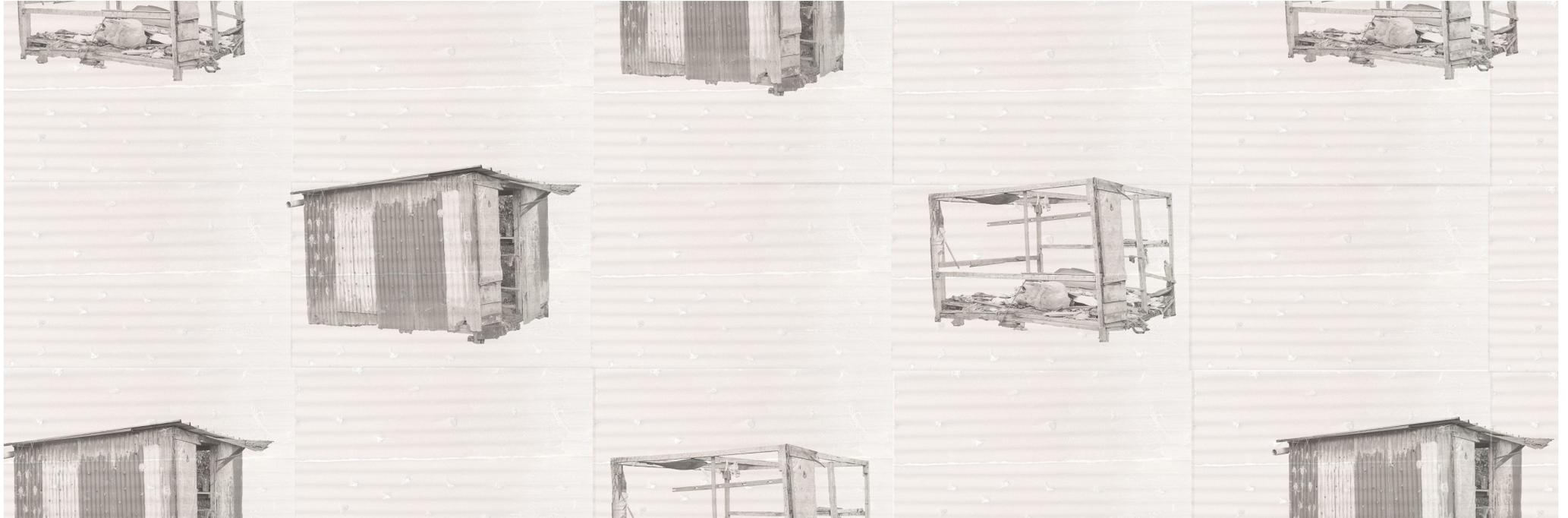
Couleur et nature
sont les points forts
qui caractérisent
cette promotion rennaise

Le chant des sirènes, [the siren's call] (2015), loop sound-piece on digital media, 15 min.

I archived the text of the brochures of land developers whose buildings border the future park of the Prairies Saint-Martin. I had them read by a speech synthesis system which sings the praises of real estate. The sound-piece is designed to be played in the Prairies using a megaphone or outdoor loudspeakers. The installation evokes demonstrations and trade shows at the same time.

Prairies

Ambiance Prairies



Ambiance Prairies, [The Prairies Touch] (2016), sample book, 13,5×42cm, 22p. et 9 wallpapers printed on non-woven paper, 125x60cm

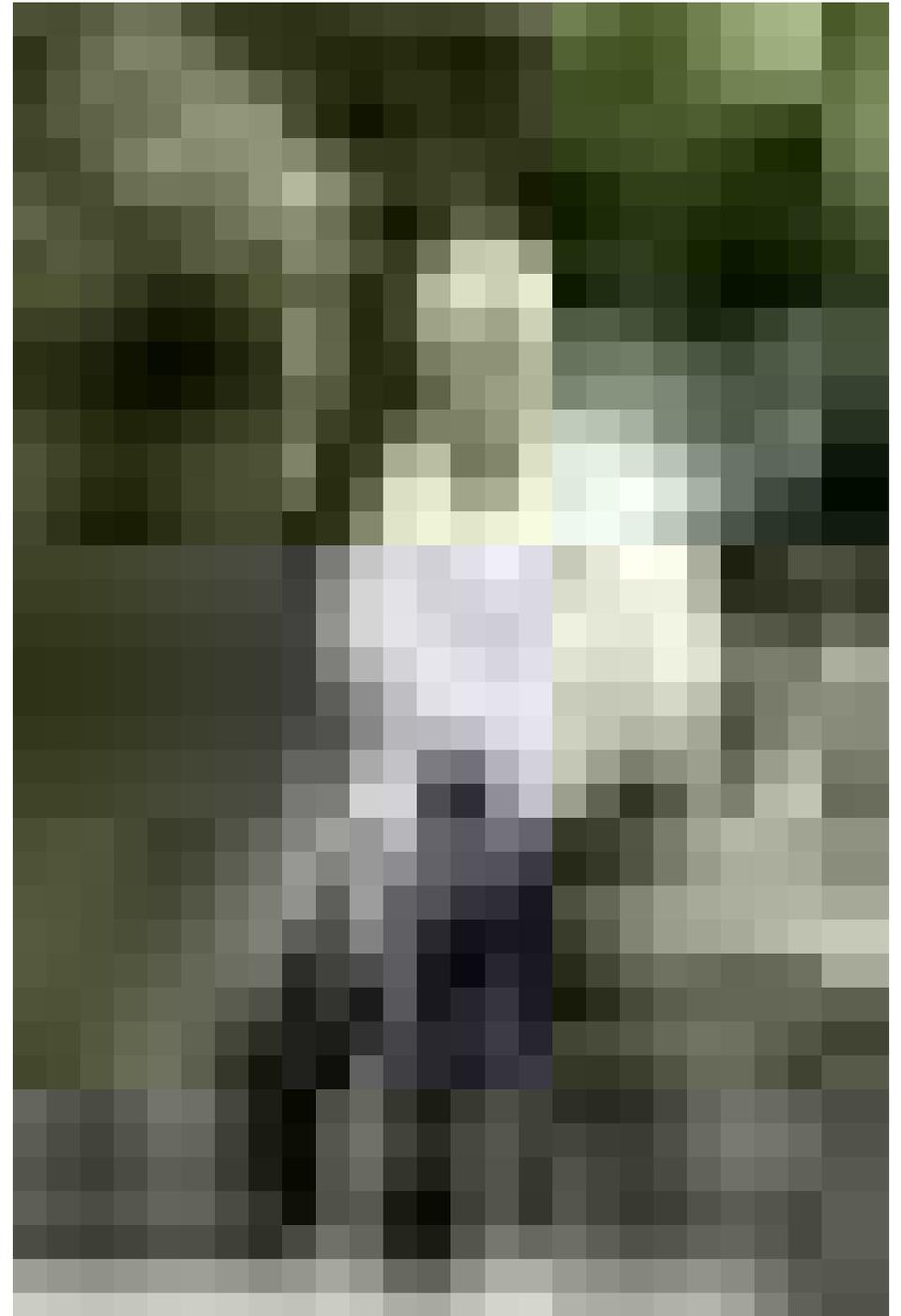
In the brochures of urban developers, the Prairies Saint-Martin are a « natural and delightful decor », a « green eden » on which the new residences « open a window ». The wallpaper of the Ambiance Prairies collection will provide you with a unique opportunity to recreate this decor at home.

Prairies

Elevage de pixels

Marcel (2014), series Les figurants [The extras], inkjet prints on glossy paper, 84x120cm

In the imagery of land developers, the inhabitant is often reduced to a silhouette which is wiped out by the scale of the project. Blown-up on a billboard, it shows the skeleton of the image : seen from up close, the silhouettes are reduced to a cluster of pixels. I submitted my portraits of the inhabitants of the Prairies to the same treatment. The work is designed to be displayed in the street or on information boards. The portrait can be seen from afar but it becomes an abstract shape as the viewer gets close to it. In the publication, only the pixelated portraits are visible at first sight. The original portraits only uncover with the help of a paper cutter, by cutting the corners of each block of pages.



Corse
(2015- en cours)

Sans titre (2015), inkjet print on baryta paper, 20x30cm

With the artist Alexis Debeuf, we set up a tourism observatory which share some methods with zoology : surveys, sampling, capture, etc. It first took place on a mediterranean island in Summer, 2015.



Corse
La faille



Sans titre (2015), series *La faille*, wooden walking sticks, variable dimensions

Site # 4 – Along a footpath, we hunted from a hide, next to a rift that each individual crosses before walking downhill. In the bushes, we found what looks like walking sticks left here by the aforementioned individuals.

Corse
La faille



Sans titre, (2015), series *La Faille*, inkjet prints on billboard paper, 20x30cm

Estran
(2011-2013)

Parcours d'estran [Walking the Strand] (2011-2013), inkjet prints on baryta paper, 40x60cm & 60x90cm ; a portfolio of 28 inkjet prints on Rag paper

Between 2011 and 2013, I walked along the coast from the Ushant Island to Normandy. I built a series of portraits that seem to belong to the documentary tradition. They certainly do, but at the same time they move away from it : these are all chance encounters, and nothing was planned, apart from the fact that I would walk along an itinerary, from the region where I was born to the place where I now live.



Tentatives d'épuisement du regard
(2013- en cours)



Tentative d'épuisement des expressions d'un visage [An Attempt to Exhaust the Expressions on a Face] (2013), tirages jet d'encre sur papier Rives, 4,5x7cm

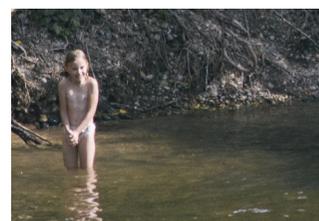
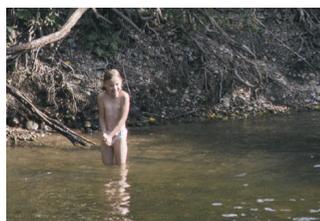
These series take their title from Georges Pérec's novel « Tentative d'épuisement d'un lieu parisien » [An Attempt to Exhaust a Parisian Space]. They can be stills from a movie or systematic shots of a scene or an action until completion. Here I try to limit the importance of choice, be it when the picture is taken or during editing. I try to document a scene until the end, until the gaze is exhausted.

Tentatives d'épuisement du regard
Tentative d'épuisement d'une
plage en bordure de rivière



Tentative d'épuisement d'une plage en bordure de rivière [An Attempt to Exhaust a Beach on a Bank] (2015), 284 inkjet prints on Rives paper, 7,5x10cm

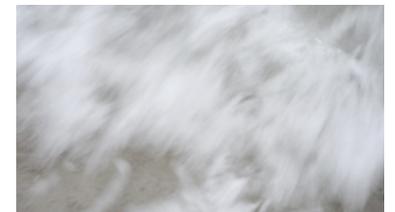
Tentatives d'épuisement du regard
Tentative d'épuisement d'un saut
sur une berge





Tentative d'épuisement d'un saut sur une berge [An Attempt to Exhaust a Jump in a River] (2015), 75 inkjet prints on Rives paper, 7,5x10cm

Tentatives d'épuisement du regard
Tentative d'épuisement d'une
marche vers la mer



Tentative d'épuisement d'une marche vers la mer [An Attempt to Exhaust a Walk to the Sea] (2013), 469 inkjet prints on newspaper stock, 10x15cm

Le son que j'ai vu
(2009- in progress)

Jean, L'aubriais (2009), series *Le son que j'ai vu* [The sound I saw], inkjet print on baryta paper, 20x30cm, a soundtrack

Le son que j'ai vu [The sound I saw] (after Roy Decavara)

With Frédéric Dupont (sound), we have been working on a project of photographic and sound portraits since 2009. The portraits are often the result of chance encounters, happening on sites which we choose to explore, whether relating to a particular subject or during a residency, a commission, or simply following a personal interest.



On verra bien
(2009- in progress)



Sleeping smokers with a stick and a hat (2009 and 2011), series *On verra bien* [We Will see], inkjet prints on baryta paper, 20x30cm

I began this research on portraiture in 2009, with the project of photographer August Sander as a reference : he wanted to portray twentieth century german society with photography. But unlike Sander's, this series does not follow a pre-conceived plan ; it is the result of chance encounters and it plays with coincidences. The classification thus happens after the portrait is made, according to clothing, the expression of the face, or even a detail that I had not noticed when the picture was made. We will see !

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Diplôme de l'ENSP Arles, Master 2, VAE, 2020
Bachelor degree in English language, Rennes 2 university, 2003-2005

WORKS

2017 (in progress)
Estran : Le Trait sous la vague, an itinerary study along the Channel and beyond

2012-2019
Prairies, a study of the Prairies Saint-Martin neighbourhood, Rennes

2011-2013
Parcours d'estran, itinerary portraits along the coast between the Ushant Island and the Mont St Michel Bay.

2009 (in progress)
On verra bien, a series of portraits made during personal projects, commissions or random encounters

EXHIBITIONS

2020
Estran : Le trait sous la vague, screenings and itinerant installation along the shores of the Channel and the Atlantic

2018-2019
Prairies : le Fonds / Persistances, Le Point du Jour, Cherbourg (50)

2018
Prairies : Persistances, artonnexion, Lille (59)
Prairies : le Fonds / Persistances, Centre photographique Rouen-Normandie, Rouen (76)

2017
Cc Rdv Collignon, DIY book / installation, Point d'accueil des Flamands, Turlaville (50)

2016
Parcours d'estran, Ile Tatihou and Fort de la Hougue (50)
Prairies, Artothèque de Vitré, Vitré (35)
Prairies : la Boutique de Souvenirs, Lendroit éditions, Rennes (35)

2015

Prairies, on-site installation, Braderie Saint-Martin, Rennes

2014

Autour de Moutier, a sound and photo projection, Centre d'art La Métive, Moutier d'Ahun (23)

2009

Portraits du Pays de Liffré, a traveling photo and sound exhibition, Intercommunalité de Liffré (35)

Claude, journal d'une rencontre, photo, text and document installation, Forum de la Participation Citoyenne, Centre des Congrès de Caen (14)

Portraits de Bécherel, photo and sound portraits installed at people's houses, Cité du Livre de Bécherel (35)

2008-2009

Gahard, à vous ! photo and sound portraits, Festival "les Arts à Gahard (35)

2008

A l'est, Médiathèque de Sarzeau (56)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021

Estran : Le Trait sous la vague, group exhibition *Route Panoramique*, Villa la Brugère, Arromanches (50)

2020

Pierre de touche, group exhibition *Champs d'expression*, la Fourmi-e, Saint-Nicodème (22), 2020

2019 - 2020

Flotteurs, exhibition *A l'orée*, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Caen (14)

2019

Estran : jeune Mélina, group exhibition *[embed]*, Kassumay sailboat, from Cherbourg (50) to Saint-Nazaire (44)

Parcours d'estran (a selection), group exhibition *De Visu*, Le Shed, Notre-Dame-de-Bondeville (76)

Plage en bordure de rivière (tentative d'épuisement), group exhibition *Sens Interdit*, Drac de Normandie - Rouen (76)

2018

Parcours d'estran (a selection), group exhibition *De Visu*, Abbaye aux Dames, Caen (14)

2017

Prairies : Joachim, group exhibition *De Visu*, Abbatiale Saint Ouen, Rouen (76)

2016

Collection4, works of art from the Fonds Communal d'Art Contemporain collection, Orangerie du Thabor, Rennes (35)

2013

Migrations, Musée de Bretagne, Rennes

2012

Cent professions, les femmes et l'agriculture normande en un siècle, Ferme-Musée du Cotentin, Sainte-Mère-Eglise (50)

RESIDENCIES

2021

Estran : Le Trait sous la vague, Villa la Brugère, Arromanches (50)

2020

Pierre de touche, La Fourmi-e, Saint-Nicodème (22)

2018

Estran : Le Trait sous la vague, Les Fours à Chaux, département de la Manche, Regnéville (50)

2016-2017

Estran : Cc rdv Collignon, Ecriture de Lumière scheme, Tourlaville (50)

2016

Prairies, Hôtel Pasteur, Rennes (35)

2014

Prairies : Parcelles 104, 133, 132 & 157, La Grande Maison, «plein temps-libre», Caen (14)

Autour de Moutiers, La Métive, Moutiers d'Ahun (23)

SLIDESHOWS / TALKS

~~*Le Trait sous la vague*, Le Point du Jour, Cherbourg (50), 2020 (*)~~

Le Trait sous la vague, Musée maritime de l'Île Tatihou, Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue (50), 2020

~~*Prairies : une résistance en actes*, journée d'étude *Occuper la ville* Master MAE, FRAC Bretagne, Rennes (35), 2020 (*)~~

Des rives, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen (14), 2019

Jusqu'ici, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rouen, ESADHaR, École Supérieure d'Art et Design Le Havre-Rouen (76), 2018

Prairies : Agence internationale, avec Catherine Rannou, Artconnexion, Lille (59), 2018

Prairies : Agence internationale, avec Catherine Rannou, Centre photographique Rouen-Normandie, Rouen (76), 2018

COLLECTIONS

Fonds communal d'art contemporain de la Ville de Rennes

Archives départementales de la Manche

FRAC Bretagne (artist books)

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen (artist books)

Artothèque de Vitré (artist books)

Private and disseminated collections

EDITIONS

Cc Rdv Collignon, livre-exposition, auto-édition, Ecriture de Lumière residency, 2017

Prairies : Parcelles 104, 133, 132 & 157, 4 puzzles 1000 pièces 64x48cm, self-published with support from Lendroit éditions & Artothèque de Vitré, 2016

Parcours d'estran, portfolio, 15x20cm, self-published, 2016

TEACHING / WORKSHOPS

Parcours d'estran, De Visu scheme, Drac Normandie, 2018-2020

Pierre de touche, la Fourmi, Saint-Nicodème (22), 2020

Parcours d'estran, De Visu scheme, Drac Normandie, 2018-2020

Inventer/raconter un lieu, collège B d'Aurévilly, residency / twinning with Le Point du Jour, St-Sauveur-le-Vicomte, 2019

Introduction au portrait photographique, Collège Charcot, Cherbourg (50), 2019

Raconter un lieu, Collège J-F Millet, Cherbourg (50), 2019

Prairies : Joachim, De Visu scheme, Normandie, 2017-2018

A partir du réel, Médiathèque Le Phénix, Colombelles (14), 2017

Cc rdv Collignon, Ecriture de Lumière scheme, Tourlaville (50), 2016-2017

Correspondances, Primary schools of Beaumont-Hague and Omonville-La-Rogue (50) with Transat Projects, 2015

Introduction au portrait photographique, Collège Saint Joseph and Lycée professionnel Cachin, Cherbourg (50), 2012

Les choix du photographe : autour de l'exposition Helen Levitt, Collège Saint Joseph, Cherbourg (50), 2010

Le portrait et la relation au sujet, Forum de la Participation Citoyenne, Centre des Congrès de Caen (14), 2009

Club-photo, Lycée des Métiers de Brocéliande, à Guer (56), 2007-2008

GRANTS

Etat d'urgence, Estran : Le Trait sous la vague project, RN13bis, 2020

Aide à l'exposition, Estran : Le Trait sous la vague project, Région Normandie, 2020

Images différentes, Estran : Le Trait sous la vague project, Normandie Images, Région Normandie / C.N.C., 2020

Aide à la création, Estran : Le Trait sous la vague project, Région Normandie, 2017

50CC, Air de Normandie, Prairies project, Centre photographique Rouen-Normandie, Le Point du Jour, 2017

Aide individuelle à la création, Prairies project, DRAC Normandie, French Ministry of Culture, 2016

Aide à l'installation, DRAC Basse-Normandie, French Ministry of Culture, 2013

Bourse Défi Jeune, projet Estran, dispositif Envie d'Agir, 2011

Aide individuelle à la création, Parcours d'estran project, DRAC Basse-Normandie, French Ministry of Culture, 2011

Grant from the Conseil Régional de Bretagne for the organization 16 rue de plaisance, 2008-2010

Fonds rennais d'initiatives jeunes, A l'est project, 2005

— (*) events canceled due to health and political crisis Covid-19

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