

Solo show : **Florian RUIZ**
The White Contamination

AIPAD

Project Space Area
BOOTH 1002

**THE
PHOTO
GRAPHY
SHOW**

PRESENTED BY AIPAD



The White Contamination series, 0,357 Bq, 2017
Pigment Print on Japanese Mulberry paper
Size: 29 1/8'' x 62''
©Florian Ruiz courtesy galerie Sit Down

For its second participation to the Photography Show by AIPAD, galerie SIT DOWN is pleased to be part of **Project Spaces**, a new section dedicated to curated spaces around a single artist or specific theme.

Galerie SIT DOWN will feature the work of **Florian RUIZ**, a French photographer who questions the relationship between photography and environmental issues.

Through *The White Contamination* series, Florian Ruiz (winner of the 2018 Sony Prize) has tried to reveal the invisible in photography: the presence of radioactivity in the Japanese landscape after the nuclear accident of Fukushima.

The white contamination series

“In the snowy landscapes of the heights of Fukushima, I have captured the invisible pain of radiation. Inspired by the Japanese engravings, I hoped to capture the ever-shifting perceptions of nature, where radiation accumulates the most.

With a Geiger counter, I measured the radioactive contamination's presence in Becquerels (Bq), a unit that expresses atom disintegration and its mutation's number per second. By a process of staggered superimpression, I intended to show the atom's alteration in my pictures. The transparency effects, the broken perspectives give rise to a shape that is in motion, an impermanent world as in traditional Japanese engravings.

Then, I created a vibration, a departure from the reality of the subject that reveals the presence of radiation in the image. The process reinvents and twists the very landscape, leading to a sort of vertigo or malaise, a threatening danger hidden behind the purity of the white of the landscapes.

As the disturbing whiteness of Moby Dick, whiteness object of terror for the Man, the purity of the white contrasts with the presence of the invisible stain of radioactivity”.

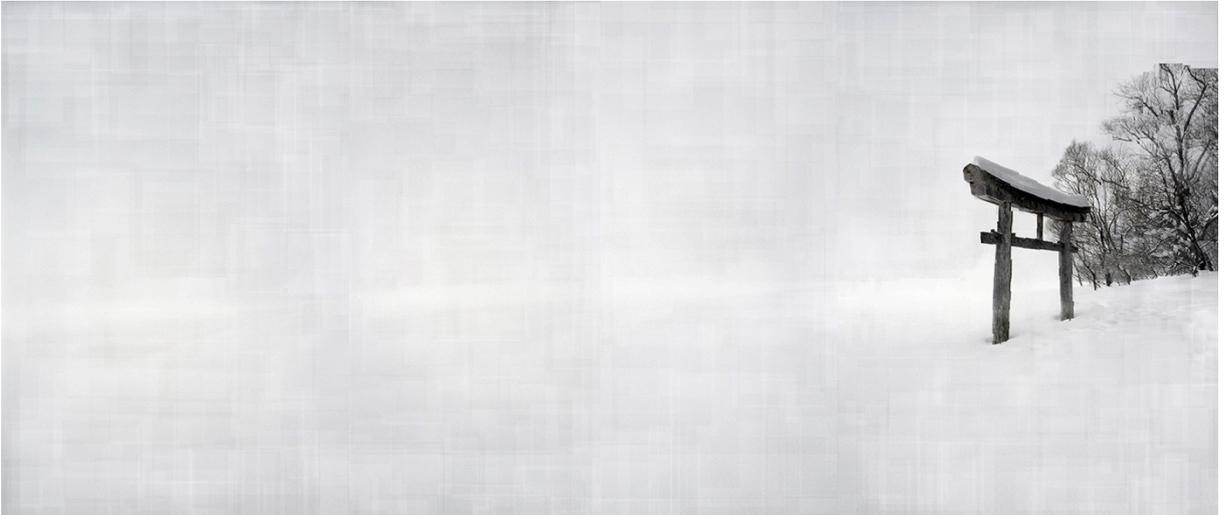
Florian RUIZ

“In his work, Florian Ruiz undermines a form of tyranny of the visible and, thanks to superimposed images, gets landscape views made of broken perspectives and visual palimpsests that meet the precepts of Far Eastern aesthetics, where the visible is a transient state generated by the undifferentiated background. Far from weakening the medium, these heterogeneous practices allow to revitalize our link with the world and its realities “.

Héloïse CONESA (curator for contemporary photography in the Prints and Photography department of the BnF).

“White Contamination takes its place in the history of landscape photography, being in line with the photographers of the Barbizon school such as Charles Marville or Eugène Cuvelier, who between 1840 and 1860 put their studio outdoors in the forest of Fontainebleau to extract a true photographic study of nature. Playing with the fragmentation of nature, the theatricalization of light and the repetition of the motif, Florian Ruiz immerses the viewer in landscapes that seem to come from another world“.

Fannie BOURGEOIS (*Christies Paris*)



The White Contamination series, 0,409 Bq
Pigment Print on Japanese Mulberry paper
Size: 15 3/4 "x 31 1/2" inch
©Florian Ruiz courtesy galerie Sit Down



The White Contamination series, 0,412 Bq
Pigment Print on Japanese Mulberry paper
Size: 15 3/4 x 31 1/2 inch
©Florian Ruiz courtesy galerie Sit Down

BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1972, Florian Ruiz lives and works in Japan.

Florian Ruiz is a French photographer who creates projects to express the atmospheres, feelings, and sensations of desolate places. In his recent works, he sought to test the bounds of photography by challenging its ability to render an image of what is invisible to the eye by means of time and distortion. He uses assembly, collage, super impression; processes that reinvent and twist the very landscape. He favors a pinhole camera to portray the unexpected, the fortuitous, and the deformed as a multiple reality.

AWARDS

- **Lens Culture Art Photography Award 2018 : prix spécial du jury**
- **Sony World Photography Awards (for Creativity)2018**
- **Bourse du Talent 2017: 'Coup de coeur' of the jury** (landscape section).
- Felix Schoeller Photo Award 2017: nominee.
- **Fine Art Photographer of the year 2016**
- Bourse du Talent 2016: finalist
- **Moscow Foto Awards 2016: honorable mention**
- Arpia prize 2016: nominee
- QPN Award 2016: finalist
- LensCulture Earth Awards 2015: finalist
- QPN Award 2015: finalist
- Arpia prize 2014: nominee
- Sony World Photography Awards 2013: second of the professional 'conceptual' category
- International Emerging Artist Award 2013: finalist

EXHIBITIONS (GROUP)

- 2017 Bourse du talent, Laureates exhibition, BnF, Paris (France)
Cultural History Museum, Osnabrück (Germany)
- 2014 Blind Pilots Project (Thessaloniki)
- 2013 Month Of Photography in Bratislava
- 2010 Photography Festival "Some photographers, some Japans" in Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka
- 2005-2007 Angkor Photography Festival
'Chroniques nomades' festival at Honfleur (France)
Vendôme festival
Francophony Festival in Syria 8th international festival of Aleppo

BOOKS (Group)

- Lens Earth, 2015
From Here Now, 2015