

# SIT DOWN

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**Laure VASCONI**  
*Villes de cinéma*

Exhibition from October 10 to November 7, 2015

**galerie Sit Down, Paris**

Opening : Saturday, October 10th from 17h - 21h

An exhibition in collaboration with La Filature, Scène Nationale-Mulhouse.

"Villes de cinéma" can be found at **mk2 Bibliothèque** from October 1 to October 31, 2015



Série "Villes de cinéma", Hollywood / Los Angeles, 2000-2010, tirage Fresson, © Laure Vasconi courtesy galerie Sit Down

From Cairo to Rome, from Hollywood to Babelsberg, from Paramount to Fox, Laure Vasconi has strolled, roamed, wandered, and dreamed- always armed by her artificial limb, her camera. In more or less dormant or abandoned studios, she has observed the backstage of twentieth century dream factories, capturing the upside-down and inside-out : the unconscious cinéma taking place behind the silver screen.

In the most deserted locations, sometimes occupied by just a few employees, invisible ants indispensable to the great hive that is Cinema, Laure continues to photograph what the crowds never see: the gaps in the film, the moments in between the shoots, the before and after of the manufacturing process. Empty warehouses, trestles, chair rails, machinery, locker rooms, cupboards, drawers, costumes, wigs and mannequins form a world engulfed by a dark labyrinth, an amniotic fluid of movie life which is always invisible from public view. Geologist, speleologist, cinema explorer, Laure Vasconi creates an eloquent work: revealing the hidden depths of the largest *machine à fantasmes* of the last one hundred and twenty years. 120 years is old, and it's also a venerable age, a slow agony that the photographer can record, revealing the last traces of an art and a world of "*industrie artisanale*" which is now in the process of being submerged by the digital era.

Documenting these behind-the- scenes of a changing art is also akin to producing a genre of still-image film, it prolongs the magic of cinema and its evocative power: such is the paradoxical art of Laure Vasconi, such is the spell-binding beauty of her film studio series.

Serge Kaganski

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## Biography

Laure Vasconi lives and works in Paris.

Born in 1965, she studied architecture (UP 8- Paris-Belleville) and photography at ICP (New York). Assistant to many Magnum agency photographers. Laura won the AFAA (Cultures France) scholarship for her first book, published by Editions Watermarks "Souvenirs du Futur, voyage en Russie."

During the past decade Laure Vasconi has worked with the press, including: *Les Inrockuptibles*, *Libération*, *Le Monde ...*, as well as with institutions including : Théâtre de l'Odéon, Théâtre de la Cité Internationale, L'Opéra de Paris, Comédie Française, among others; and works individually for: EMOC "Odeon Theatre" site supervision (2003-2006), the 10-years of *Naïve*, *Carte Blanche* on the "Traces of Vivaldi" in Venice, for INA "Company Portrait" (2007-2008).

She has taught courses as part of *Les Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie* in Arles since 2004 as well as "Des Clicks et des classes" internships in schools with the Ministry of Education and Culture. She exhibits regularly in France and abroad:

Paris: Carrousel du Louvre, Les Frigos, l'Odeon, le TCI , le Bon Marché, la Fnac.

Provence : Gap-La Passerelle, Mulhouse-La Filature, Brest-Le Quartz, Marseille-Galerie De Visu, Nancy-Centre André Malraux. Abroad : Barcelone-Fondation Metronom et Institut Français.

And also participates in many festivals in: Savignano, Valencia, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Moscow...

## Exhibition selections :

- 2015 *Cité(s)...*, avec l'Arsenal dans le cadre de France(s) Territoire Liquide, La Conserverie, Metz, France
- 2014 *Nuit Américaine*, Filature de Mulhouse, France
- 2014 *France(s) Territoire Liquide*, Tri Postal, Lille, France
- 2014 *Villes de Cinéma*, Galerie Dityvon, Angers, France
- 2013-14 *Merry Christmas*, galerie Sit Down, Paris, France
- 2011-12 *Merry Christmas*, Kunsthal, Rotterdam, Pays-Bas
- 2010 *Out of control*, Biennale Photo, Liège, Belgique

## Edition :

*Traqueuse de Fantômes*, 2014, Editions Mediapop  
*Carnets 1 et 2 Merry Christmas*, 2012, Editions Filigranes  
*Fictions Intimes*, 2005, Editions Filigranes  
*Carnet de Création*, 2004, Editions de l'œil  
*Faux Frère*, 2000, Point du Jour  
*Souvenirs du Futur*, 1999, Editions Filigranes

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## Press available pictures



Série "Villes de cinema", Babelsberg / Berlin, 2000-2010. Tirage Fresson  
© Laure Vasconi courtesy galerie Sit Down



Série "Villes de cinema", Cinecitta / Rome, 2000-2010. Tirage Fresson  
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Série "Villes de cinema", Cinecitta / Rome, 2000-2010. Tirage Fresson  
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Série "Villes de cinéma", Misr / Le Caire, 2000-2010. Tirage Fresson  
© Laure Vasconi courtesy galerie Sit Down

## INFORMATIONS

*Villes de cinéma*  
**Laure VASCONI**

### **Galerie SIT DOWN**

Exhibition from **October 10 to November 7, 2015**

Opening : Saturday, October 10th from 17h-21h

Thursday to Saturday from 14h-19h

And by appointment

4, rue Sainte-Anastase – 75003 Paris

Tél : +33 (0)1 42 78 08 07

e-mail : [info@sitdown.fr](mailto:info@sitdown.fr) - [www.sitdown.fr](http://www.sitdown.fr)

Press pictures on request

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