

## PRESS RELEASE

### Didier Goupy, Catherine Henriette, Gert Motmans *Silence*

Exhibition 24.11.2022 – 24.12.2022

Opening Thursday, November 24, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., in presence of the artists

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Text:  
Elisa Bernard

The exhibition Silence brings together the work of Didier Goupy, Catherine Henriette and Gert Motmans. The selected works are images of silence that are part of a universe marked by human absence. Although figures appear occasionally, they do not disturb the silent immensity that is at play in the works of these three artists. Far from being an emptiness, silence should be considered as the overflow of an inaccessible world, a music of the infinitely small that no one listens to, unreal and worried by turns.

Do trees make noise? This is the question asked by **Didier Goupy's** photographs, which are gateways to the silent immensity of forests. The Fondations series draws up portraits of trees, framed in tight shots, just at eye level, which confront us with these beings inhabiting the world with us. This photographic work thus draws the contours of a plant intimacy that Didier Goupy nourishes with a poetic and personal observation of forests. The undergrowth immortalised by the artist has an almost supernatural character. Fondations reads like a chronicle of the silent life of trees in constant metamorphosis. One day ghostly silhouettes, the next day networks of graceful, budding branches, the images of these threatened giants tend towards abstraction.

**Catherine Henriette**, who recently joined the gallery's programme, is a French photographer whose series Conte d'hiver and Conte d'été draw an alternative image of China, wrapped in an infinitely calm and serene whiteness. The calligraphy of silence that Catherine Henriette sketches through these images is all the more striking because it is played out in a country that is nevertheless in the throes of frenetic change. The artist shows us a stopped time that leaves room for the emergence of dreams.

The human figures, lost in the immensity of the places that surround them, appear in discrete touches, in the manner of traditional Chinese paintings. The light of the chromatic palette shows us the daily life of the inhabitants of North-East China over the course of the seasons, nimbed in a clarity that simplifies the colours and signs that make up the landscape. The result is that of a dull deafness, as if this lactescent glow swallowed the sounds around it.

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**Gert Motmans**, a photographer from Antwerp, joins this collective project for his first exhibition in the gallery. His work in the form of collages revolves around the question of memory.

The worlds he reconstructs from family photographs and magazine clippings are reminiscences. The works of Gert Motmans are imagined from these snippets and form a fantasy world that hints at a space-time that is both infinite and undefined. For him, silence is the residue of the whisper of an unknown world.

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Images available  
for the press



Didier Goupy, *Fondation N°83*, series *Fondations*, 2020  
Inkjet print, edition of 3  
40 × 40 cm



Catherine Henriette, *Le détachement féminin rouge*, series *Conte d'hiver*, 2013  
Inkjet print, edition of 10  
11 × 17 cm

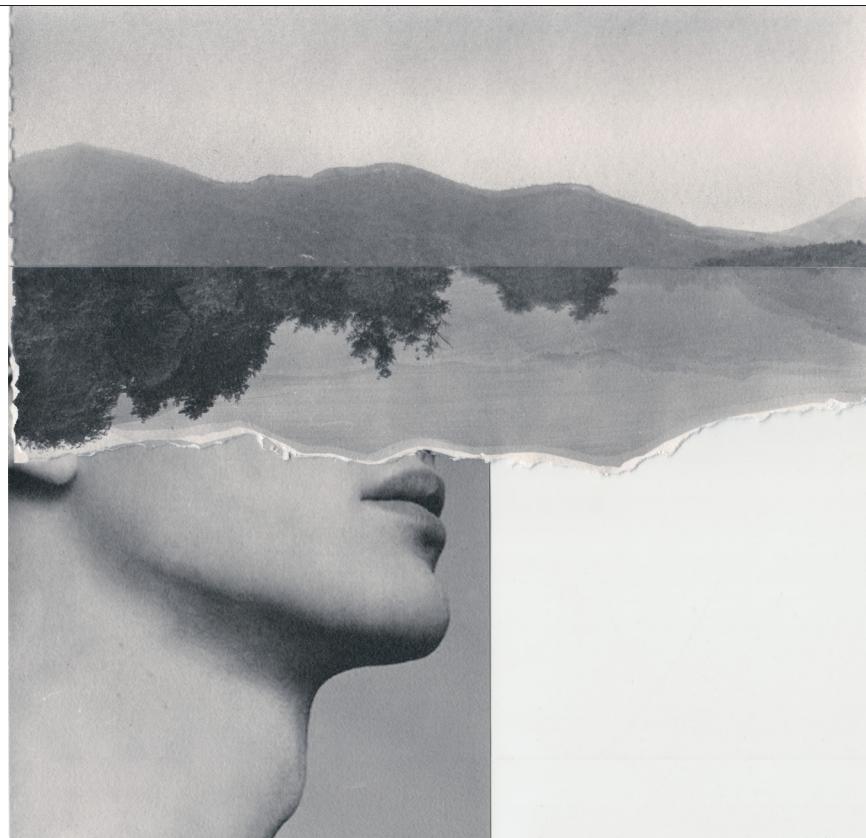
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Obligatory mention : ©Didier Goupy, courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff  
©Catherine Henriette, courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

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Images available  
for the press



Gert Motmans, *Day 11*, series *Now it's day, but I am dreaming*, 2022  
Analog collage, silver gelatin prints  
25,5 × 23,5 cm, unique

The use of images is exclusively reserved for the promotion of the exhibition and valid up to its end.

Obligatory mention : ©Gert Motmans courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

## BIOGRAPHY

Artist

### Didier Goupy

Born in 1960, Didier Goupy makes his first images in Morocco and the photographs he made in Ireland 1984 and Egypt 1985 are immediately published in Photo Magazine and Photo Reporter. He settles in Paris in 1986, became a professional photographer and began a collaboration with the Bayard Presse group. He joined the Sygma agency in 1991.

It is in India, where he will make several trips between 1993 and 2001, that his passion for portraits and colour will be revealed. Didier Goupy's portraits are distributed by the photographers' house Signatures.

Today, Didier Goupy continues his personal work on space (*Mythologies*) in a close relationship to painting. Very sensitive to Mark Rothko's work and Pierre Bonnard, he focuses on understanding the relationship between the figure and abstraction by color so as to create a space of mystery and meditation. The forest (*Foundations*) is the founding site of his research work and the first chapter of *Mythologies*.

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#### Solo shows

##### **2022**

*Fondations*, Le Kiosque Culturel, Vannes, France

*Promontoires du Silence*, Square One, Arles, France

*L'appel de la forêt*, Galerie Patricia Oranin, Pont-l'Abbé, France

*Odyssée*, Espace 48 Verneuil, Paris, France

##### **2020**

*Matière primaire*, avec Jens Knigge, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France

##### **2016**

*Là...et peut-être ailleurs*, Biennale des Bains numériques, Enghien-les-Bains, France

##### **2014**

*Rouge 3*, Le Kiosque Culturel, Vannes, France

##### **2011**

*Metropolis, Projection*, Rencontres d'Arles, France

##### **2009**

*Entre eux et moi*, Le Kiosque Culturel, Vannes, France

##### **2007**

*Les Goupy à la mer*, Musée des beaux-arts, Vannes, France

##### **2006**

*File Indienne*, Tour Jean Sans Peur, Mois européen de la photographie, Paris France

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**2005**

*File indienne*, Musée de la compagnie des Indes, Port-Louis, France

**2004**

*Sâdhus*, Projection, Visa Pour l'Image, Perpignan, France

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## Publications

**2007**

*Le Mont Saint-Michel*, éditions du Chêne, Paris, France

**2006**

*File indienne*, livre d'artiste, édition limitée, éditions Trans Photographic Press, France

**2001**

*Planète Cancer*, parution, Paris-Match, Paris

**1989**

Lourdes, parution, Magazine ZOOM, France

## BIOGRAPHY

Artist

### Catherine Henriette

Text :  
**Marc Desmazières**

As she left the examination room where she had just finished her master's degree in Chinese, Catherine Henriette realised that in fact she had mastered nothing at all.

Between 1/125th and 1/250th of a second, she decides to go and see if she is there... "Over there" is China and the famous 700,000 million Chinese of Dutronc's song. And her, and her and her?

In the heart of the not so sentimental crowd, but rather turned towards extreme industrialisation, her golden heart is struck by silver halide: she will be a photographer. She unravels, she struggles - she is not an easy girl - she wants to remain master of her destiny. But her destiny is even greater than she is.

She will be a photographer. Her childish hyper-sensitivity turns into emotion.

Her solitude into independence. And little by little, her immense sensitive stature ends up overcoming her physicality. Unlike the other girls, it is not the gold hardware around her neck that makes her pretty, it is her black Leica that makes her beautiful.

From the ANPE to the AFP, she travels the world and captures its faces for GEO, Le Figaro and L'Express. Then, one winter morning, capturing the moment was no longer enough. She wanted to seize time. She then puts down her camera as one would put down an easel, and composes canvases where the infinitely large and the infinitely small, disorder and symmetry, permanence and flight are harmonized... She has become a painter-photographer. And the Jury of the Académie des Beaux Arts was not insensitive to this mutation since it rewarded her with its Prix de La Photographie 2013.

To be continued, isn't it?

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#### Solo shows

##### **2022**

*Conte d'hiver, Conte d'été*, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Geneva, Switzerland  
*Swell*, ateliers de la maison Hermès, Paris, France

##### **2019**

*Swell*, salle Posta d'Urrugne, Urrugne, France

##### **2018**

*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, ateliers de la maison Hermès, Paris, France

##### **2017**

*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, Beaupréau, France  
*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, Beaufou, France  
*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, PhotDoc (festival de photo documentaire), Paris, France  
*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, Galerie Sitdown, Paris, France

##### **2015**

*Conte d'été*, Galerie Cosmos, Paris, France

##### **2014**

*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, Académie des Beaux Arts, Paris, France

##### **2012**

*Harbin la blanche*, Maison de la Chine, Paris, France  
*Harbin la blanche*, Galerie Leica, Solms, Deutschland  
*Harbin la blanche*, Galerie Leica, Salzburg, Austria

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**2011**

*Harbin la blanche*, Galerie Cosmos, Paris, France

**2009**

*Ethiopie Itinérances*, Maison de Rimbaud, Harar, Ethiopia

Ambassade de France dans le cadre d'un colloque sur le poète Nicole Klagsbrun,  
New York, United States

Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, United States

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## Group shows

**2021**

*Cirque de Lescun*, Paris Photo, Paris, France

**2018**

*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, Paris Photo, Paris, France

**2017**

*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, Photo Doc, Paris, France

*Conte d'hiver et Conte d'été*, Galerie Cosmos, Paris, France

**2011**

*Ethiopie itinérances à l'A.A.F (Affordable Art Fair)*, Paris, France

**2010**

*Photographies de Chine*, A.A.F (Affordable Art Fair), Paris, France

**2009**

*Les 50 ans de la RPC*, Maison de la Chine, Paris, France

**2003**

*Photographies de Chine*, Festival Terre d'images, Biarritz, France

**2002**

*Les 20 ans de GEO*, Festival Terre d'images, Biarritz, France

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## Publications

**2016**

*Conte d'hiver, conte d'été*, éditions Filigranes, Paris, France

**2006**

*Ethiopie Itinérances*, éditions Mengès, Paris, France

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## Awards

**2021**

Finaliste du prix Eurazeo pour la série *Cirque de Lescun*

**2020**

Finaliste du prix Eurazeo pour la série *Swell*

**2015**

Finaliste du prix Eurazeo pour la série *Conte d'hiver, conte d'été*

**2014**

Lauréate du prix de l'Académie des Beaux Arts pour la série *Conte d'hiver, conte d'été*

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## BIOGRAPHY

Artist

### Gert Motmans

Born in 1972 in Hasselt, Gert Motmans graduated from the fashion department of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, where he still lives and works as a visual artist and fashion designer. Feeling the need to express himself through images, he then followed photography courses at the same Academy of Fine Arts. In 2018, he created FRNCS Studio - "FRNCS" (pronounced "Francis") is an acronym for "fragments and collected instants" - a project combining photography and collage where personal nostalgia, natural, sacred and architectural themes are fused into surreal compositions.

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#### Solo shows

##### **2021**

*The same as it never was*, Ingrid Deuss Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

##### **2019**

*Fragments et instants collectés*, Red Fish Factory, Antwerp, Belgium

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#### Group shows

##### **2021**

Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris Photo, Paris, France

*Shift*, Galerie Rivoli, Brussels, Belgium

Engarde, digital art platform, Brussels, Belgium

Unseen Photography Art Fair, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Onboards Biennale, Antwerp, Belgium

##### **2020**

Clement, Brussels, Belgium

##### **2019**

Maison 8, Brussels, Belgium

*A step in between II*, Antwerp, Belgium, curated by Alexandra Beirnaerd

##### **2016**

*A step in between I*, Antwerp, Belgium, curated by Alexandra Beirnaerd

##### **2015**

*Step one*, Antwerp, Belgium, curated by Alexandra Beirnaerd

*Différentes perspectives*

Expo fotokunst, Académie royale des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers, Antwerp, Belgium

##### **2014**

Expo fotokunst, Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers, Antwerp, Belgium

##### **2013**

Expo fotokunst, Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers, Antwerp, Belgium

##### **2012**

Expo fotokunst, Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts d'Anvers, Antwerp, Belgium

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## Publications

### 2021

Spunk Magazine issue #14 “Performance,” a literary art journal  
Lydia Wierenga, *A6 murals worldwide*  
Gert Motmans, *the same as it never was*

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## Awards

Sélectionné pour le prix Siena creative photo awards