

PHOTO LA 2020

Booth B02

With the support of  Centre national des arts plastiques
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PHOTO LA

Florian RUIZ

The White Contamination



The White Contamination series, 0,453 Bq, 2013
Pigment print on Japanese Mulberry Paper, ©Florian Ruiz courtesy galerie Sit Down

Project 596



Project 596 series, 0,531 Bq, 2014-2019
Pigment print
©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 atmospheres, feelings, and sensations of desolate places. In his recent works, he seeks to test the boundaries 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 transform the actual landscape. He favors a pinhole camera to portray the unexpected, the fortuitous, and the deformed as a multiple reality.

AWARDS

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

EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *The White Contamination*, galerie Sit Down The Photography Show by AIPAD, New York, USA
- 2018 LensCulture's emerging talents group show, The Aperture gallery, New York, USA
The White Contamination, galerie Sit Down at PARIS PHOTO, Paris, France
Sony World Photography Award laureates, Somerset House, London, England
Sony Imaging Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Palazzo Trigona, Italy
Royal Villa of Monza, Italy
Willy Brandt Haus, Berlin, Germany
Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Lille, France
- 2017 'Bourse du talent' exhibition, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris
Cultural History Museum, Osnabrück, Germany
- 2014 Blind Pilots Project, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 2013 Month of Photography, Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2010 Photography Festival "Some photographers, some Japans" in Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka, Japan
- 2005-2007 Angkor Photography Festival, Cambodia
'Chroniques nomades' festival at Honfleur, France
Vendôme festival, France
International festival of Aleppo, Syria

PUBLICATIONS (Group)

- Lens Earth, 2015
- From Here Now, 2015

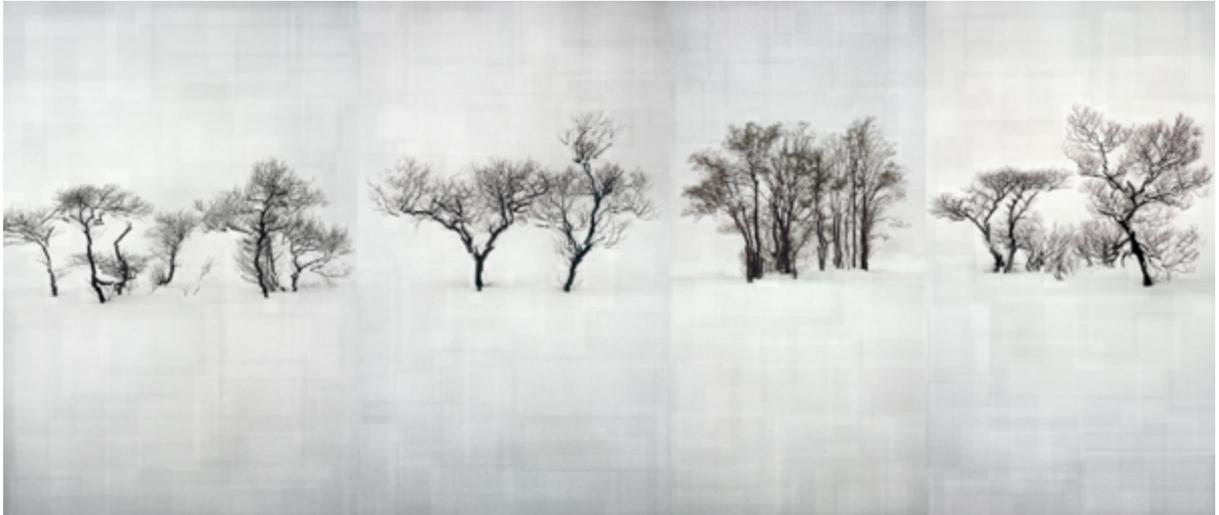
Florian RUIZ

With *The White Contamination* series, Florian Ruiz (winner of the 2018 Sony Prize) captured the invisible pain of radiation in the snowy landscapes of the heights of Fukushima after the nuclear accident. The photographer measured the radioactive contamination with a Geiger counter, in becquerels (Bq), a unit that expresses the disintegration of the atom and the number of its mutations per second. By a process of staggered superimpression, Florian Ruiz hoped to catch the fleeting moments, the movements of climatic phenomena and the ever-shifting perceptions of nature, where radiation accumulates the most. A feeling of malaise and danger underlies these white spaces, inspired by the aesthetics of traditional Japanese prints.

Following his project, *The White Contamination*, Florian Ruiz presents *Project 596*, a photographic work realized from 2014 to 2019 in which the photographer focuses on the old salt lake Lop Nor, in China, located in the Xinjiang province in the northwest of the country. Now almost dried-up, it served as a nuclear weapon testing site from 1964 to 1996. Nowadays, the region is still very contaminated, and in 2008, China recognized the presence of health problems among civilians and military personnel due to radiation exposure. Florian Ruiz reveals the presence of radioactivity by measuring the radioactive contamination with a Geiger counter, as for *The White Contamination*. He wanted to show, by a digital process, a reality modified by the presence of invisible radioactivity. The process reinvents and twists the very landscape, leading to a kind of vertigo or malaise, a threatening danger hidden behind the landscapes. Here too, Florian Ruiz succeeds in sublimating the ugliness of these spaces, creating beautiful pale blue landscapes.

Florian Ruiz's photography is resolutely representative of atmospheres. For him, it's a question of translating a subjective universe of impression: the image is present to translate the emotion, the feeling that a landscape gives us. Through the two series gathered here, Florian Ruiz sees and shows landscapes resulting from a chaotic and unstable world, while underlining the permanence of beauty within them.

The White Contamination



The White Contamination series, 0,363 Bq, 2014
Pigment print on Japanese Mulberry Paper
©Florian Ruiz courtesy galerie Sit Down

Project 596



Project 596 series, 0,734 Bq, 2014-2019
Pigment print
©Florian Ruiz courtesy galerie Sit Down