

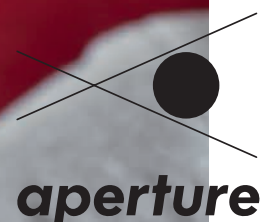


IMMERSION, A FRENCH AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY COMMISSION

EXHIBITION
ALESSANDRA
SANGUINETTI

From April 27
to June 29
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 Alessandra Sanguinetti, the second recipient of their joint programme in support of contemporary photography:

**ALESSANDRA SANGUINETTI,
LE GENDARME SUR LA COLLINE**

April 27 – June 29, 2017

Aperture Foundation, New York

Alessandra Sanguinetti is the second laureate of the *Immersion* programme of transatlantic photography residencies, exhibitions and publications, established in 2015 by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès in alliance with the Aperture Foundation, New York.

Alessandra Sanguinetti's solo exhibition at the Aperture Foundation, New York, from April 27 to June 29, 2017, brings together a set of photographs taken by Alessandra Sanguinetti during her residency in France, between Calais and Marseille, travelling through Nice and Boulogne-sur-Mer among other cities, from December 2015 to July 2016.

On this occasion, a bilingual (French / English) book devoted to the project developed by Alessandra Sanguinetti for the *Immersion* programme is being co-published by Aperture and the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. It includes an essay by Susan Bright.

British writer and curator Susan Bright was the guest mentor for this second edition of the award, open to a US-based photographer seeking to create a new body of work in the France.

cover – Alessandra Sanguinetti, *Ahmet's bird, Campagne Larousse, Marseille, 2016*
Production Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, in partnership with Aperture Foundation – Courtesy of the artist



Alessandra Sanguinetti began her stay in France in Calais, the main seaport for anyone coming from the USA. The photographer then explored the country by bus, by train or by car, from Calais to Marseille, before completing her residency in Paris.

Entitled *Le Gendarme sur la Colline* (“The Policeman on the Hill”), the project developed by Alessandra Sanguinetti for the second edition of the *Immersion* programme spotlights modern life in France, over several months, and in various contexts, via this American photographer’s subjective view.

“I chose the paths I took, whether to go right and left or turn a certain corner or not, approach a certain person or not, by instinct, allowing a certain dose of randomness ‘direct’ the work, so that it would shape itself as it developed.

As I moved along the countryside, towns and the cities, the feeling was a bit like that of being in a carousel, or a moving theatre, with glimpses into the mystery that is everyone we briefly meet or pass by. Small revelations, slight unveilings followed by the curtain coming down as the next act begins.

Looming over these, in the France I observed, I felt an unspoken unease and fragility: subtle tensions between the old and the new; the sense of something ending, and the uncertainty of what is ahead.” – ALESSANDRA SANGUINETTI

“Through Alessandra Sanguinetti’s work, a transformation takes place: she assembles a series of fragments and details from a host of different lives, showing us that what can be historic, significant, and revelatory is not the stuff of headlines, but that of the quotidian. (...)

What is crucial is her manner of injecting the everyday with elements of fairy tales and theater — two ancient methods of storytelling. By seizing on the possibilities of the magical and the promise of performance, she takes familiar and everyday French lives and landscapes and transforms them into notable and even exotic frames, often tinged with fantasy. She evades the grotesque or judgmental in this transformation. What happens instead is a reading of heightened possibility in the minutiae of the everyday.” – SUSAN BRIGHT, from the author’s essay in the publication accompanying Alessandra Sanguinetti’s solo show at the Aperture Foundation.



On this occasion, a bilingual (French / English) book devoted to the project developed by Alessandra Sanguinetti for the *Immersion* programme is being co-published by Aperture and the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. It includes an essay by Susan Bright.

The work Alessandra Sanguinetti created in the frame of *Immersion*, published in this volume, explores a France in which traditions are being played out in a variety of ways as the culture begins to shift in relation to migration; growing contrasts between isolated rural communities and the more cosmopolitan cities; and other contemporary stresses.

It is not, however, a documentary project but rather an intuitive, lyrical journey that engages with the classic cultural tropes of France, as well as with the fairytales that persist and that help define what it means to be French, even today.

“The title *Le Gendarme sur la Colline* (‘The Policeman on the Hill’) is inspired by the straightforward titles in children’s stories, and is in allusion to the dominant plot in many folktales, where looming over sunny fields and happy lives lie dark forests with unpredictable dangers. It was born from my first days in Calais, where I started the *Immersion* project. The police had taken up positions on the hills bordering the *Jungle* refugee camp in order to have a bird’s eye view and control who goes in and who gets out. For the neighbors of the camp the police on the hill signified safety, for the people in the camp they were figures of fear. This feeling of unease stayed with me all through my time in France.” – Alessandra Sanguinetti

28 x 26 cm – 96 pages – US \$50.00 / UK £40.00

Trade release: August 2017 (with an early release in April to accompany the exhibition)

ALESSANDRA SANGUINETTI was born in New York, 1968, brought up in Argentina from 1970 until 2003, and is currently based in San Francisco. She is a recipient of numerous awards and grants including a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Hasselblad Foundation Grant, and a Rencontres d’Arles Discovery Award. Her photographs are in major public and private collections, such as the New York Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Houston Museum of Fine Arts and Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Her monographs “On the Sixth Day” and “The Adventures of Guille and Belinda” were published by Nazraeli Press in 2005 and 2012, respectively, and “Sorry Welcome” was published by TBW books in 2013. She is a member of Magnum Photos since 2007 and is represented by the Yossi Milo Gallery in New York and the Ruth Benzacar Gallery in Buenos Aires.



Alessandra Sanguinetti
Photo Catalina Weber Sanguinetti
Courtesy of the artist

SUSAN BRIGHT is a curator and writer. She has curated exhibitions at institutions including: Tate Britain, National Portrait Gallery in London and The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago amongst others. The exhibition “How We Are: Photographing Britain” was the first major exhibition of British photography at Tate. The exhibition of “Home Truths”

(Photographers’ Gallery and the Foundling Museum and traveling to MoCP, Chicago and Belfast Exposed) was named one of the top exhibitions of 2013/2014 by *The Guardian* and *The Chicago Tribune*. Her published books include: *Feast for the Eyes* (2017), *Home Truths: Photography and Motherhood* (2013), *Auto Focus: The Photograph in Contemporary Photography* (2010), *How We Are: Photographing Britain* (2007: co-authored with Val Williams), *Face of Fashion* (2007), and *Art Photography Now* (2005). She regularly writes for museums and monographic books, and contributes to numerous magazines and journals. Bright has been visiting scholar and critic at Parsons the New School for Design and the School of Visual Arts, New York; The Art Institute Boston; London School of Communication; and Paris College of Art. Bright holds a Ph.D in Curating from Goldsmiths, University of London and currently lives and works in Paris.

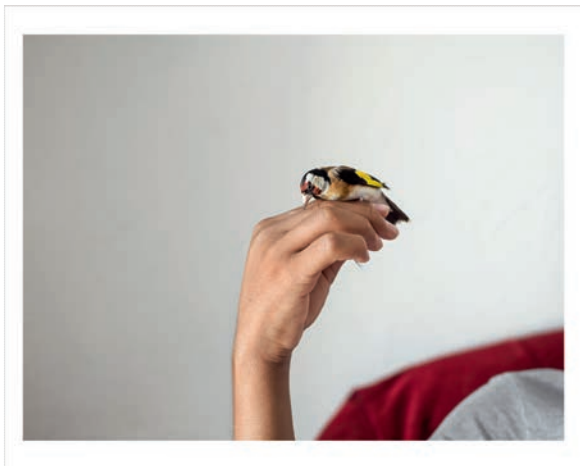


Susan Bright © Photo Fergus Padel

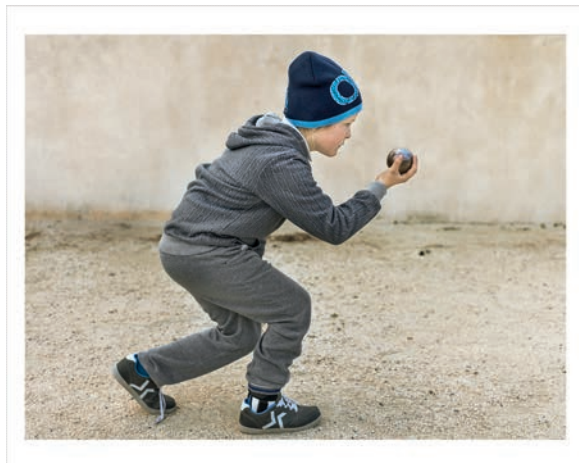


PRESS IMAGES

High-res images are available at: www.fondationentreprisehermes.org/Phototheque
(password available on request) Views of the exhibition will be available after the preview.

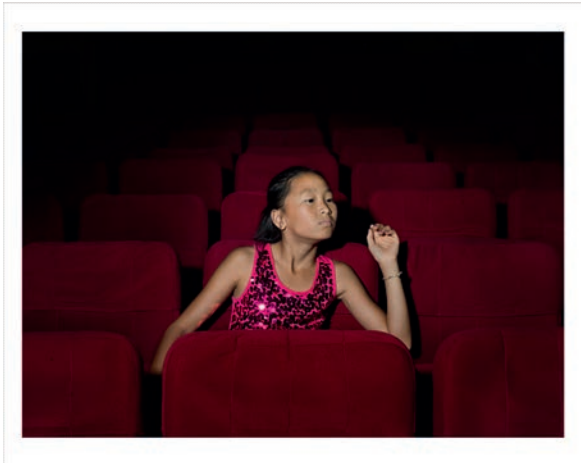
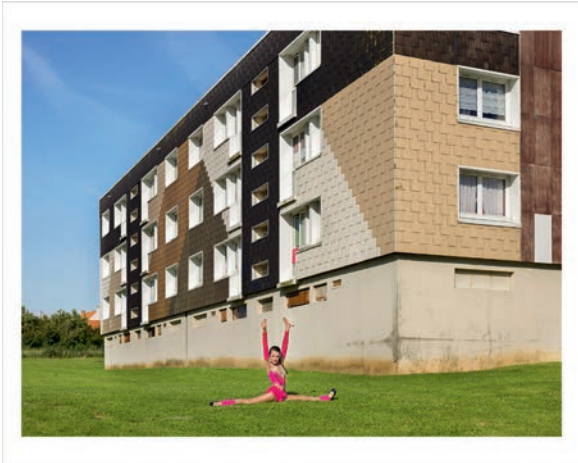


Alessandra Sanguinetti
Photo Catalina Weber Sanguinetti
Courtesy of the artist



from left to right:
Alessandra Sanguinetti,
Ahmet's bird, Campagne Larousse, Marseille, 2016
Claudine, Deauville, 2016
Delphine, Marseille, 2016
Eidel, Marseille, 2016
Production Fondation d'entreprise Hermès,
in partnership with Aperture Foundation
Courtesy of the artist





from left to right:
Alessandra Sanguinetti,
Intermission, Saint-Martin-Boulogne, 2016
Ivana, Jardin des Tuileries, Paris, 2016
Jardin des Tuileries, Paris, 2016
Matinée 1, Paris, 2016
Mise-en-scène, Calais, 2016
Richard, Marseille, 2016
 Production Fondation d'entreprise Hermès,
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Immersion, A French-American Photography 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 2016 edition thus allowed the French photographer Sylvain Couzinet-Jacques (born in 1983, in France) to create an original work in the USA, with as mentor Agnès Sire, director of the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson (Paris).

The 2018 edition will allow the photographer Taysir Batniji (born in 1966 in Gaza, Palestine, lives in Paris) to create an original work in the USA, with as mentor Sam Stourdzé, Director of Les Rencontres d'Arles.

TAYSIR BATNIJI started studying art at Al-Najah University, in Nablus, on the West Bank from 1985 to 1992. In 1995, thanks to a grant from the French government, he continued his training at the École Nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Bourges, where he graduated in 1997. Since then, he has lived and worked between France and Palestine where, between two geographic and cultural zones, he has adopted a multi-disciplinary artistic practice (drawing, painting, photography, video, installation, performance...). Since 2002, his work has risen to prominence on the Arabic, European and international artistic scenes, thanks to a large number of exhibitions, biennales and residencies. He was awarded the Abraaj Group Art Prize in 2012. His pieces have now entered several major private and institutional collections, such as the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre G. Pompidou, and Le Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC) in France, the V&A Museum and The Imperial War Museum in London, the Queensland Art Gallery in Australia, or else the Zayed National Museum, Abu Dhabi. He is represented by the galleries Sfeir-Semler (Hamburg/Beirut) and Eric Dupont (Paris).



Taysir Batniji,
Photo © Benoit Vollmer
Courtesy of the artist

SAM STOURDZÉ was born in 1973, Paris, France, lives and works in Paris and Arles, France. Once a boarder at the Villa Medici, on October 2014 Sam Stourdzé became director of the Rencontres d'Arles. Previously he was director of the Musée de l'Elysée in Lausanne and, from 2010 through 2014, editor in chief of ELSE magazine. A specialist in images, he researches the contexts of their production, distribution, and reception. For years he has studied the mechanisms at work in the circulation of images, with the relationships between photography, art, and film as his preferred field. He has been curator or co-curator of numerous exhibitions and published several works, including "Le Cliché-Verre de Corot à Man Ray"; the Dorothea Lange and Tina Modotti retrospectives; "Chaplin et les images"; "Fellini, la grande parade"; and, most recently, "Derrière le rideau: L'esthétique Photomaton" and "Paparazzi! Photographes, stars et artistes".



Sam Stourdzé
Photo © Stéphane Lavoué



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.

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

Closed Sunday.

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