



Pierre-Yves Racine  
[www.pyracine.fr](http://www.pyracine.fr)

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.



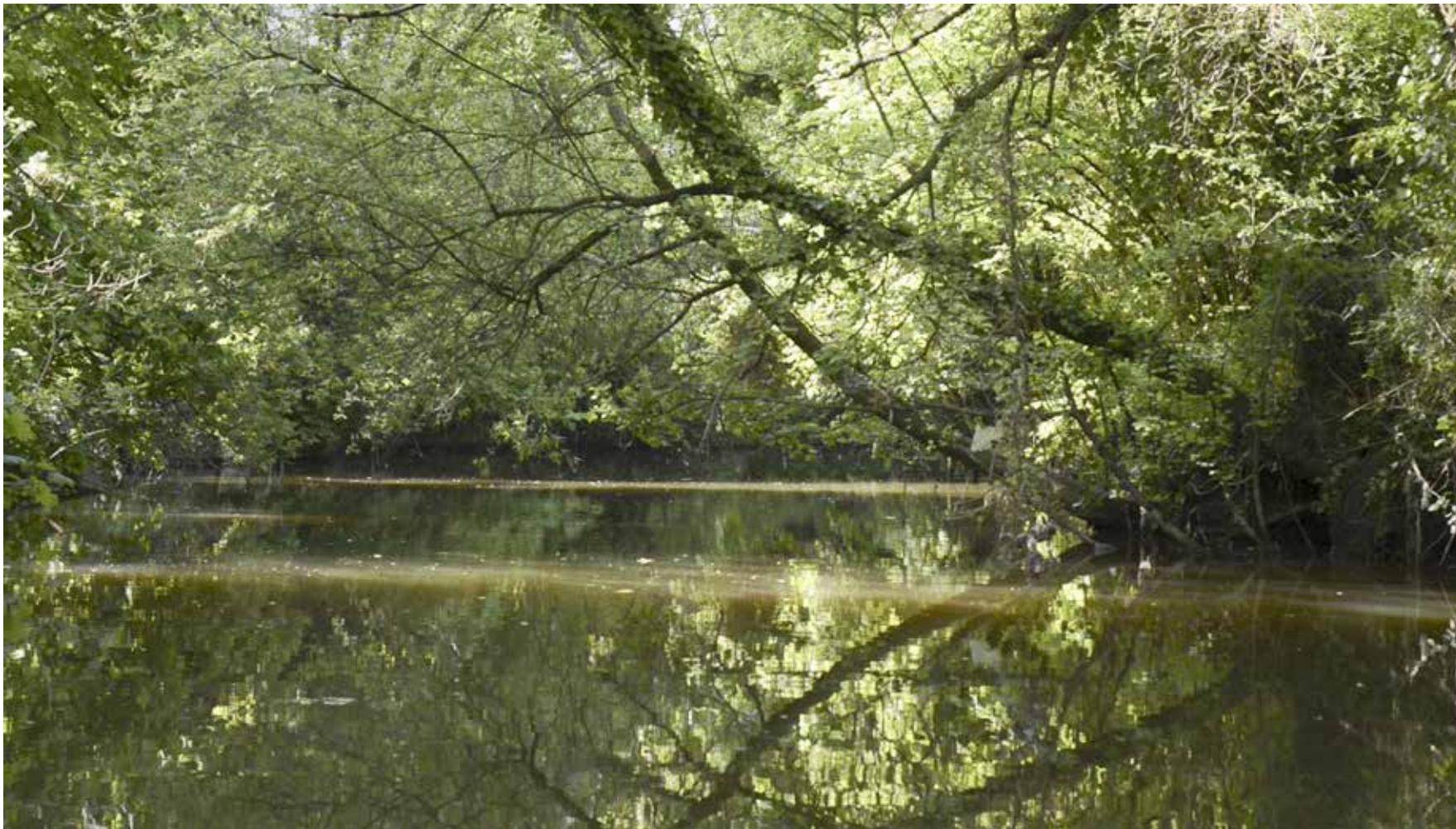
Prairies  
# La Matelote



*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

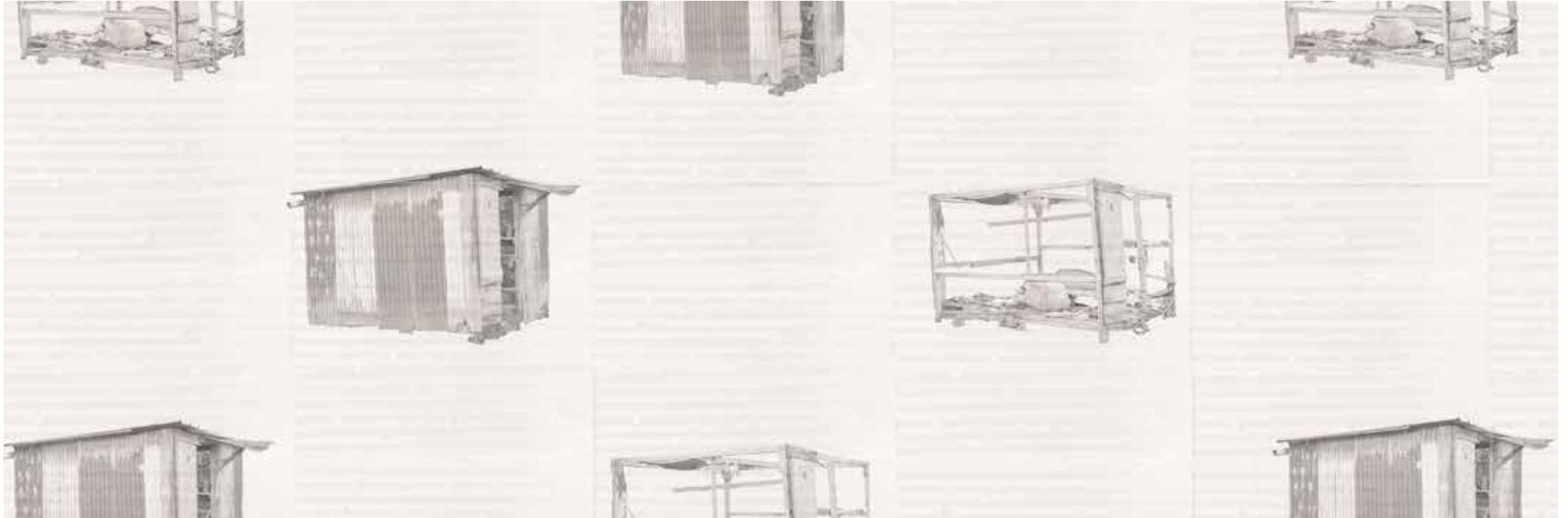
Couleur et nature  
sont les points forts  
qui caractérisent  
cette promotion rennaise

*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

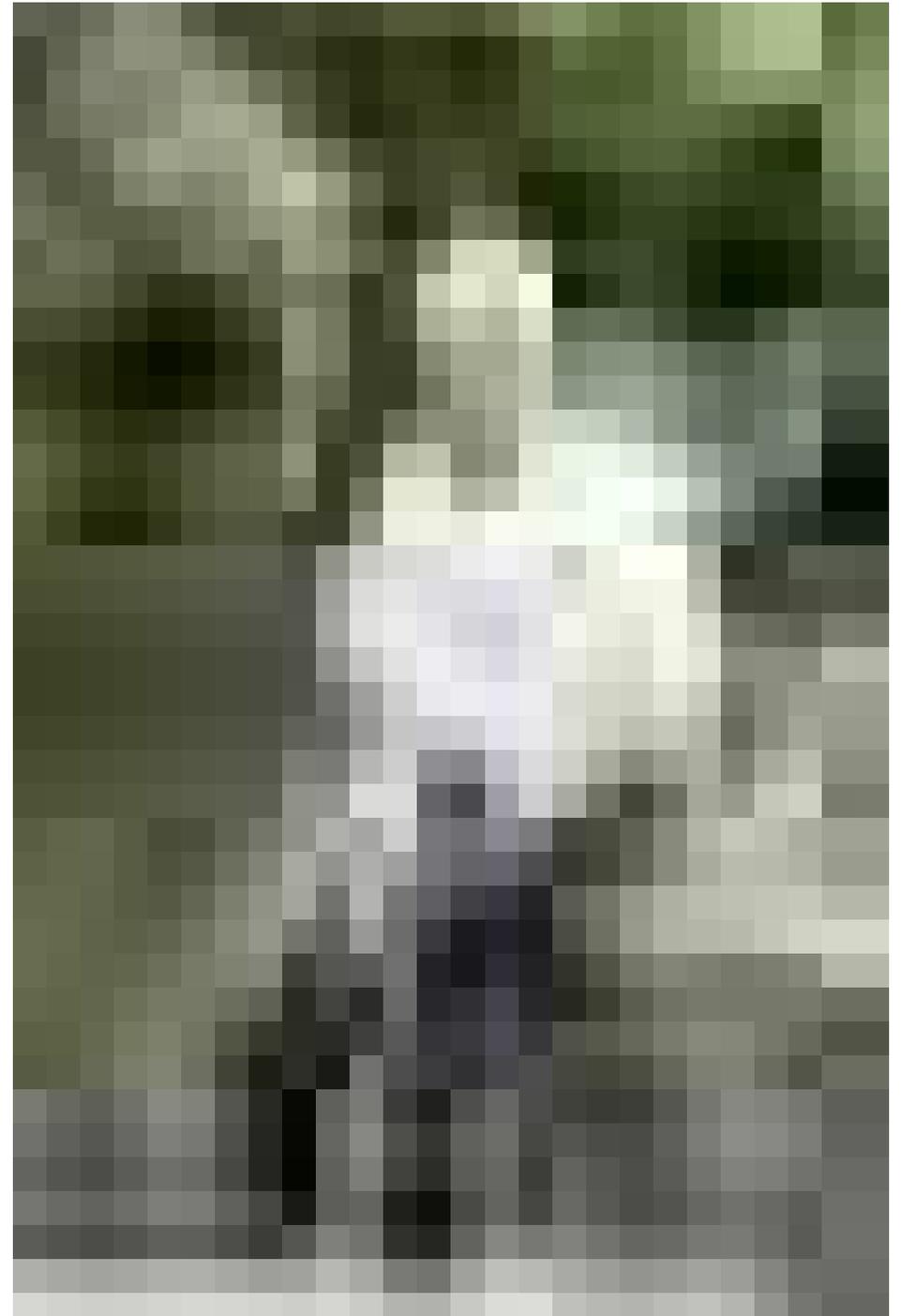
In the brochures of urban developers, the Prairies Saint-Martin are a « natural and delightful decor », a « green eden » on which the new residences « open a window ». The wallpaper of the Ambiance Prairies collection will provide you with a unique opportunity to recreate this decor at home.

## Prairies

# Elevage de pixels

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

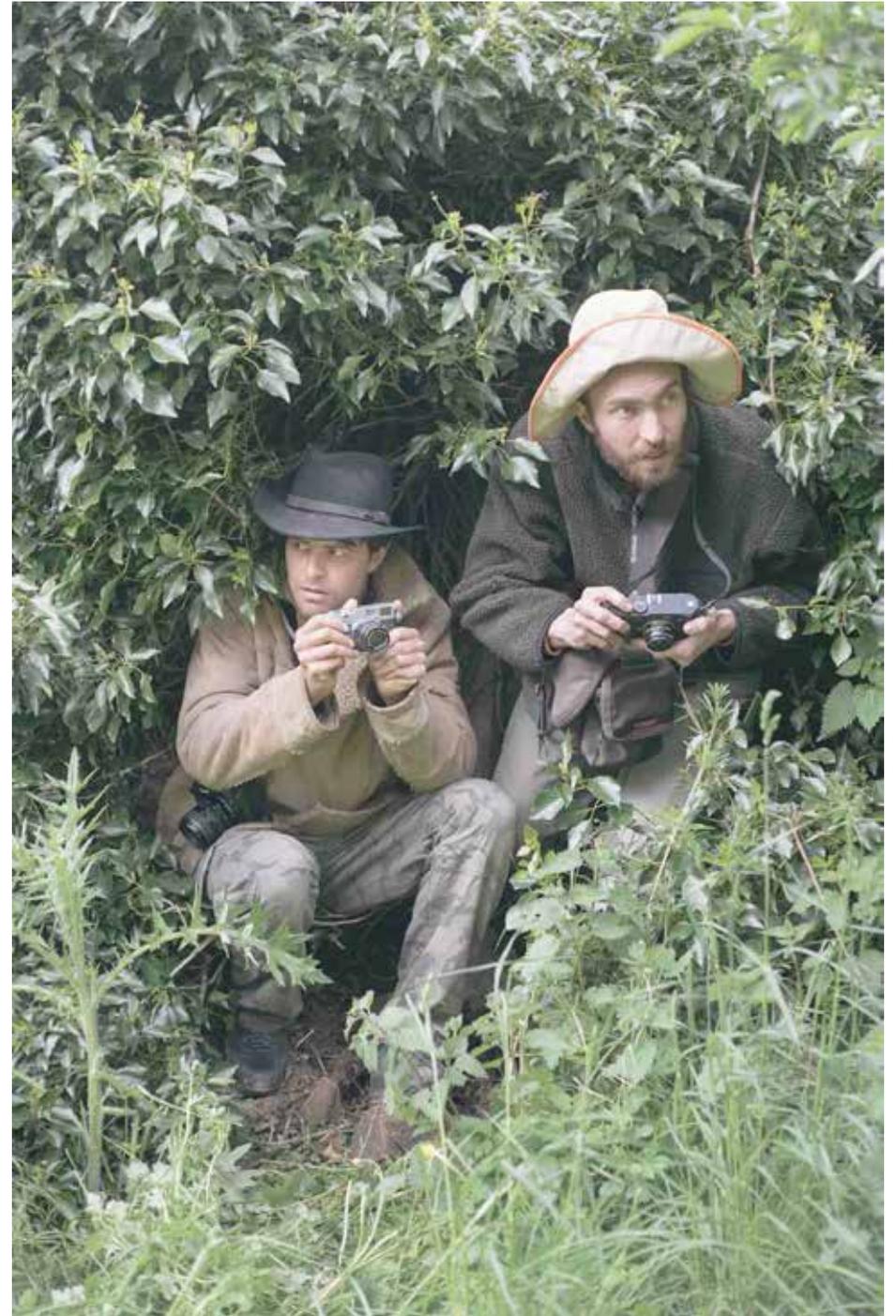
In the imagery of land developers, the inhabitant is often reduced to a silhouette which is wiped out by the scale of the project. Blown-up on a billboard, it shows the skeleton of the image : seen from up close, the silhouettes are reduced to a cluster of pixels. I submitted my portraits of the inhabitants 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

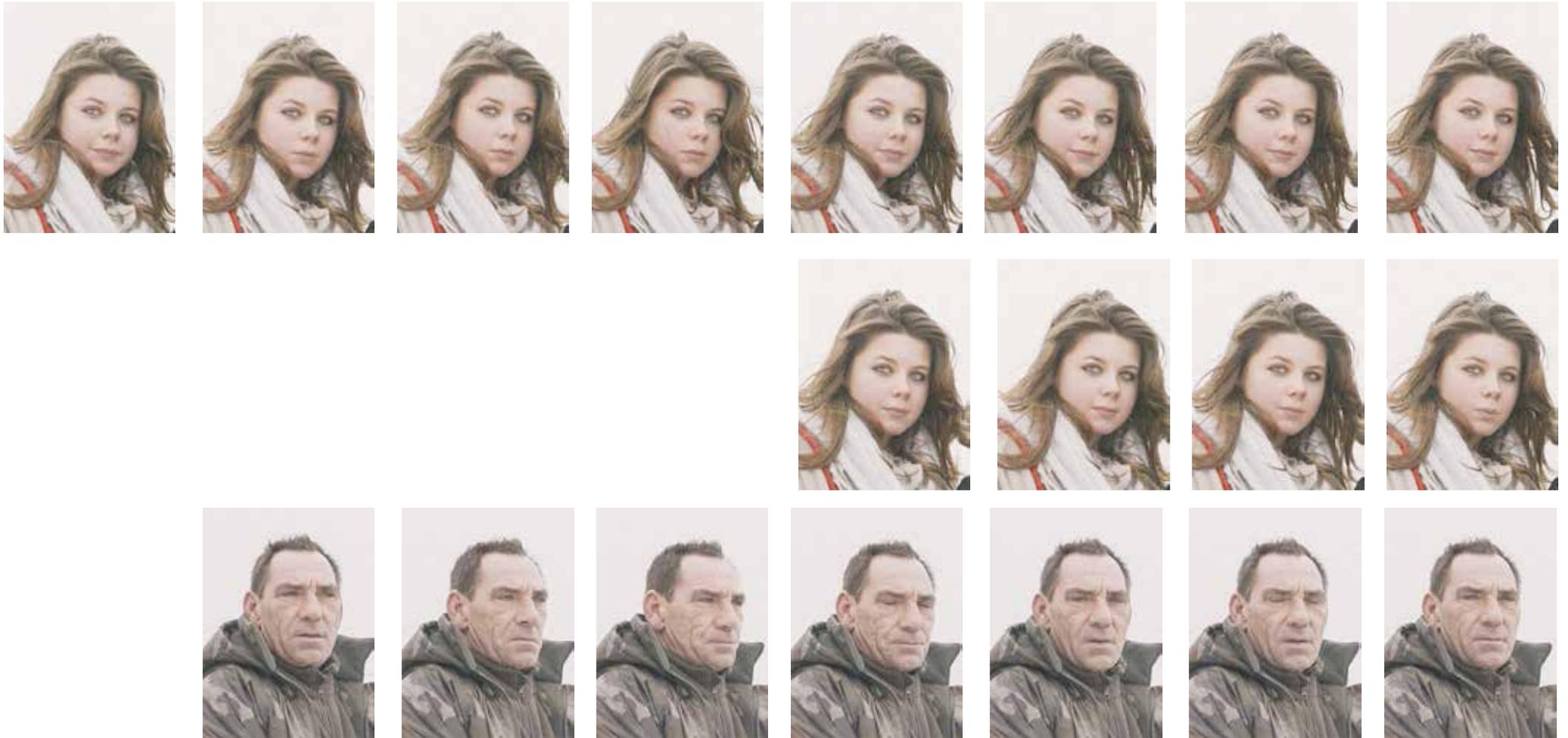
Estran  
(2011-2013)

*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'Auréville, 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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