

Press Release

ROCKS

Photographs by **Aurore BAGARRY**

March 6 > June 6 2021



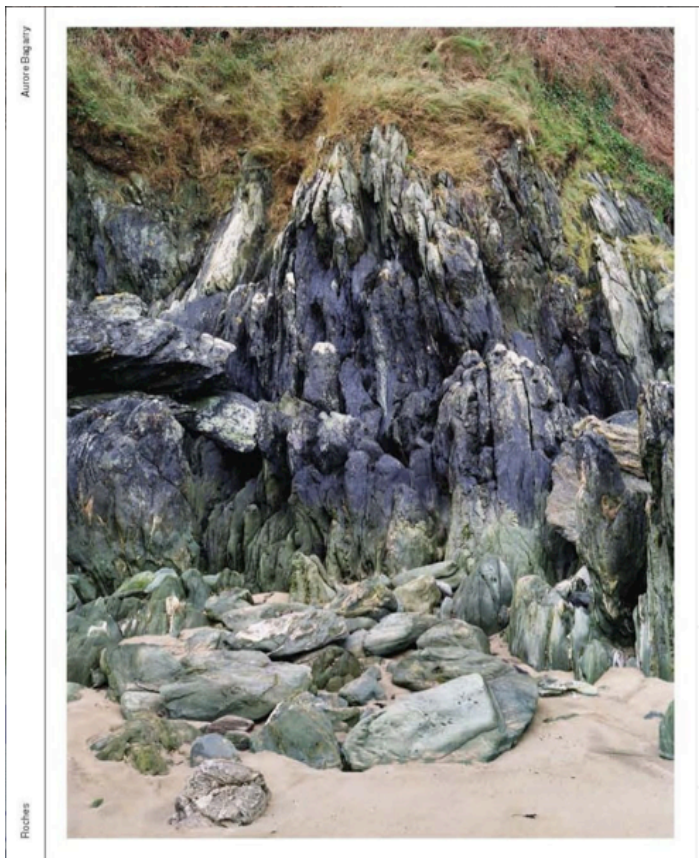
ROCKS | THE EXHIBITION

For her second solo exhibition at galerie Sit Down, Aurore Bagarry presents *Rocks, The English Channel Coastline*, a new photographic project in which she observes the effects of water upon mineral landscapes and the notion of natural borders. Her investigations extend from France's northern shores to the South coast of England just opposite. She thus continues the photographic atlas she started with her series 'Glaciers' (exhibited at Paris Photo 2018) and shares, through her personal reading of the French and British coastline, this inventory of rock forms created by the slow erosion of the coastline.

In 2017, *Rocks* received support from Drac Bretagne with "l'Aide Individuelle à la Création" and also from the Centre d'art GwinZegal in 2019.

ROCKS | THE BOOK

Book signing at galerie Sit Down with Aurore Bagarry on Saturday June 5 2021.



Roches

Editions GwinZegal, December 2020

Photographs by Aurore Bagarry

Texts by the philosopher Gilles A. Tiberghien,
by geologists Patrick De Wever (Muséum
national d'Histoire naturelle) and Marc Fournier
(Sorbonne University Paris).

THESE BLOCKS OF FROZEN TIME

As Aurore Bagarry made her way, on the French side of the Channel, from Calais to Brest, by way of Varangeville, the Le Hoc promontory, Cap Levi in the Cotentin, and several small towns in Finisterre and the Côtes d'Armor, she photographed a landscape at "point blank range", to use a phrase that may refer to the notion of the photographic shot, but which also expresses the sensation of a brutal presence felt when looking at these pictures. In England, on the northern shores of the Channel, the artist likewise journeyed westward along the coast, starting from Southampton and ending up at the Lizard, at the tip of Cornwall, and then, having reached the end of the peninsula, made her way back by way of Maer Cliff near Bude, to the northwest of Dartmoor National Park, facing Wales.

What we see here is indeterminate, and has as much to do with a topographical survey as with landscape photography. Very little sky, or even no sky at all in these images which it is almost impossible to situate, unless you have pinpointed on a map the place where the photos were taken. Whether you are in France or on the other side of the Channel, there are very few clues.

The coast thus seems like a gigantic palette on which the sea has tested its colours: mauves marry the yellows and greens of chlorophyll and mud mixed together, sickly ochres bud from dwarf bushes, greys notched by bluish hollows seem to bow beneath the force of winds, dark sandstones streaked with pink stand out against the grey sky, cliffs display the crenellated shapes of their white walls stripped by salt, their turrets surmounted by low grass, sometimes spotted with dark lichen, or streaked with vertical stripes made by trickling water.

Gilles A. Tiberghien
Philosopher and Art theorist
Paris I - Panthéon Sorbonne University

ROCKS – PETROGRAPHY OF THE ENGLISH CHANNEL COASTLINE

by Aurore Bagarry

In the 21st century, how can photography, which by its nature tends to categorise and is mainly concerned with surface and transparency rather than matter, uncover the depths of geological phenomena? In this work I try to unite the concept of photographic documentation with that of transformation of the landscape. The area of investigation extends from the northern coast of France to the south coast of England, which face each other across the English Channel. In these two regions, especially rich in geological curiosities, the fragility of the coastline, with its rockfalls and ecological issues, can reveal useful new clues to our understanding of its formation. Equally, the Channel was chosen because it raises the question of the frontier between two countries (France and Great Britain) and of its porosity, evidence of which can be seen in geological exchanges and traces. This work examines the relationship between the image and the scientific paper: I am developing a type of research based on traces, sediments, shapes. Scientific knowledge and the discoveries of geologists, thanks to recent erosion phenomena, offer us a new way of reading the coastlines of Brittany and England. Right now, this erosion seems to be accelerating with the rise in sea level. This series of images was taken with a large-format camera: it is a slow approach, where the image seems to take some time to emerge, which can be compared to the slow rate of sedimentation. In its presentation, *Roches* takes its inspiration from the documentary style defined by Olivier Lugon (Olivier Lugon, *Le Style documentaire. D'August Sander à Walker Evans, 1920-1945*, Paris, Macula, 2001) by working on light and on the concept of frontality. I am not seeking 'sensational' viewpoints, nor dramatic lighting, nor effects of perspective. I will attempt a new approach, a new way of looking at these spectacular landscapes by taking another step back, using a large-format camera and silver halide sheet film, so as to bring out a form of poetry. This project is infused with the richness of the colours and the detail of the geological formations that define the English Channel.

The work done by August Sander and Albert Renger-Patzsch on geology serves as a starting point for my ideas, while the work is nurtured by new approaches to the photographic object and to the phenomenon of entropy of the photographic image (*Mold is Beautiful*, Luce Lebart, éditions Poursuite, 2015) as well as practical experience of the development and the appreciation of coastal regions (*Port-Cros*, Eric Dessert, Filigranes éditions, 2008). Reading Victor Segalen's *Essai sur l'exotisme* was also a great source of inspiration for me: appreciating the miscellaneous so as to get close to its mysterious, dream-like, poetic aspect.

BIOGRAPHY

French photographer and video artist, born in 1982 in Le Mans, France, Aurore Bagarry graduated in 2004 from the Gobelins School, Paris, and in 2008 from the National School of Photography in Arles with congratulations.

Her work revolves around research on water as a form and as an imprint on a landscape and on the notion of natural border. How photography, by its transparent nature, can make the variations in water sensitive, suggest its complexity? By the logic of photographic atlas and the practice of walking, she offers a personal reading of the landscape with an inventory of the forms of water, sometimes fragile although monumental (*Glaciers* 2012-2018) or the imperceptible fruit of a slow erosion (*Roches* 2016-2020).

Winner in 2020 of the *Regards sur le Grand Paris #4* commissioned by the CNAP and the Ateliers Médicis, Aurore Bagarry discovers the ancient oceans and reveals the Forms of water that have shaped the Parisian basin through waves of sedimentation, to the point of structuring our forms of life and our gaze through the ages.

GROUP SHOWS

- 2020 *Jeune Création #69*, Fondation Fiminco, Romainville, France
Depuis la terre ferme, Maison de la Fontaine, Brest, France
Festival Chroniques nomades, Abbaye Saint-Germain, Auxerre, France
- 2019 *Festival Les Photautumnales*, Diaphane, Beauvais, France
L'échappée, Centre d'art GwinZegal, Guingamp, France
Photography on a Postcard, Photo London, Paddle 8, England
- 2018 *Glaciers*, Galerie Sit Down at PARIS PHOTO, Paris
Parcours Elles x PARIS PHOTO #1, curator Fannie Escoulen
- 2017 *Sans limite, photographie de montagne*, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland
Le dernier flocon, Villa du Parc Centre d'art contemporain, Annemasse, France
Cold Wave, La Filature, Mulhouse, France
- 2016 *Cnap!* Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, Paris, France
FLASH !, galerie Sit Down, Paris, France
- 2015 *Quand fond la neige, où va le blanc ?*, galerie Sit Down, Paris, France
Glaciers, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, cycle : *Montagne, la terre exhausée*, de Benoît Hické et Maxime Guitton, Paris, France
- 2014 *Tumulte gaulois*, MARQ, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Semaine des Arts, Université Paris 8, Saint-Denis, France
- 2013 *50 ans de Photographies à Gobelins*, Paris, France
- 2012 *Journal Japonais*, dans le cadre de l'Image Publique 2012 : *Paysages et territoires*, Rennes et Métropole, France
Lunette de Nuit, ECCE, Paris, commissariat
- 2011 *Die Nacht / La Nuit #113*, Arte, France – Brazil
- 2008 *Artcourtvideo*, Arles, France
Instant Vidéo Numériques et Poétiques, 21ème édition, Marseille, France
15ème prix LVMH des jeunes créateurs, galerie du Pont Neuf, Paris, France
- 2007 *Roulez Jeunesse ! Réseau de l'Age d'Or*, Avignon, France

SOLO SHOWS

- 2021 *Rocks*, galerie Sit Down, Paris, France
- 2019 *Glaciers*, Artothèque, Annecy, France
- 2017 *Glaciers*, Taverny, France
- 2015 *Glaciers*, galerie Sit Down, Paris, France
- 2012 *Photos-Romans*, galerie artLIGRE, Paris, France

AWARDS / RESIDENCIES / SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2020 Residency at Réseau Altitudes, Villa du Parc, Annemasse, France
Finaliste, *Ninth edition of the BNL Gruppo BNP Paribas Award*, Milan, Italy
National commission *Regards du Grand Paris #4*, Ateliers Médicis and CNAP, France
- 2019 Residency at Centre d'Art GwinZegal, Guingamp, France
- 2017 *Aide Individuelle à la création*, DRAC, Bretagne, France
- 2015 *Aide à la première exposition*, CNAP, galerie Sit Down, France
- 2013 *Fonds d'aide à la photographie documentaire contemporaine*, CNAP, France
Residency at Maison Forte de Hautetour, avec le soutien de la ville de Saint-Gervais-Les Bains, France
- 2009 *Egide* scholarship, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Centre Franco-Egyptien d'Etude des Temples de Karnak, CNRS, Karnak, Egypt
Résidence à l'Escuela de la Fotografía Creativa, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2008 15th LVMH Young Designers award, *La nécessité de la répétition*, tribute to Alberto Giacometti, France
People Choice Award, WIP, Association des Etudiants de l'Ecole Nationale de la Photographie d'Arles, France
- 2006 Generali Award, awarded by Sophie Ristelhueber et Patrick Lebescont, France

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 *Rocks*, texts by Gilles A. Tiberghien et Patrick de Wever, éditions GwinZegal, France
- 2017 *Glaciers*, Volume 2, text by Daniel Girardin, Editions h'artpon, France
Catalogue de l'exposition *Sans limite, Photographies de Montagne*, musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2015 *Glaciers*, avec Luce Lebart. Editions H'artpon, France
- 2012 *Qu'avez-vous fait de la photographie ?* ENSP, Actes Sud Beaux Arts : photograms
- 2008 *Rendez-vous*, éditions En Marge, portfolio
- 2006 Catalogue Festival Diaporama, Nantes : vidéo

ACQUISITIONS

- Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Artothèque d'Annecy, France
- Mairie de Saint Gervais, France
- Artothèque de Brest, France
- Private collections

PRESS MATERIAL



Rocks series, 2016-2020 | Anse de Brehec, Plouha, Côtes d'Armor
Ordovician red series, argillites and conglomerates

Pigment print on Rag Fine Art paper
Format 70 x 85 cm | Edition of 8 + 2 APs
© Aurore Bagarry courtesy galerie Sit Down



Rocks series, 2016-2020 | Plage des Curés, Plestin-les-Grèves, Côtes d'Armor
Green schists from the Briovenian Armorica formation

Pigment print on Rag Fine Art paper
Format 70 x 85 cm | Edition of 8 + 2 APs
© Aurore Bagarry courtesy galerie Sit Down



Rocks series, 2016-2020 | Four à boulets, Fréhel, Côtes d'Armor

Erquy quartzites and phyllades, clay and sand sediments from an ancient submarine cone metamorphosed into sandstone, then into quartzite and schist

Pigment print on Rag Fine Art paper

Format 70 x 85 cm | Edition of 8 + 2 APs

© Aurore Bagarry courtesy galerie Sit Down



Rocks series, 2016-2020 | Ladram Bay, Sidmouth, Devon
Red fluviatile sandstone, evidence of the sea's return in the Triassic period (250 million years) on the primary shelf

Pigment print on Rag Fine Art paper
Format 50 x 40 cm | Edition of 8 + 2 APs
© Aurore Bagarry courtesy galerie Sit Down

GALLERY

Established in Le Marais area in Paris, close to the Picasso Museum, SIT DOWN gallery was founded by Françoise Bornstein in 2005 and is a member of the French "Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art".

Since 2013, the gallery has been mainly devoted to photography, and its programming consists primarily of documentary and fine-art photography. The gallery aims to showcase young emerging photographers as well as renowned international photographers such as Tom Wood, Yan Morvan, and Robert McCabe.

In addition, galerie SIT DOWN participates in international fairs such as PARIS PHOTO, PHOTO LONDON, PHOTO LA in Los Angeles, THE PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW presented by AIPAD in New York, UNSEEN in Amsterdam...

Françoise Bornstein is also a nominee for the Niépce prize and an expert at the Photo Folio Review of The Rencontres d'Arles.

Sit Down is member of the French "Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art".

ARTISTS

Jean-Michel ANDRÉ (FR, 1976)
Aurore BAGARRY (FR, 1982)
Anne-Lise BROYER (FR, 1975)
Gilles COULON (FR, 1966)
Catherine HENRIETTE (FR, 1960)
Jean-Gabriel LOPEZ (FR, 1962)
Marie Maurel de MAILLÉ (FR, 1978)
Sandra MEHL (FR, 1980)
Robert McCABE (USA, 1934)
Yan MORVAN (FR, 1954)

Catherine NOURY (FR, 1959)
Salvatore PUGLIA (IT, 1953)
Florian RUIZ (FR, 1972)
Jean-Charles REMICOURT-MARIE (FR, 1990)
Silvi SIMON (FR, 1970)
Chantal STOMAN (FR, 1968)
Laure VASCONI (FR, 1965)
Valérie WINCKLER (GBR, 1943)
Tom WOOD (IR, 1951)
Charles XELOT (FR, 1985)

CONTACTS

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Galerie Sit Down

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Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 2PM – 7PM