

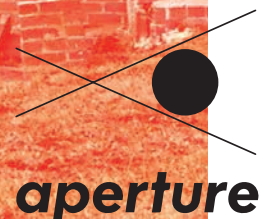


# IMMERSION, A FRENCH AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY COMMISSION

EXHIBITION  
SYLVAIN COUZINET-JACQUES

From November 17, 2016  
to January 19, 2017

Aperture Foundation,  
New York



PRESS KIT

# IMMERSION, A FRENCH AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY COMMISSION

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès and the Aperture Foundation present a solo exhibition by Sylvain-Couzinet-Jacques, the inaugural winner of their joint programme in support of contemporary photography:

## **SYLVAIN COUZINET-JACQUES, *EDEN***

From November 17, 2016 to January 19, 2017

Aperture Foundation, New York

Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques is the first laureate in the *Immersion* programme of transatlantic photography residences, exhibitions and publications, established in 2015 by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès in alliance with the Aperture Foundation, New York.

Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques's solo exhibition at the Aperture Foundation, New York, from November 17, 2016 to January 19, 2017, presents a long-term project developed by the inaugural *Immersion* winner during a residency of several months at the heart of America.

Accompanying the show, Aperture is publishing *Eden*, an artist's book in a limited edition of 1,000 copies, for the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. The work will be shown in France for the first time on the Aperture Stand at Paris Photo 2016 at the Grand Palais, Paris, from November 10 to 13, 2016.

Agnès Sire, director of the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, was the guest mentor for this first edition of the award, open to a France-based photographer seeking to create a new body of work in the United States.

cover - Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques, *The Little Red Schoolhouse, back view (red)* (detail), 2016  
Production Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, in partnership with Aperture Foundation - Courtesy of the artist



Entitled 'Eden', Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques's project centres on the acquisition of a house in Eden, North Carolina, a town chosen as much for its archetypal character as for the symbolism associated with its name. The house provided the subject and setting for a year-long residency during which Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques developed a protean body of work at the frontier of photography and the visual arts.

Known as 'The Little Red Schoolhouse', the wooden building was scheduled for demolition before being bought by the artist as the sculptural raw material for his photographic project. In a reversal of the classic photographic road trip, Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques' exploration of American life is conducted in a single place, as the epicentre of an immersive, performative engagement blurring genres and supports, and the traditional categories of fiction and documentary.

The French photographer's project explores new ways to subvert our received imagery of the unity and diversity of America and American culture. How to best engage with and portray the United States, looking beyond the individual imagination, influenced as it is by popular culture, film and the history of photography? How to create powerful, new, contemporary work capable of resonating with the widest possible audience?

#### **A PROCESS OF 'RE-ENCHANTMENT'**

The exhibition presents a vast body of works and documents —photographs, videos, archives, architectural elements— produced or collected in situ by Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques, recording the sublimation of a house scheduled for demolition, into a protean, collaborative art project.

Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques opened the residency to guest artists, video-makers, musicians and art critics, all of whom were invited to work in situ: Fred Cave, Thomas Hauser, Jesse Hoyle, Pat McCarthy, Amelia Rina and Ugo Schiavi. The Aperture Foundation show features a selection of the resulting works, with a particular focus on the gulf between the Eden of popular imagination and everyday realities in the North Carolina town. Together, the works frame a uniquely American narrative: timeless, fragmented, re-enchanted.

The exhibition's form has been conceived to carry forward what Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques describes as this 'process of re-enchancement' through art: created with Jérémie Dalin and Sylvia Bourgoin, the show displays works in a series of modules, each element of which has been designed for subsequent use in the renovation and maintenance of 'The Little Red Schoolhouse'.



## WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF:

**AMELIA RINA** — b. 1988 (California),

living and working in New York.

Amelia Rina is a Brooklyn-based critic, writer, and editor with an MFA in Art Criticism and Writing from School of Visual Arts, NYC and a BFA in Photography from California College of the Arts, Oakland. Her writings on art are frequently centred around broader question of society at large. She writes for a number of publications including *Daily Serving*, *Art Critical* and *Aperture*.

**FRED CAVE** — b. 1985 (UK),

living and working in Brussels.

After studying in France, Germany and the Netherlands, Fred Cave works on projects sit between the domains of art and graphic design, using various media to explore the possibilities of montage to create 'theoretico-fictions', with a particular focus on digital supports.

**THOMAS HAUSER** — b. 1984 (France),

living and working in Paris.

Thomas Hauser is in the process of developing a photographic and sculptural work around the subject of the reawakening of invented memories. In 2015, he published a book (*The Wake of Dust*) and has been showing his work in exhibitions in Paris (G8, Cité Internationale des Arts), Marseille (Atelier Devisu, RLBO) and, most recently, New York (NY Art Book Fair) and Amsterdam (Unseen Photo Fair).

**UGO SCHIAVI** — b. 1987 (France),

living and working in Marseille.

Ugo Schiavi is a Marseille-based artist.

He studied at the Villa Arson in Nice (France), where he was awarded the Bernar Venet Foundation first prize (2011). He received a Cité Internationale des Arts (Paris) fellowship in 2014 and is currently shortlisted for the Emerige Foundation prize (2016).

**PAT McCARTHY** — b. 1987 (Connecticut),

living and working in New York.

Pat McCarthy explores relationships with landscapes, people and animals, in sculpture, architecture, film making, and fanzines. He has exhibited widely in the US (Salon 94, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York) and Europe (including the FRAC PACA, Marseille; galerie agnès b., New York).

**JESSE HOYLE** — b. 1988 (North Carolina),

living and working in Greensboro (North Carolina).

Jesse Hoyle is a multidisciplinary artist.

He graduated from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2011 with concentrations in photography, printmaking and ceramics. Identity, exploring cultural and sovereign knowledge, and its multiplicity drive his work.

**SYLVIA BOURGOIN** — b. 1981 (France),

living and working in Paris.

Sylvia Bourgoïn is a French architect driving a young architecture firm in Paris, DATA Architectes.

**JÉRÉMIE DALIN** — b. 1983 (France),

living and working in Paris

Jérémié Dallin is a French associate of Maison Edouard François, a well-known architectural firm in Paris.



To accompany the exhibition by Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques, winner of the inaugural *Immersion* award for contemporary photography, the Aperture Foundation is publishing *Eden*, an artist's book in a limited edition of 1,000 copies, for their *Immersion* co-founder, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. The artist's book will be presented for the first time in France on the Aperture stand at Paris Photo 2016, at the Grand Palais from November 10 to 13, 2016.

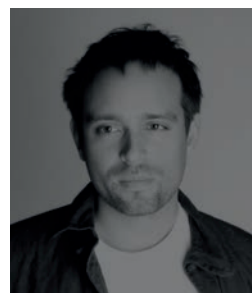
For *Eden*, Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques used a hand-held scanner to scan the whole outer facade of *The Little Red Schoolhouse*, after first sanding the wooden building's many layers of paint to reveal the original cladding.



The 992-page book features black-and-white reproductions of the scans made during this performative intervention, constituting an exact photographic print of the entire house, which was built in 1884, the year Kodak invented photographic film. The sequence is punctuated by coloured inserts made in collaboration with Fred Cave.

1024 pages, limited edition of 1000 copies  
23.6 x 31.2 cm  
80 US\$ / 75 euros / £65  
Published: November 2016

**SYLVAIN COUZINET-JACQUES** (b. 1983, France) is a graduate of the *École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts* in Marseille (2010) and the *École nationale supérieure de photographie* in Arles (2012). His work has been featured in a number of solo and group exhibitions, notably at the BAL, the Rencontres d'Arles, the Galerie du Jour agnès b. and the Mannheim Fotofestival (Germany, September 2015). While not confined to photography, his work draws heavily on the medium to explore the technical and symbolic aspects of narrative and re-enchantment. Works by Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques feature in a number of private collections (JP Morgan, Neufzize Vie, Fonds de dotation agnès b. and others) and public institutions (France's Centre National des Arts Plastiques, FRAC Auvergne, and the Ville de Paris).



© Florentine Tourmante Studio

**AGNÈS SIRE** has directed the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson (Paris) since its creation in 2003. She studied philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris before working for twenty years as artistic director of Magnum Photos, curating and authoring a broad range of projects. As Director-General of the Fondation HCB, she also curates exhibitions and catalogues including *Documentary and Anti-Graphic Photographs*, *Henri Cartier-Bresson: Scrapbook*, *Saul Leiter*, *Photographing America: Henri Cartier-Bresson / Walker Evans*, *William Eggleston - From Black and White to Color* and most recently, *Louis Faurer*. She has made an in-depth study of the work of Sergio Larrain, the subject of a major monograph and an exhibition at the Rencontres d'Arles in 2013.



© D.R.

For the inaugural *Immersion* award, Agnès Sire selected and presented the work of ten French photographers to the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, and mentored Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques throughout the subsequent project.



# PRESS IMAGES

High-res images are available at:

[www.fondationdentreprisehermes.org/Phototheque](http://www.fondationdentreprisehermes.org/Phototheque)

(password available on request) Views of the exhibition will be available after the preview.



Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques  
© Florentine Tourmante Studio



from left to right: **Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques,**

*Eden Plants (red and orange), 2016*

*Eden Tree (blue), 2016*

*The Little Red Schoolhouse, 2016 Archive image (c.1907) found in a local newspaper*

*The Little Red Schoolhouse (foundations), 2015*

*The Little Red Schoolhouse (foundations scanned), 2016*

*The Little Red Schoolhouse, back view (red), 2016*

Production Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, in partnership with Aperture Foundation  
Courtesy of the artist





From **Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques** artist's book, *Eden*, 2016  
 Fondation d'entreprise Hermès  
 / Aperture Foundation – Courtoisie de l'artiste



*Immersion, A French-American Photographic Commission* supports contemporary photography in France and the United States through the creation, display and publication of new works.

Together, the Aperture Foundation and the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès support an annual artist's residency culminating in an exhibition at the Aperture Gallery, New York, and the publication of an accompanying book. In alternate years, the programme is open to a France-based photographer mentored by a French professional, seeking to create new work in the United States, and to an English-speaking photographer seeking to create new work in France.

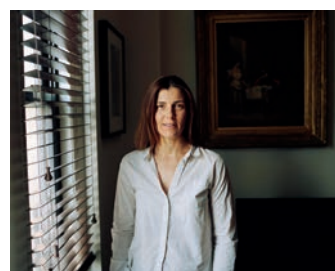
The second *Immersion* laureate is American photographer Alessandra Sanguinetti, mentored by the English critic and curator Susan Bright. Photographs taken by Alessandra Sanguinetti during her residency in France, from December 2015 to July 2016, will feature in her forthcoming solo exhibition at the Aperture Foundation, New York, in spring 2017.

**ALESSANDRA SANGUINETTI** (b. 1968) grew up in Argentina from 1970 until 2003 and is based in Petaluma, California. Her first major book was *On the Sixth Day*, a fable-like story of farm animals. From 1999 until the present, in "*The Adventures of Guille and Beli and the enigmatic meaning of their dreams*" and its sequel to be published in 2017, she has documented the lives of two young cousins on a farm outside Buenos Aires, exploring their emotions and dreams through their childhood into young adulthood and family life. *Sorry Welcome*, published in 2012, is an intimate window into her new family life. She has received a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship, a Hasselblad Foundation grant, MacDowell Fellowship, a Rencontres d'Arles Discovery Award, a Robert Gardner Fellowship, and most recently a Hermès Foundation Grant. Her work is included in major collections. She is represented by Yossi Milo Gallery and is a member of Magnum Photos since 2007.



© Alessandra Sanguinetti, 2016

**SUSAN BRIGHT** is a curator and writer. Her published books include *Art Photography Now* (2005), *Face of Fashion* (2007), *How We Are: Photographing Britain* (2007: co-authored with Val Williams), *Auto Focus* (2010) and *Home Truths: Photography and Motherhood* (2013). The exhibition *How We Are: Photographing Britain* was the first major exhibition of British photography at Tate. The exhibition *Home Truths* (Photographers' Gallery and the Foundling Museum, and travelling to MoCP, Chicago and Belfast Exposed) was named one of the top exhibitions of 2013/2014 by The Guardian and The Chicago Tribune. Bright was visiting scholar at the Art Institute Boston in 2014. She currently lives in Paris and is completing her PhD in Curatorial Studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London.



© D.R.





Established in 2008, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès works to promote artistic know-how and to support the creation, production and presentation of work in the contemporary and performing arts, design and artisanship. Extending its existing commitment to the art of photography, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès seeks to foster new approaches to this core discipline, as the principal patron of the Aperture Foundation, enabling both organisations to join forces and promote new photographic work.

The Aperture Foundation shares this commitment to artistic excellence, and to the community of photography. Founded in 1952 by photographers and writers as 'common ground for the advancement of photography' Aperture today is a multi-platform publisher and centre for the photo community. A not-for-profit foundation, its mission is to connect the photo community and its audiences, with the most inspiring work, the sharpest ideas, and with each other — in print, in person and online.

## APERTURE FOUNDATION

547 West 27th Street, 4th Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10001

Gallery and library opening hours

Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed after 2 p.m.  
on November 23 and December 23).

Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed Sunday.

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