

Press Release

BORDERS*

Jean-Michel ANDRÉ : Solo Show

November 4 – December 4 2021

The exhibition is part of the Photos Days tour



Borders series, #22 © Jean-Michel André courtesy galerie Sit Down
Pigment print

*Borders was supported by the  Centre national des arts plastiques in 2018 and the ERA Prize in 2019 (Diaphane, pôle photographique en Hauts-de-France).

BORDERS | THE EXHIBITION

After the success of the exhibition *Borders* at the Rencontres d'Arles 2021, the Sit Down gallery is honored to present for Jean-Michel first exhibition in Paris at the gallery, the series *Borders*.

Borders started in 2016 in the Calais jungle, at the moment when the jungle was being dismantled, and was developed over three years. The photographer explores the notion of borders in this series.

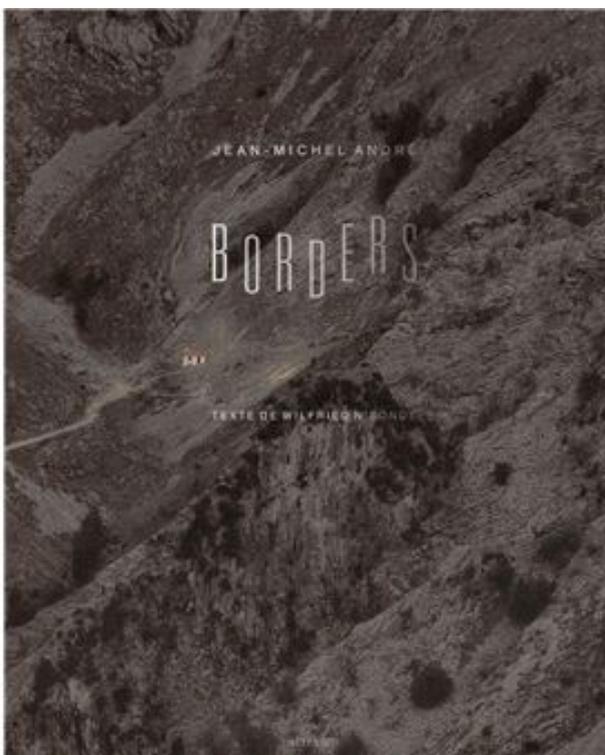
Jean-Michel André travelled back to Italy, Spain and Tunisia to follow the paths taken by the refugees. *Borders* is not a documentary series since the artist does not situate the shots on the refugees but, instead, reflects on them with suggestive vocabulary.

The temporality is floating, the space is undefined. In this way, the artist deliberately erases the migration map.

It is indeed the hope for freedom that the photographer, from his point of view, tries to translate. Like a visual palimpsest, composed of fragments of landscapes, portraits, and texts, the exhibition invites the viewer to a journey, that of the refugees, of wandering but also of hope and resistance.

BORDERS | THE PUBLICATION

**Book signing session with Jean Michel ANDRÉ at the Sit Down Gallery :
Saturday, November 20, 2021**



This project started in the Calais jungle the day before the shanty town was evacuated in 2016. For three years, Jean-Michel André continued working on it in France, Italy, Spain and Tunisia, where he met refugees looking for a roof over their heads: women, children and men whose only wealth is the infinite time of hope. *Borders* is not designed as a linear series, nor is it really a narrative: more like a collection of stories. André photographs the traces of the areas he travels across by revealing shadows, wandering and the fragile border between the real and the imaginary, memory and the present. Time floats and spaces are uncertain.

Borders

Editions Actes Sud, February 2021
Photographs by Jean-Michel André
Texts by Wilfried N'Sondé

The series *Borders*, by Jean-Michel André, is a long-term project looking at the dream of those who flee their homelands for a new El Dorado. As in his previous work, André explores notions of economic and migratory flow. Rather than holding to a strictly documentary model, the work subscribes to a narrative style that's neither linear nor predetermined.

A similar sentiment of political and ecological awareness is shown by his choice of subjects. From Calais to the island of Lampedusa, passing through Spain and Tunisia, he exhibits the courage of these people who have been deprived of their families, displaced due to religious conflict, or climate and economic disaster. A friendly epistolary relationship grew out of a meeting with writer Wilfried N'Sondé, examining writing and photography, imbued with a profound humanity. N'Sondé's words recount heartbreak, hardship and the dignity of a people facing departure without return. In response, André's choice of overexposed images allows him to obtain uniform colors tending toward lighter and ultimately soothing hues. The result is an impression of calm, despite the tragedy of the situation. There is no sensationalism in this approach. Rather, the beauty of a snow-capped mountain, an isolated house or a winding road crossed by men and women determined to find a welcoming country is sublimated here. The prints move between white and ocher light, and black, organic landscapes, metaphors for dreams to come and tragic journeys.

Though solitude, isolation, and fear punctuate these stories of broken dreams, a glimmer of hope can always be found. As an involved observer of wandering populations, André offers an act of resistance here. It consists in tirelessly rethinking the place of the human in a time of great global questions, and reminds us of the fragile nature of our civilizations.

Béatrice Andrieux, exhibition curator, art critic.

BIOGRAPHY

Jean-Michel André

Graduated from the Gobelins school in 2000, Jean-Michel André continues his creative photographic work where visual and documentary interpretations intersect. His approach is based on a political and poetic vision of the territory. He questions its limits, its memory and its evolutions. He also explores the notion of circulation, and particularly that of economic, financial and migratory flows.

His work has been shown in exhibitions, residencies and publications in France and abroad and is represented by the Sit Down gallery. His photographs are part of the collections of the Clément Foundation and the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2021

- Rencontres de la photographie d'Arles. Série *Borders*.

2020

- Festival Les Photoautnales, Beauvais. Exposition réalisée dans le cadre du prix Diaphane ERA.

2019

- Festival Photolux, Lucca, Italie. Exposition réalisée dans le cadre du prix Diaphane ERA.

2018

- *Borders* (premier volet). Exposition individuelle. Galerie de l'Institut français de Tunis.
- Festival de photographie de Nantes (La QPN), de Bordeaux (IPV) et de Lille (Transphotographiques). Série *Borders* (premier volet).
- Exposition des lauréats de la Bourse du Talent, Bibliothèque nationale de France.

2017

- *Paysage: Fiction de la matière, matière à fiction*. Exposition collective. Galerie Plateforme, Paris.
- What's Up Photo Doc. Halle des Blancs Manteaux, Paris.

2016

- *Visions Archipéliques*. Exposition collective. Fondation Clément, Martinique.

2015

- *L'autre Pays*. Exposition individuelle. Galerie Les Bains Révélateurs, Roubaix.
- Rencontres 9ph, exposition collective au Centre de photographie contemporaine Le Bleu du Ciel, Lyon (biennale d'art contemporain).

2014

- *Nomads & Orphans*. Exposition collective. Brentwood Road Gallery. Photomonth international photographic festival, Londres.

2012

- *Exilés*. Exposition individuelle. Fondation Clément, Martinique.

2011

- *Dos à la mer*. Exposition individuelle. Galerie André Arsenec (CMAC, scène nationale de Martinique).

The pavement and the beach. Exposition collective. Galerie Paradise Row, Londres.

2010

Maroc épuré, Exposition individuelle. Little Big Galerie, Paris.

EDITION

2021

Borders. Éditions Actes Sud. Texte de Wilfried N'Sondé.

2019

L'archipel d'un monde nouveau. Éditions Invenit. Textes de Patrick Varetz.

2011

Dialogue. Edité par BNP Paribas. Textes d'Erik Orsenna.

2010

Maroc épuré. Edité par Senso Unico. Préface de Tahar Ben Jelloun.

AWARDS

2019

Lauréat du prix ERA. Photolux Festival & Diaphane (Pôle photographique des Hauts de France).

2018

Lauréat du Soutien à la photographie documentaire contemporaine du Cnap. Série *Borders*.

2017

Lauréat du prix de la Bourse du Talent. Catégorie paysage. Série *Borders*.

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

2019

Résidence de création à Lucca, Italie.

2015

- Des Clics et des Classes. Réseau Canopé, Rencontres d'Arles, avec le concours du ministère de l'Éducation nationale.
- Résidence-mission d'artiste (ART) sur la Valeur Universelle Exceptionnelle du Bassin minier Patrimoine mondial. DRAC Hauts-de-France, Mission Bassin minier.

2010

Aide à la création de la DRAC Martinique. Série *Dos à la mer*.

ROYALTY-FREE PRESS VISUALS



*Borders series, #28 © Jean-Michel André courtesy galerie Sit Down
Pigment print*



Borders series, #61 © Jean-Michel André courtesy galerie Sit Down
Pigment print



Borders series, #41 © Jean-Michel André courtesy galerie Sit Down
Pigment print



Borders series, #20 © Jean-Michel André courtesy galerie Sit Down
Pigment print

THE GALLERY

Sit Down Gallery was launched by Françoise Bornstein in 2005, in Paris's historic Le Marais quarter. Since 2013, the Gallery has been devoted largely to contemporary French and international photography, with a particular interest in documentary photography.

The Sit Down Gallery is also interested in artists seeking to transcend photography by crossing and interchanging with other media, and by questioning the limits of its mimetic use.

Sit Down is part of international art fairs such as Paris Photo, Photo London, Photo L.A. (Los Angeles), The Photography Show presented by AIPAD in New York, UNSEEN in Amsterdam, and others.

The Gallery is a member of France's Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art (CPGA), the nation's Professional Committee of Art Galleries.

THE 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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www.sitdown.fr

Galerie Sit Down
4 rue Sainte-Anastase - 75003 Paris
Ouverture: du mardi au vendredi de 14h à 19h
Le samedi de midi à 19h
Et sur rendez-vous