

# GESTE PARIS 2017

*Photographic Materiality*

> press release <



## GESTE 2017

GESTE Paris is pleased to announce its second edition, *Photographic Materiality*, an underground exhibition of experimental photography organised by **Marc Lenot**, **Georg Bak** and **Shiva Lynn Burgos**. GESTE brings together vintage and contemporary works by both established and emerging artists.

Like a secret speakeasy GESTE is presented in the convivial setting of a classic Parisian apartment that provides a space for reflection and dialogue.

GESTE is the nexus of a private collection, artwork from leading galleries, and a selection by an author and critic's eye.

### GESTE

[rsvp@gesteparis.com](mailto:rsvp@gesteparis.com)

+33 (0) 7 81 28 49 03

Instagram : [geste.paris](https://www.instagram.com/geste.paris)

[www.gesteparis.com](http://www.gesteparis.com)

follow us!

10 rue Croix des Petits Champs  
75001 Paris

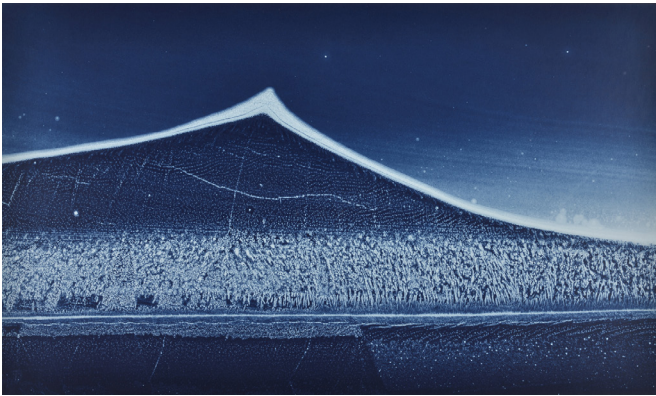
during Paris Photo week,  
Monday 6th to Sunday 12th November 2017

and then from Wednesday to Saturday  
from 15th November to 2nd December  
12:00-18:00

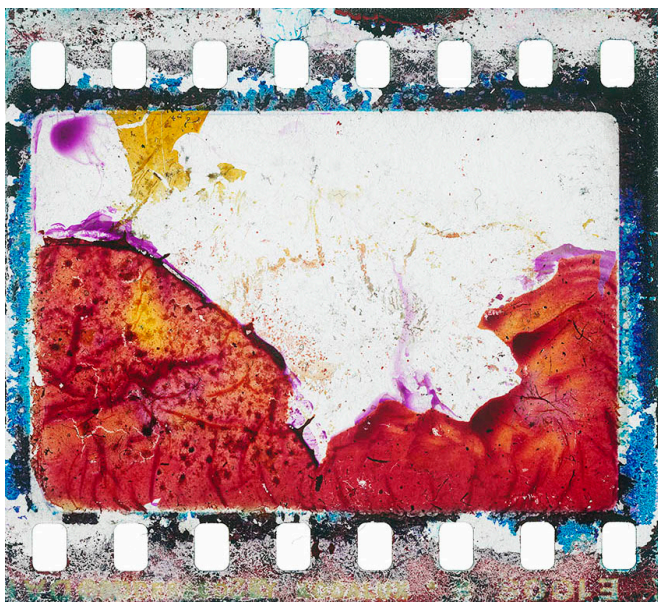
Private views  
Monday 6th November and Thursday 9th  
from 18:00 to 22:00

Conférences  
Saturday 11 (artists talks)  
and Thursday 16 November  
from 16:00

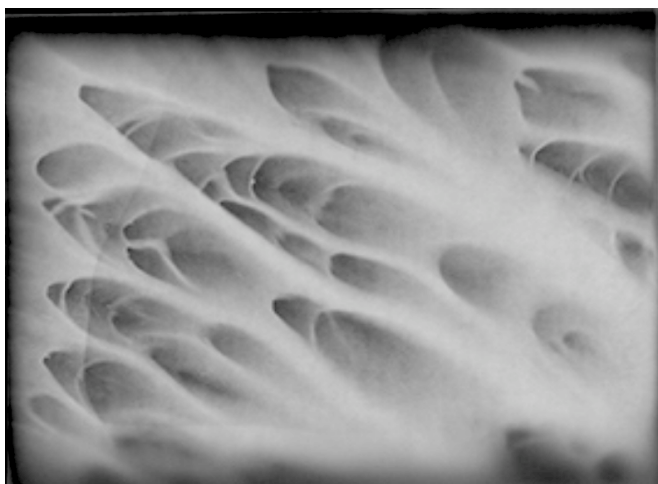
RSVP is essential for private view and tours  
and talks. Please contact to arrange a visit by  
email or text message :  
[rsvp@gesteparis.com](mailto:rsvp@gesteparis.com) / 07 81 28 49 03



Jean-Pierre Sudre. *Paysage Matériographique*, 1987.  
Crystallogram tinted blue, 30 x 50 cm.



Shiva Lynn Burgos. *Disasters of Nature #16*, 1990-2017.  
Print of chemically altered photographic slide, 100 x 109 cm.

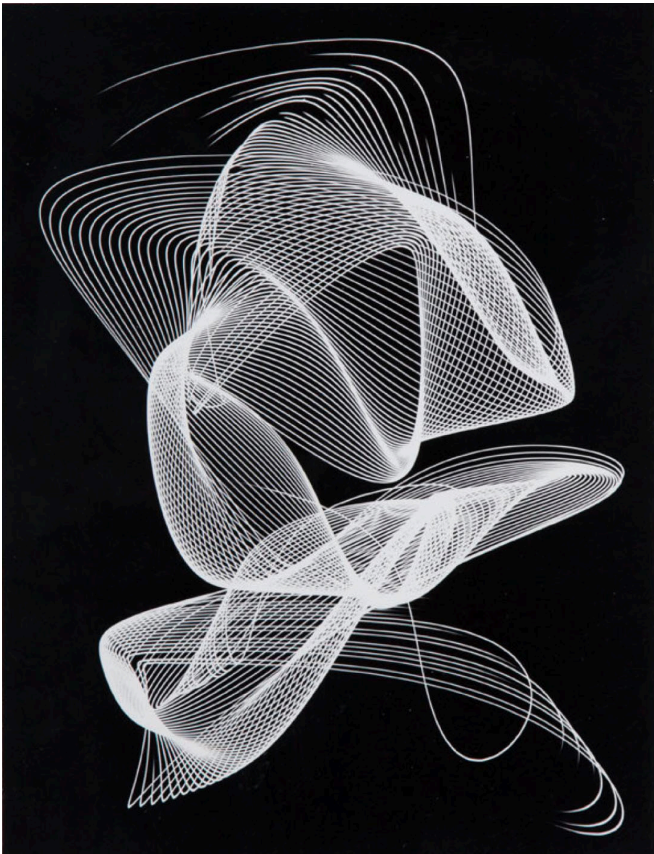


Juliana Borinski. *Fire walk with me*, 2016.  
Photogram, 17 x 23 cm.

The exhibition begins with the Bielefeld group of mainly German concrete and generative photographers such as Gottfried Jäger and Hein Gravenhorst. Their explorations in light, physics and new technologies continue to be a source of inspiration and are presented in dialogue with the works of contemporary artists who acknowledge these pioneers, such as Wolfgang Tillmans and Chris Bucklow.

The show continues with further contemporary experimenters; Pierre Savatier superimposes textiles onto photo paper and manipulates light sources whilst Paula de Solminihac directly captures the shape of the vestiges of daily life by wrapping them in photographs. The chemistry of the process is tested by Shiva Lynn Burgos with her flood-altered slide film, by Pierre Cordier and Gundi Falk with their chemigrams 'painted' directly onto photographic emulsion and by Jean-Pierre Sudre's crystallography.

The simple shadow photogram is the place where photography began and the show proposes some contemporary artists who have further developed these possibilities. Tatiana Kronberg uses photograms to record aspects of her performances and Maureen McQuillan layers her own drawings to create unique works. For Susan Derges, Garry Fabian Miller and Adam Fuss, the photogram remains a method of capturing an image, Fox Talbot's *Pencil of Nature*, while for Joan Fontcuberta it is a way of challenging the photographic representation of nature with his photogram of flowers.



Heinrich Heidersberger. *Rythmogram n° 3782/247*, 1961.  
30 x 24 cm.

These are exciting times for experimental photography with new digital technology allowing new forms of experimentation whilst at the same time artists are looking at the disappearing old analogue techniques.

The exhibition offers a retrospective and is a chance to see rare vintage works and to discover rising artists working in the same spirit.

Marc Lenot writes about GESTE:

*«This exposition shows works at the junction of two trends of contemporary photography, both at the edge of the photographic normality of standard representation: on one side, works that show not only the image represented, but also the materiality of the photograph, its physical dimension; on the other hand, works that are a testimony of the gesture of the photographer, not only an eye through the viewfinder and a finger on the shutter, but a whole person actively involved in the process of making the photograph, like a painter, a dancer, an actor... The dialogue between these two generations from the 1960's until today provides a historical perspective, at the time of the omnipresence of digital photography.»*

Artists included:

**Driss Aroussi, Fanny Béguély, Sylvie Bonnot, Juliana Borinski, Marco Breuer, Chris Bucklow, Shiva Lynn Burgos, Pierre Cordier et Gundi Falk, Raphaël Dallaporta, Susan Derges, Garry Fabian Miller, Joan Fontcuberta, Herbert W. Franke, Adam Fuss, Hein Gravenhorst, Heinz Hajek-Halke, Heinrich Heidersberger, Karl Martin Holzhäuser, Gottfried Jäger, Tatiana Kronberg, Maureen McQuillan, Sebastian Riemer, Thomas Ruff, Pierre Savatier, Nicolas Schöffer, Paula de Solminihac, Jean-Pierre Sudre, Wolfgang Tillmans, Manon Wertenbroek.**



Tatiana Kronberg. *Untitled (Shades)*, 2015.  
Photogram, black and white on fibre paper, 50 x 60 cm.



Manon Wertenbroek. *Man looking at me*, 2016.  
Lambda metallic print on aluminum, 85 x 60 cm.

**Marc Lenot** is an art critic and a writer about photography. His most recent book is *Jouer contre les Appareils* (Éditions Photosynthèses) and his “Lunettes Rouges” blog is a must read for anyone interested in photography. See [photographie-experimentale.com](http://photographie-experimentale.com)

**George Bak** (SCHEUBLEIN + BAK,) is a Zurich based gallerist and together with his partner Christina Scheublein, he represents both contemporary photographers and the German generative and abstract photographers from 1950s and 60s. The gallery’s program follows their influence on the contemporary discourse around the fields of digital photography and new media.

**Shiva Lynn Burgos** is a contemporary artist and photographer from Brooklyn, USA currently living and working between Paris, London and Papua New Guinea. Building upon similar underground group projects that she created in New York, London and Berlin, Burgos has developed the GESTE project to further a discourse between artists, academics, critics and collectors.

GESTE organizers are thankful to the following for their support and collaboration:

Galerie Jean Brolly, Paris

Jeff Gleich, Paris

Ségolène Brossette Galerie, Paris

Galerie Jean-Kenta Gauthier, Paris

Galerie DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise, Paris

press office / agence révélateur  
[olivierbourgoin@agencerevelateur.fr](mailto:olivierbourgoin@agencerevelateur.fr) / +33 (0)6 63 77 93 68



Marc Lenot, *Jouer contre les appareils*, Editions Photosynthèses, 2017  
224 pages, 55 photographies, 25 €

It is a field little studied and a concept little defined in the history of contemporary photography. The author presents the works of a hundred experimental photographers and, to characterise them, relies in particular on the writings of the Brazilian philosopher Vilém Flusser: the photographers are playing against their devices, they are not respecting the rules and are disrupting the smooth operation of the photographic apparatus by modifying the established parameters. Some artists violate the rules of image production by playing with time, with light, with chemistry or with printing, or by reinventing the camera. Others separate themselves from the camera by deconstructing it, not using a lens (*camera obscura*), sometimes with no camera at all (photogram), or by undoing the photographic material. Others finally remove the author-photographer, erasing them or including their own body in the photographic gesture.

Contemporary experimental photography is not strictly speaking a school or a movement, but simply a current, a moment between the decline of traditional analog documentary photography and the advent of digital photography in the late XX century and early XXI century.