

Press Release

TRANSANATOLIA

Photographs by Mathias DEPARDON

June 10 > July 17 2021



TransAnatolia series | An Archer at International Conquest Cup, Istanbul , Turkey, 2015

©Mathias Depardon courtesy galerie Sit Down

Tirage chromogène

TRANSANATOLIA | THE EXHIBITION

Mathias Depardon's first exhibition at galerie Sit Down is a journey to the border regions of Anatolia.

Mathias Depardon spent five years photographing the New Turkey“, reaching as far as the rim of the Caucasus. To Azerbaijan or the Crimea, Turkey is still the “motherland“. The fragmentation of the Ottoman Empire at the end of the First World War is an enduring trauma, and pushing back the borders is a way to take revenge against a historical wound.

These remote regions help us to understand the changes sweeping through part of the world. Mathias Depardon's portraits and landscapes take the pulse of a country torn between modernization and Ottoman nostalgia.

TRANSANATOLIA | THE BOOK

Book signing with Mathias DEPARDON at galerie Sit Down: Saturday June 19 2021



Transanatolia

André Frère Editions, November 2020

Photographs by Mathias Depardon

Texts : Mathias Depardon, Guillaume Perrier and Hamit Bozarslan

Turkey's Borders

Nazim Hikmet, the greatest contemporary Turkish poet, who died in exile in 1963 without having set eyes again on Anatolia where he wanted to be buried, describes Turkey as “[t]his land coming full gallop from the Far East, stretching into the Mediterranean like the head of a mare.”

Like the early Turkish tribes that conquered Asia Minor, this mare carries a story on its back. From its mane down to its hooves, from its European brow of Thrace to the mountains of Kurdistan, from Kars in the foothills of the Caucasus with their Siberian winters, to Urfa at the arid threshold of the Near East, from the Black Sea to the White Sea, as the Mediterranean is known in Turkish, the country is a vast melting pot. Its identity is often elusive. Its territory covers 300,000 square miles, stretching nearly a thousand miles from east to west, with five thousand miles of coastline, and it straddles two continents and centuries-old civilizations. It is crossed by tall mountain ranges and two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates. In the west it opens onto Greece, in the north onto the Russian world, and in the east onto the Persian Empire. The land is at once Balkan and Anatolian, Arab, Kurdish, Caucasian, Laz, and Mediterranean, peasant and urban.

The country's equine-shaped silhouette is fairly recent, and Turkey is a new idea. It was founded in 1923 on the ashes of the Ottoman Empire, an area that for five centuries extended much farther. At its height in the mid-fifteenth century the empire covered over one million square miles.

... In order to unify such a diverse patchwork of peoples under the Turkish banner, the young Republic decided to wipe the slate clean. It changed the alphabet, abolished the Caliphate and religious brotherhoods, banned traditional costumes and minority languages. Starting from square one, it constructed a new language, along with a Turkish history and identity...

... The Turkish world is a much larger space than its current borders suggest. To cross it, one must travel back in time and explore imaginary landscapes.

By Guillaume Perrier

Extracted from *Transanatolia*'s preface

BIOGRAPHY

Born in France in 1980, Mathias Depardon was raised between France, Belgium and the USA. After studying communication and journalism in Brussels, Mathias briefly joined the Belgian national newspaper *Le Soir* before devoting himself to reportage and feature work.

His immersive process and slower approach to journalism allow for comprehensive bodies of work that reveal and frame important social, economic and political issues in territories under tension such as Turkey and Iraq where he questions the idea of identity and territory. Through series of portraits and landscapes, Mathias Depardon probe a Turkey torn between modernization and the reminiscence of the ottoman values evoking the notion of Pan-Turkism in the neighboring countries.

In 2018 he is the finalist of the "Grand Prix de la Photographie Documentaire" in Sète and the recipient of the CNAP Grant (Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris) for Contemporary Documentary Photography. During the 49th edition of Les Rencontres d'Arles, he exhibited as part of 'A Pillar of Smoke' - a look at Turkey's contemporary photography scene.

In 2019 he is the laureate of "Les Regards du Grand Paris" in partnership with Les Ateliers Médicis and CNAP. In 2020 he's the winner of the Yves Rocher Foundation Grant which will allow him to pursue his project on the drying out of the Mesopotamian Rivers.

Exhibitions have included the Bibliothèque nationale de France and more recently the Musée des Archives nationales in Paris for his solo exhibition TRANS ANATOLIA (2017).

He's work is published and commissioned regularly by leading international periodicals including National Geographic, M Le Magazine du Monde, Le Figaro Magazine along with photographic periodicals such as The British Journal of Photography and The European Photography Magazine among others. He is a member of The Photo Society / National Geographic and the author of TRANS ANATOLIA / André Frère Editions 2020.

SOLO / GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 - La Filature.** *TRANS ANATOLIA.* Mulhouse, France (upcoming)
- 2020 - Planches Contact.** Being yourself is the best Revolution! Deauville, France
- 2019 - Paris Photo.** *TRANS ANATOLIA.* Gallery The PILL. Paris, France
- 2019 - Photoaumnales.** *Tales from the Land in Between.* Groupshow. Beauvais, France
- 2019 - ImageSingulières.** *Tales From the Land in Between.* Solo Exhibition. Sète, France
- 2018 - Jimei X Arles International Photo Festival.** *Une Colonne de Fumée.* Group show. Xiamen, China
- 2018 - Thessaloniki Photo Biennale.** Iron Earth, Copper Sky. Group Show. Thessaloniki, Greece
- 2018 - Les Rencontres d'Arles.** *Une Colonne de Fumée.* Group show. Arles, France
- 2017 - Musée des Archives nationales.** *TRANS ANATOLIA.* Solo Exhibition. Paris, France
- 2017 - Rule-Breakers The Exhibition.** *GoldRivers.* Group Show. London, England
- 2017 - Les Rencontres d'Arles.** Projection of *Gold Rivers.* Arles, France
- 2017 - Just Another Photo Festival.** *The WildWest.* Varanasi, India
- 2017 - Tbilisi Photo Festival.** *Gold Rivers.* Tbilisi, Georgia
- 2016 - Tianshui Photography Biennale.** *Postcards of The Black Sea.* Tianshui, China
- 2015 - Foto Istanbul Festival.** *Postcards of The Black Sea.* Istanbul, Turkey
- 2015 - Institut Français d'Istanbul.** *Postcards of The Black Sea.* Istanbul, Turkey
- 2014 - Transcontinent/Obscura Photo Festival.** *Postcards of The Black Sea.* Penang, Malaysia
- 2013 - Mahal Cultural Center.** *Beyond The Borders.* Cannakale, Turkey
- 2013 - Institut Français d'Istanbul.** *Beyond The Borders.* Istanbul, Turkey
- 2012 - Hannover Young Photojournalism Lumix Festival.** *Beyond The Borders.* Hannover, Germany
- 2012 - Dust and Scratches Gallery.** *Beyond The Borders.* Moscow, Russia
- 2011 - Bibliothèque Nationale de France.** Bourse du Talent. *BeyondThe Borders.* Paris, France
- 2011 - Press Scoop Grand Lille.** *UnPrintemps Arabe.* Group Show. Lille, France
- 2011 - Instituto Cervantes.** *Revoluciones with CensuraLab and MJR.* Group Show. New York, USA

AWARDS

- 2020 - Yves Rocher Foundation Grant.** Winner. Visa / Perpignan, France
- 2019 - Atelier MEDICIS / CNAP. Les Regards du Grand Paris.** Laureate. Paris, France
- 2018 - CNAP. Soutien à la Photographie Documentaire et Contemporaine.** Nominee. Paris, France
- 2018 - Grand Prix de la Photographie Documentaire.** Images Singulières/Mediapart. Finalist. Sète, France
- 2016 - Gd4Photoart Award by MAST Foundation.** Shortlisted nominee. Bologna, Italy
- 2011 - International Photography Awards.** Honorable Mention. Editorial Reportage. Los Angeles, USA
- 2011 - Bourse du Talent/Reportage.** Winner. Paris, France

RESIDENCIES

- 2020 - Planches Contact / Les Franciscaines.** Deauville, France
- 2016 - Docking Station.** Amsterdam, Holland
- 2016 - Tianshui Photography Biennale.** Tianshui, China
- 2011 - Eddie Adams Workshop XXIV.** New York, USA

galerie **SIT
DOWN**

PRESS MATERIAL



TransAnatolia series, Beach of Samsun, Turkey, Black Sea Coast, Turkey, 2011

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Chromogenic print



TransAnatolia series, Near Gerze, Black Sea Coast, Turkey, 2013

©Mathias Depardon courtesy galerie Sit Down

Chromogenic print

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TransAnatolia series, Beach of Sinop, Black Sea Coast, Turkey, 2013

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Chromogenic print

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TransAnatolia series, Pilgrim on the road to Kerbala, Iraq, 2018
©Mathias Depardon courtesy galerie Sit Down
Chromogenic print



TransAnatolia series, Terrace view over the Tigris, Turkey, 2013

©Mathias Depardon courtesy galerie Sit Down

Chromogenic print

LA GALERIE

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)
Céline CROZE (FR, 1982)
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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Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 2PM – 7PM