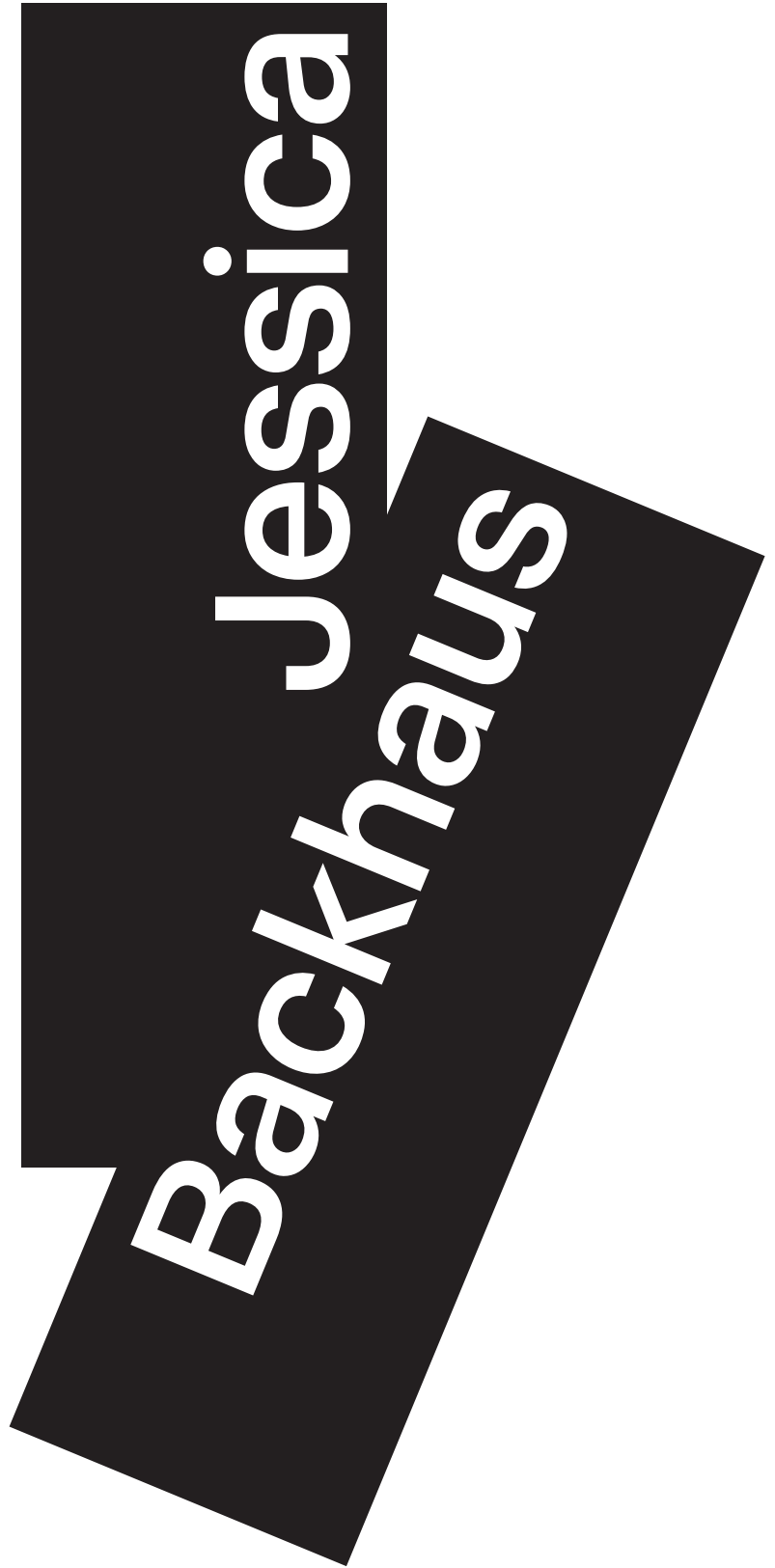


Centre  
de la photographie  
de Mougins



Jessica  
Backhaus

Press kit

Nous irons  
jusqu'au soleil:  
Jessica Backhaus

2.03 –  
2.06.2024

Curators:

François Cheval  
and Yasmine Chemali

Opening  
on Friday 1<sup>st</sup>.03  
2024  
18:30

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The Mougins Center of Photography is an institution dedicated to still and moving images, tasked with promoting and exhibiting the many trends in contemporary photography. Open to all forms of photographic modernity, the Center, as a municipal institution, boosts the cultural and tourism sector of the town of Mougins, seeking to enhance the region and foster international communication. From its opening on July 3rd 2021, its mission is to support the creation and experimentations of artists of all profiles: from France or overseas, up-and-coming or established. This support takes various forms including producing, exhibiting, publishing and residencies. Other local authorities in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region (PACA), including those of Marseille and Nice, are already demonstrating a dynamic approach to photography by way of varied exhibitions or thanks to proactive publishing houses and diverse residency programs. The Mougins Center of Photography will complement these activities by providing a similar service for contemporary photography.

**Nous irons  
jusqu'au soleil :**

**Jessica Backhaus**

Jessica Backhaus takes coloured sheets of paper and, without any semblance of fragility, throws and arranges them into bright series of works. It must be acknowledged that Jessica Backhaus is a talented colourist. She orders compositions as if they were architectural models, striving for the most glowing colours, each complementing the other. In the photographs, there is a profusion of hues, with all the different greens, blues, yellows and reds, as well as folds which merge with the shadows. With a constant sense of vigour, the broad expanses of colour offer infinite diversity. The paper is the background colour and the surface is the colour! The interplay of colours in 'Cut Outs' is simply an analysis of the relationships that space weaves with the coloured blocks, between the shapes and the effect of the sun. The hybridity of colour and volume offers far more than a simple examination of the two-dimensional. Both create, as a consequence of the series, an evolving narrative of colour: a story in the making, laden with expressive joy, at times eye-catching, following only its own rules. The categories of light and dark, matt and glossy, dense and soft, spacious and modest and wide and narrow are not in opposition. There was no mention of fragility because photography itself is solid. She has mastered light and other elements to create these surprising spatial structures. Jessica Backhaus does not draw with colours; she sculpts them. There is no attempt to simplify here; on the contrary, the autonomy of the colour photographed is explored, forever freed from the constraints of the subject. However, make no mistake; colours do not become pure abstractions or imaginary visual depictions by disassociating themselves from objects. The effects of colour are realities that are often indescribable yet very much present. The coloured sheets of paper, treated in depth, whose complexity we can grasp visually, have a life of their own. Such is the role that the photographer has given herself, to recount to us the infinite vitality of coloured vibrations freed from custom and to encourage an experience of colour independent of conventions of any kind.

François Cheval

## Biography

### Jessica Backhaus

Jessica Backhaus was born in Cuxhaven, Germany, in 1970 and grew up in an artistic family. At the age of 16, she moved to Paris, where she later studied photography and visual communication. Here, in 1992, she met Gisèle Freund, who became her mentor. In 1995 her passion for photography drew her to New York, where she assisted photographers, pursued her own projects and lived until 2009. Now based in Berlin, Jessica Backhaus is regarded as one of the most distinguished voices in contemporary photography in Germany. Her work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including at the National Portrait Gallery, London, the Martin-Gropius Bau, Berlin, the Marta Herford Museum and the Kunsthalle Erfurt. To date, she has ten publications to her name; *Jesus and the Cherries* (2005), *What Still Remains* (2008), *One Day in November* (2008), *I Wanted to See the World* (2010), *One Day: 10 Photographers* (2010), *Once, Still and Forever* (2012), *Six Degrees of Freedom* (2015), *A Trilogy* (2017), *Far Away but Close* (2019) and *Cut Outs* (2021). All books are published by Kehrer Verlag, Heidelberg (Germany), except *Far Away but Close*, that was published by Another Place Press, Scotland.

Her photographs are in many prominent art collections, including the Taunus Sparkasse and the Art Collection Deutsche Börse (Germany), the ING Art Collection (Belgium), the Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, USA), and the Margulies Collection (Miami, USA).

Jessica Backhaus is represented by Robert Morat Galerie (Berlin), Galerie Anja Knoess (Cologne), Petra Becker/International Art Bridge (Meggen, Switzerland), Robert Klein Gallery (Boston), Bridgette Mayer Gallery (Philadelphia), Micamera Gallery (Milan), Carlos Carvalho Arte Contemporânea (Lisbon) and Wouter van Leeuwen Gallery (Amsterdam).

**Serie**

**Cut Outs**

**2018-2021**

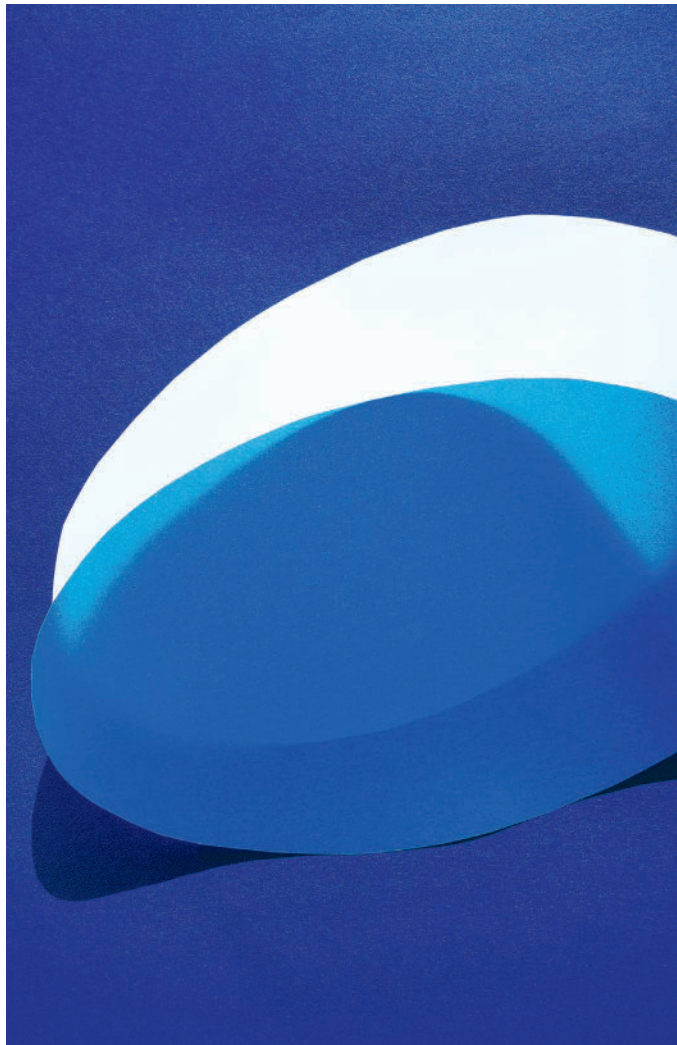
Jessica Backhaus

In the series 'Cut Outs', Jessica Backhaus' compositions resemble scenes of transparent cut-out papers placed, defenseless, under the intense heat of sunlight. The cut-out shapes then start to improvise an experimental choreography. A theater of shadows and hybrid forms, with the artist herself as the sole audience and the photographic recording as the sole witness.

Jessica Backhaus explores a visual reality where elements dissolve into pure movements, vibrations, shadows, and saturated colors.

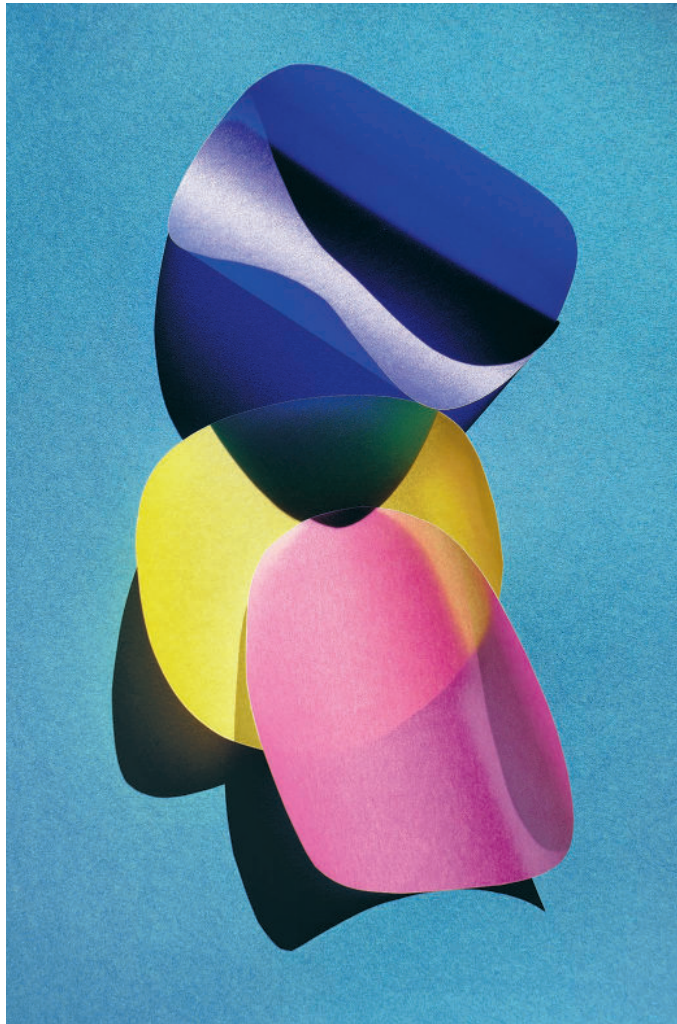
Cut Out 11  
2020  
Archival pigment print  
112,5 × 75 cm





Jessica Backhaus

Cut Out 14  
2020  
Archival pigment print  
112,5 × 75 cm



Cut Out 46  
2020  
Archival pigment print  
112,5 × 75 cm

**Serie**

**The Nature of Things**

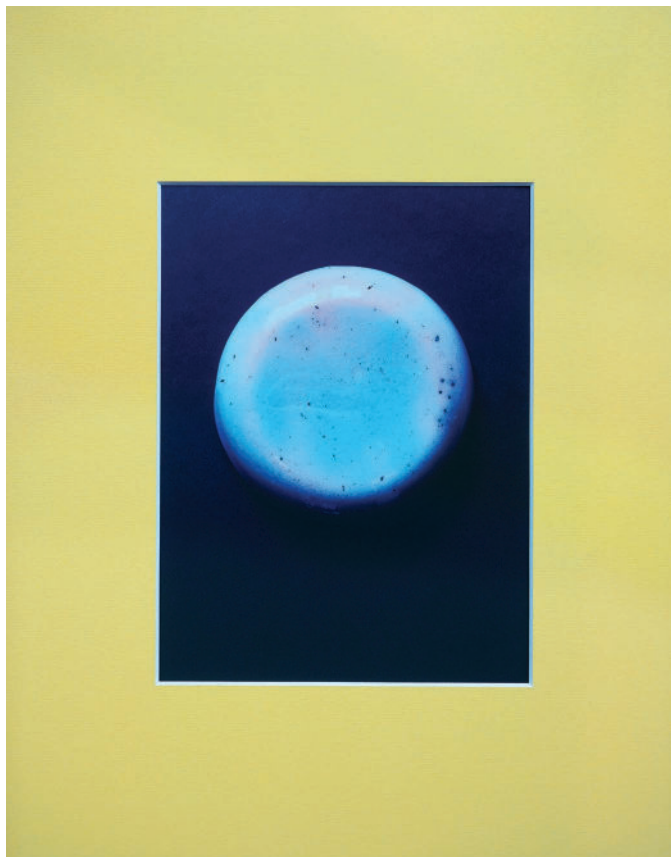
**2021-2023**

Jessica Backhaus

An orange soap exposed to the sun, a spiral of paper with clumsy outlines, a car body covered in dust, a shy lemon in the shade of foliage...

Everyday objects, for Jessica Backhaus, are imbued with poetry. A hidden poetry that the photographer unveils to allow contemplation of its primary function, of what it is. Through the contrast of colors and her masterful use of material, 'The Nature of Things' invites dreaming and wonder.

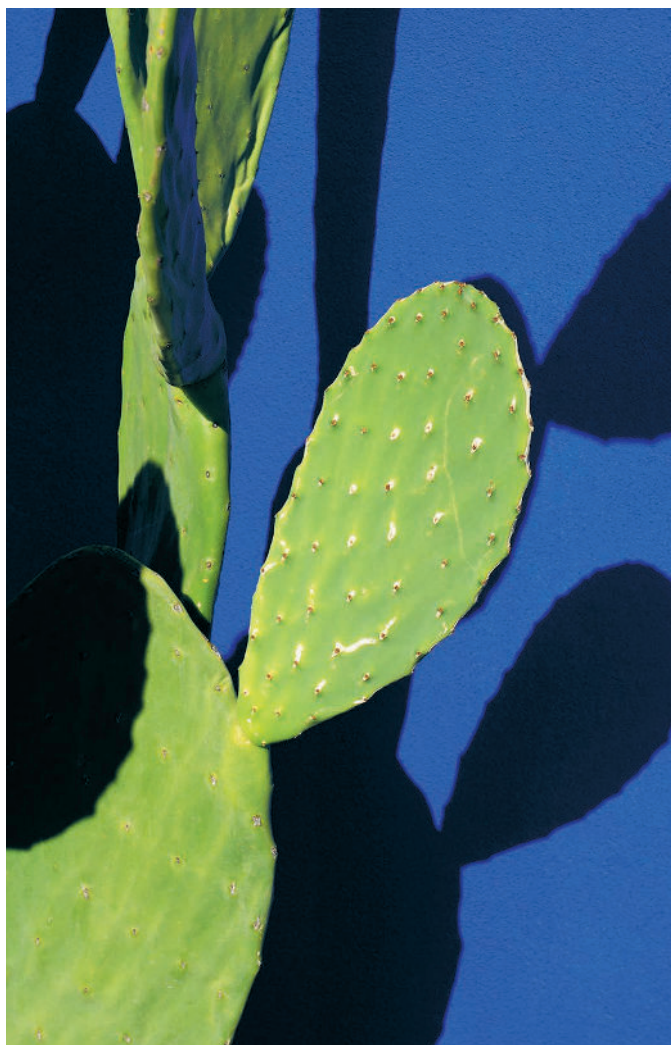
Moon  
2022  
Archival pigment print  
50 × 40 cm



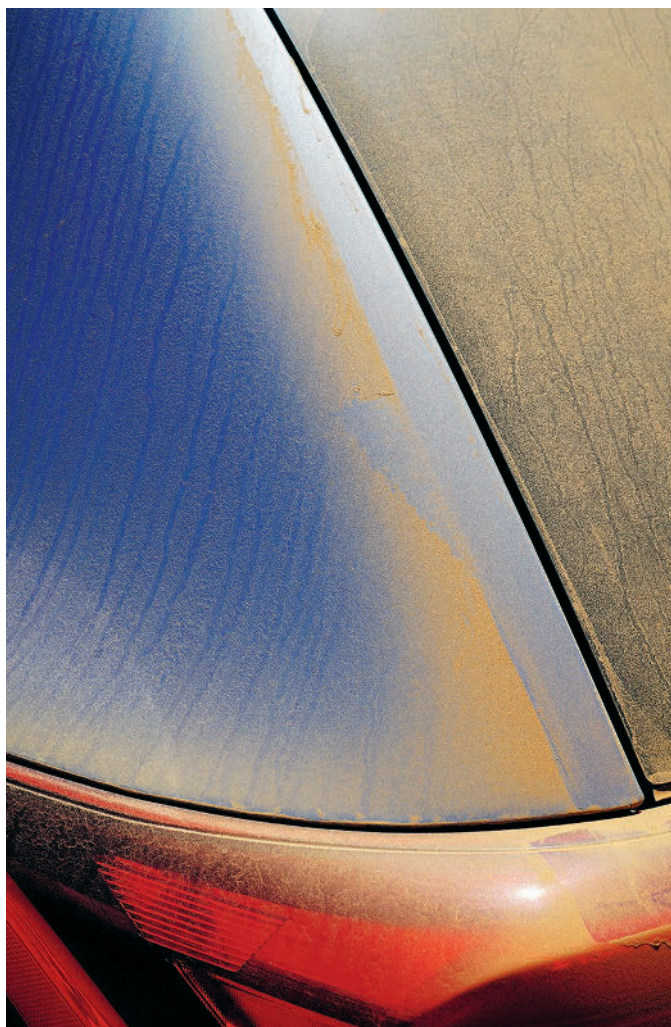


Jessica Backhaus

Cactus  
2021  
Archival pigment print  
90 × 60 cm



Dust  
2022  
Archival pigment print  
90 × 60 cm



## Cahiers #7

Point sublime: Anna Niskanen  
 +  
 Nous irons jusqu'au soleil: Jessica Backhaus

### Authors:

François Cheval  
 András Páldi  
 Robert Demachy  
 and Constant Puyo  
 Anna Niskanen

Publishing:  
 November 2023  
 Bilingual French/English  
 144 pages  
 29 €  
 Isbn: 979-10-90698-56-7

On sale  
 in the Mougins  
 Center of Photography  
 store.

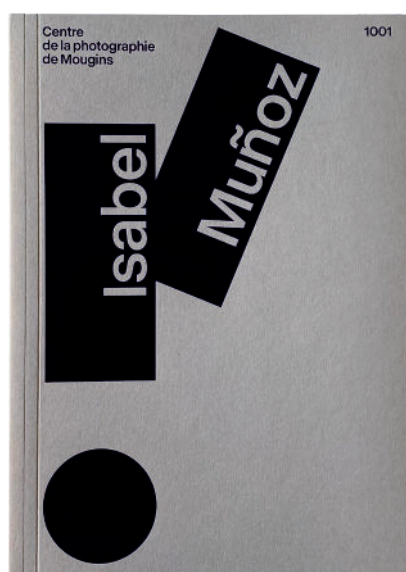


The Cahiers #7 of the Mougins Center of Photography represent a paean to light.

In 'Point sublime' and 'Nous irons jusqu'au soleil', we witness the convergence of two photographers who harness the vibrancy of rays to communicate profound messages. Jessica Backhaus's meticulously curated selection of coloured papers elegantly complements Anna Niskanen's cyanotypes imbued with essences and natural pigments discovered therein. This synthesis beckons us into the realm of pictorialist heritage, prompting contemplation upon the passage of time.

## Previous

## publications:



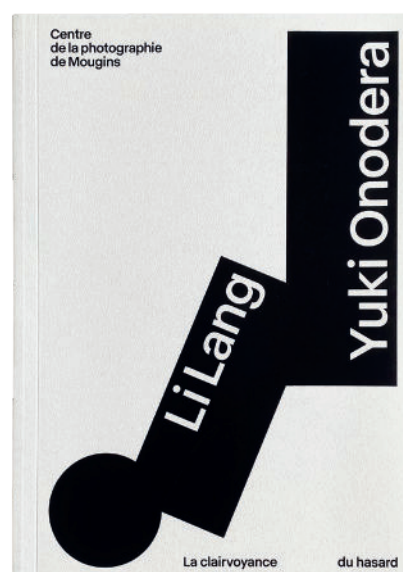
### #1 Isabel Muñoz 1001

176 pages  
 Isbn: 979-10-90698-50-5  
 © 2021  
 Authors:  
 Yasmine Chemali,  
 François Cheval,  
 Stéphane du Mesnildot,  
 Yuta Yagishita,  
 Pascal Bagot,  
 Emil Pacha Valencia  
 Translation:  
 Sara Heft



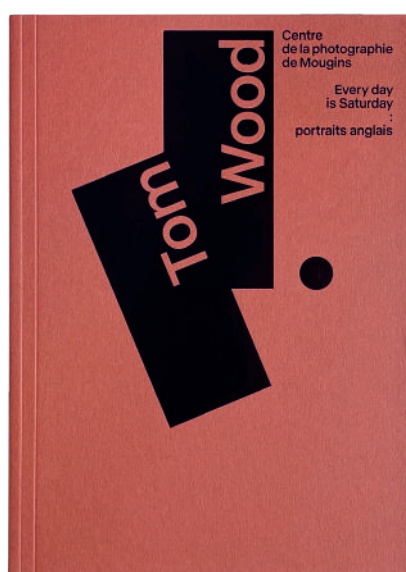
### #2 Natasha Caruana + Jenny Rova L'amour toujours

192 pages  
 Isbn: 979-10-90698-51-2  
 © 2021  
 Authors:  
 François Cheval,  
 Laurence Pourchez,  
 Jenny Rova,  
 Natasha Caruana,  
 Dr Chris Hoff,  
 Christophe Perrin,  
 Yasmine Chemali  
 Translation:  
 Sara Heft



### #3 Yuki Onodera + LiLang La clairvoyance du hasard

176 pages  
 Isbn: 979-10-90698-52-9  
 © 2022  
 Authors:  
 François Cheval,  
 András Páldi,  
 Jean Daunizeau,  
 Takayo Iida,  
 Yasmine Chemali  
 Translations:  
 Ruth Oldham,  
 Patrick Honoré



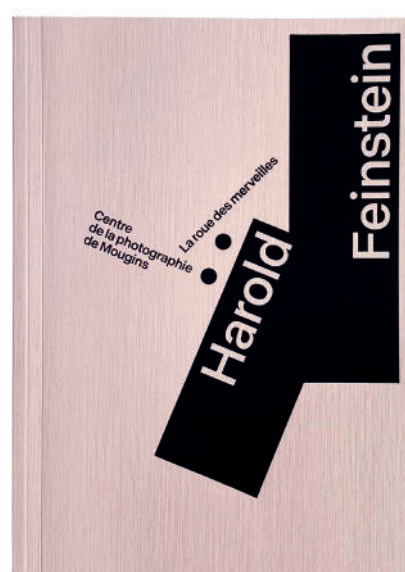
**#4**  
**Tom Wood**  
**Every day is Saturday:**  
**portraits anglais**

192 pages  
 isbn: 979-10-90698-53-6  
 © 2022  
 Authors:  
 François Cheval,  
 Leïla Vignal,  
 Jean Daunizeau,  
 Alexis Tadié,  
 David Peace,  
 John Peel,  
 Yasmine Chemali  
 Translations:  
 Ruth Oldham,  
 Alexis Tadié,  
 Leïla Vignal



**#5**  
**Catherine De Clippel**  
**+ Marie Baronnet**  
**Ce qui nous arrive ici,**  
**en plein visage**

192 pages  
 isbn: 979-10-90698-54-3  
 © 2022  
 Authors:  
 Jérôme Esnouf,  
 François Cheval,  
 Jean-Paul Colleyn  
 Translations:  
 Ruth Oldham,  
 Jennetta Petch



**#6**  
**Harold Feinstein**  
**La roue des merveilles**

192 pages  
 isbn: 979-10-90698-55-0  
 © 2023  
 Authors:  
 François Cheval,  
 Alexis Tadié,  
 Ya'ara Gil-Glazer,  
 Yasmine Chemali  
 Translations:  
 Ruth Oldham,  
 Jennetta Petch,  
 Alexis Tadié

## Public

**Guided tour**  
by Jessica Backhaus  
**Saturday 2.03.2024**  
**15:00**

**Family tour**  
**Storytelling**  
The team at the Centre of Photography is offering an original format for family visits to the exhibitions. A story for children, conceived and told by our mediator, guides you through the world of the artist. **16:00 → 16:30**

**Sundays**  
**3.03,**  
**7.04,**  
**5.05,**  
**and 2.06.2024**

From 4 years old  
In French.  
Free admission on the 1st Sunday of the month.

**"A chromatic experience"**  
Meeting with Emmanuel Bonn, director, scriptwriter and producer  
**Friday 5.04**  
**→ 18:00**  
Free admission

Emmanuel Bonn's personal and cinematic history with colour goes back a long way. At the start of his career, his first short film was in black and white, an artistic choice that was up against the dominant trend towards colour in 1979. A laboratory technical incident forced him to shoot again, in colour, a costly experiment but one that enabled him to acquire a certain expertise. Emmanuel Bonn will discuss colour, his choice, in the context of his work as a film director.

## programme

**"Smell the colour all the way to the sun"**

Olfactory tour with The Musée International de la Parfumerie

**Saturday 13.04 → 15:00 to 17:00**

During an olfactory workshop, call on your emotional intelligence to express and describe the sensations aroused by smells. The workshop will be followed by an interactive visit during which participants will express themselves about the works using their feelings and the suggested smells.

Price: €25 (including materials) Places are limited. To take part, register by e-mail: [centrephotographie@villede-mougins.com](mailto:centrephotographie@villede-mougins.com) or by telephone: 04 22 21 52 14

**"Stop motion" creative workshop**

Give shape to paper cut-outs and stage colors under the spotlight. Imagine the interplay between light and shadow, shape and color. Through a collective creation, learn the stop motion animation technique. A two-day workshop.

Day 1:  
**Thursday 7.03**  
**10:00 → 11:30**

Paper-cutting workshop, storyboard creation, photographic shooting.

Day 2:

## Contacts

**Centre  
de la photographie  
de Mougins**

**43 rue de l'Église  
06250 Mougins**

0033 4 22 21 52 12  
centrepotographiemougins.com  
centrepotographie  
@villedemougins.com  
@centrepotographiemougins

**Press:**

**Ludivine Maggiore**  
lmaggiore@villedemougins.com

**Florence Buades**  
fbuades@villedemougins.com

## Informations

**Open**

**2.03 → 31.03.2024  
13:00 → 18:00  
Closed on Mondays  
and Tuesdays**

**1<sup>st</sup>.04 → 2.06.2024  
11:00 → 19:00  
Closed on Tuesdays**

**Admission**

**Adult → 6 €  
Student → 3 €  
Group (10 or +) → 4 € / pers.  
Guided tours → 10 € / pers.**

**Free**  
**1st Sunday of each month**  
**Under 18, students**  
**from the 06 and 83**  
**departments,**  
**job seekers,**  
**disabled visitors and one**  
**accompanying person,**  
**ICOM / ICOMOS / CIPAC,**  
**Friends of the Center,**  
**teachers, press,**  
**guide-lecturers.**

**Guided tours (express)**  
**every Wednesday**  
**and Saturday**  
**→ 15:00**

**Book your**  
**guided tour + workshop**  
**for schools, groups**  
**and associations:**  
**Sinem Bostanci**  
**sbostanci@villedemougins.com**

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