

Press Release

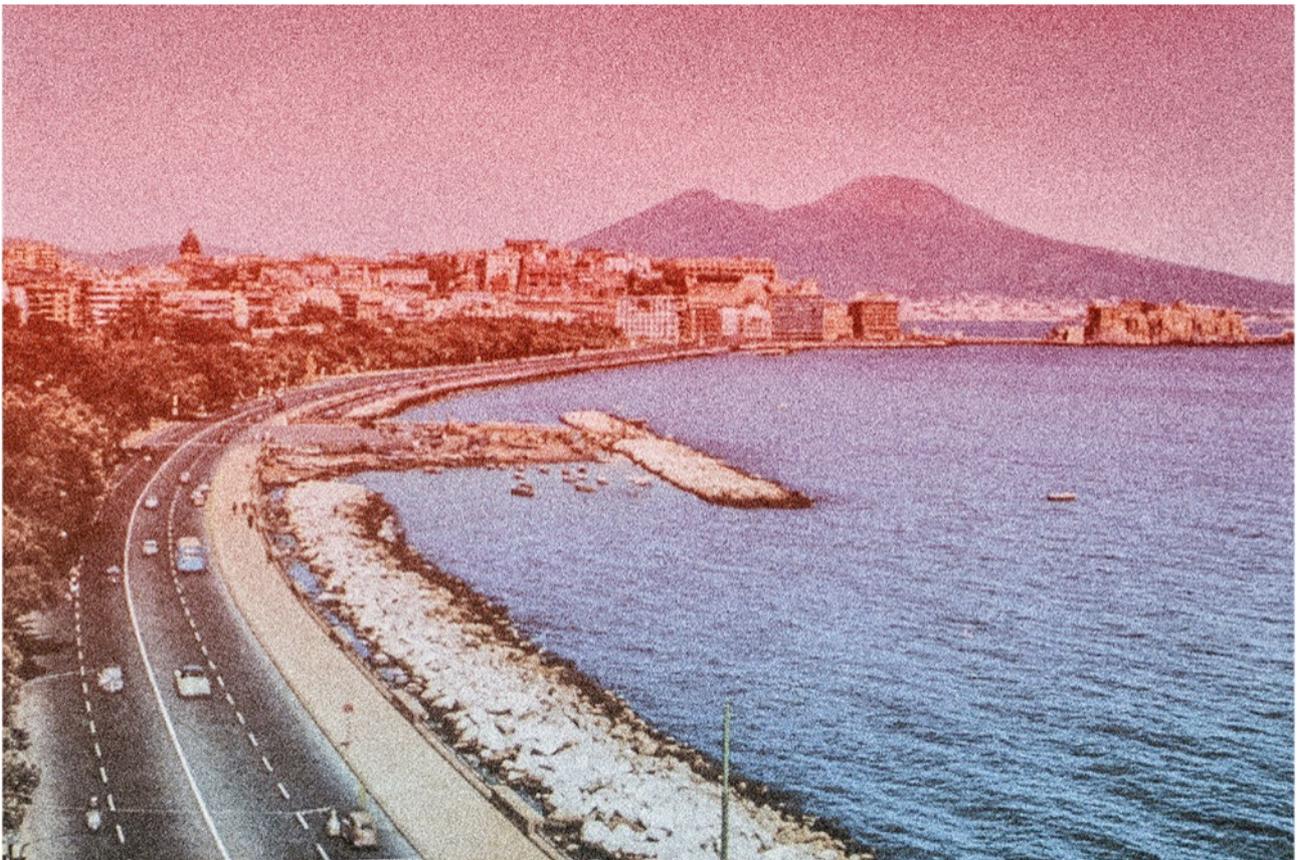
SPETTRI DI FAMIGLIA

Solo Show

Photographs by **Ulrich LEBEUF**

February 18 – March 19, 2022

Opening Thursday February 17, 6 -9 pm in the presence of the artist



Spettri di famiglia series, Untitled #39, 2018 © Ulrich Lebeuf/MYOP courtesy galerie Sit Down

galerie **SIT DOWN**

Sit Down Gallery is pleased to present "Spettri di famiglia", Ulrich Lebeuf's first solo exhibition in the recently renovated gallery space.

Mixing his own pictures with anonymous photographs, Ulrich Lebeuf seeks to reclaim a Neapolitan family history steeped in violence and the unsaid.

Like Antonioni in the film *Blow Up*, the photographer returns to the scene of the drama and snaps spur of the moment photos in Naples. Thanks to the enlargement, he crops the picture and discovers faces that he had not initially perceived. This multitude of black and gray cropped portraits, with speckled grain, reveals the ghosts that haunt him. Facades of buildings also punctuate this series and make us wonder about the mysterious happenings within these walls.

Half documentary, half fiction, "Spettri di famiglia" is a disturbing reflection on temporality, the gaze and imagination, the unknown and the unconscious.

The first part of this series was presented during "Les Rencontres d'Arles" festival in 2018, then at the "Promenades photographiques de Vendôme" last summer as well as at the "Fictions Documentaires" festival in Carcassonne at the end of 2021.

SPETTRI DI FAMIGLIA (FAMILY GHOSTS)

There are of course questions that we ask ourselves as time goes by, and identity is one of them.

My mother, Charlotte, was born in 1938 in France to a Neapolitan father and a French mother. Neapolitans are particularly attached to their land and their country.

From her early childhood, she went to Naples in the summer with her family. At one point, her parents decided to leave her there under the responsibility of her uncle, an extremely violent man, first towards his wife, then towards this little girl in his care

At the age of 16, she ran away from the clutches of this man, with the guilt of abandoning her aunt. My mother has kept a very special bond with this land, a mixture of terror for this man, and love for this woman. I imagined Naples all my childhood through my mother's stories, her memories, ranging from fascination to disgust, violence and tenderness.

In 2015, I felt the need to discover this city with her. She had never been back there. I had to photograph this fantasied city, which indirectly constitutes my history. Naples - infatuated by death - is characterised by a unique hymn to life.

Through different photographic processes, between fact and fiction, I invented and recreated, little by little, a family album, and brought back to life characters and places which belong to my mother's past and my own history. I returned to those places haunted with drama and photographed them with growing fascination.

As in Antonioni's film *Blow-Up*, I extracted faces from these images, detailed faces. I remember the tales told in the evening, of Naples, this city of southern Italy.

Ulrich LEBEUF

ULRICH LEBEUF | BIOGRAPHY

Ulrich Lebeuf is a French photographer, born in 1972. He is also the artistic director of the MAP Photography Festival in Toulouse and conducts workshops in France and abroad.

In 2016, he received the Jean Dieuzaide Prize awarded by the "Académie des Arts du Languedoc". This award recognizes the work of the photographer, both for his role as a witness at major events and for his commitment to the promotion of photography as an artistic director.

A member of agence MYOP since January 2007, his photographic work has been published in *Le Monde*, *Libération*, *L'équipe*, *Géo*, *National Geographic*...

Today, while continuing his work for the press, he focuses more on his personal work, where research occupies an important role, and where he alternates photographic processes according to the subject matter: from color to black and white, through Polaroid, or processes close to painting.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 *Kháos*, Les Éditions de Juillet
- 2017 *Foreword - Avant Propos*, Éditions MyopZine
- 2017 *Dakar Nuit*, Éditions Charlotte Sometimes
- 2016 *Tropique du cancer*, Éditions Charlotte Sometimes
- 2013 *Treize Histoires*, Éditions Galerie La Petite Poule Noire
- 2011 *Première de Couv*, Éditions Galerie Chambre à Part
- 2010 *Toulouse territoires du tramway*, Éditions Privat
- 2010 *Antonyme de la pudeur*, Éditions Le château d'Eau

EXHIBITIONS

- Fictions documentaires, festival de la photographie sociale, Carcassonne, 2021 – Exposition *Spettri di famiglia*
- Festival Promenades photographiques de Vendôme, 2021 – Exposition *Spettri di famiglia*
- Pôle de photographie STIMULTANIA, Strasbourg, 2021 – Exposition collective agence Myop - *Back to Black*
- Galerie Fermé Le Lundi, Marseille, 2019 - Exposition *Kháos*.
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2019, Arles – Exposition collective avec Stéphane Lagoutte, *Théâtre de la violence*.
- Galerie Wanted Paris Amnesty International, janvier 2019 – Exposition *Isabelle et Amandine*.
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2018, Arles – Exposition *Duecento*, Maison Myop.
- Le Carré d'Art Rennes Juin 2018 – Exposition série *Alaska Highway*.
- Festival Les Promenades Photographiques Juin 2017 – Exposition série *Dakar Nuit*.
- Galerie M Toulouse, avril 2017 – Exposition série *Dakar Nuit*.
- Place du Capitole Toulouse, Novembre 2016 – Exposition série *Portraits Anthropométriques*.
- Galerie Joseph Antonin Arles juillet 2016 – Exposition série *Tropique du Cancer*.
- Biennale Européenne du Patrimoine Urbain, Quai des Savoirs Toulouse, novembre 2016 – Exposition série *Polaroids*.
- Les ateliers les Frigos Paris, novembre 2015 – Exposition série *Dakar Nuit*.
- PHOTO LONDON, Myop in London, Mai 2015 – Exposition série *Antonyme de la Pudeur*.
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2014, Arles – Exposition série *New York*, Maison M.Y.O.P.
- Le point Ephémère, Novembre 2013, Paris – Exposition série *Isabelle et Amandine*.
- Festival MAP Toulouse, Septembre 2013 – Exposition série *Homeless*.
- Festival Visa pour l'image, septembre 2012 – Projection série *Clichés de Campagne politique*.
- Festival Images Singulières Sète, Mai 2012 – Projection série *Clichés de Campagne politique*.
- Maison de la radio Paris, Mai 2012 – Exposition série *Clichés de Campagne politique*.
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2012, Arles – Exposition série *Tropique du cancer*, Galerie le magasin de jouets (hors les murs).
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2012, Arles – Exposition série *Alaska Highway*, Galerie le magasin de jouets.
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2012, Arles – Projection de *Clichés de campagne*, Nuit de l'Année.
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2011, Arles – Exposition série *Antonyme de la pudeur*, Maison M.Y.O.P.
- Rencontres Cinématographiques de Cerbère, octobre 2011 – Projection de *Alaska Highway*.

EXHIBITIONS (continued)

- Salon de la Photo, octobre 2011, Paris – Projection de *Alaska Highway* et conférence.
- Galerie d'Art contemporain Kuryos, Bordeaux, 2011 – Exposition série *Antonyme de la pudeur*.
- Galerie le Château d'Eau, Toulouse, 2010 – Exposition série *Antonyme de la pudeur*.
- La Cambre, Bruxelles, 2010 – Exposition série *Antonyme de la pudeur*.
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2010, Arles – Projection de *Tecktonik*, Nuit de l'Année.
- Pavillon populaire (Montpellier) pour l'exposition *Un rêve américain* – Projection de *Alaska Highway* du 17 juillet au 3 octobre 2010.
- SUNDAY'S SCREENING #4, Paris, 2010 – Projection de *Alaska Highway*, Galerie La petite poule noire.
- Rencontres de la Villette, Paris, 2007 – Projection des séries *Ere de jeux* et *En attendant mon tour*.
- Maison Européenne de la photographie, Paris, 2006 – Projection de la série *Ere de jeux*.
- Rencontres Internationales de Photographie, juillet 2006, Arles – Projection en ouverture du festival des séries *Ere de jeux* et *En attendant mon tour* sous la direction artistique de Raymond Depardon.
- Festival du Scoop, Angers, 2004 – Exposition de la série *Palestine*.
- Centre d'art et d'architecture de Toulouse, 2002 – Exposition AZF.

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PRESS MATERIAL



Spettri di famiglia series, Untitled #31, 2020 © Ulrich Lebeuf/MYOP courtesy galerie Sit Down
Piezo pigment print on Fine Art Awagami Bamboo paper

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Spettri di famiglia series: Untitled #02, Untitled #03, Untitled #11, Untitled #10, 2017

© Ulrich Lebeuf/MYOP courtesy galerie Sit Down

Piezo pigment print on Fine Art Awagami Bamboo paper



Spettri di famiglia series, Untitled #35, 2017 © Ulrich Lebeuf/MYOP courtesy galerie Sit Down
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Spettri di famiglia series, Untitled#13, 2017 © Ulrich Lebeuf/MYOP courtesy galerie Sit Down
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Spettri di famiglia series, Untitled #37, 2020 © Ulrich Lebeuf/MYOP courtesy galerie Sit Down
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ABOUT 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 participates in 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 the French « Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art » (CPGA).

ARTISTS

Jean-Michel ANDRÉ (FR, 1976)
Aurore BAGARRY (FR, 1982)
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

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 2-7 PM

And by appointment

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Chemins

April 1 – April 30, 2022

Duo Show: Catherine NOURY, Martine SCHILDGE

ART PARIS

April 7 – 10 2022

Group Show: Aurore BAGARRY, Constanza GASTALDI, Catherine NOURY, Frédérique PETIT, Florian RUIZ, Martine SCHILDGE.