

Valérie Jouve

Du temps, un souffle*

02.03.24 → 20.04.24

Press release

* Time, a Breath

Valérie Jouve
*Untitled (Les Personnages avec
Carole Faure), 2023*
Silver print on baryta paper
106 x 128 cm
© Valérie Jouve, ADAGP, Paris 2024
Courtesy galerie Xippas



Xippas Paris

108 rue Vieille-du-Temple
75003 Paris, France

paris@xippas.com
xippas.com
+33 (0)1 40 27 05 55

📍 @xippasgalleries
📘 @xippasgalleriespage
📺 @xippas

Contact presse

Olga Ogorodova
press@xippas.com
+33 (0)1 40 27 05 55

Opening Saturday March 2, 2024 from 3 pm

The Xippas gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Valérie Jouve in its Parisian space. Entitled *Du temps, un souffle* (Time, a Breath), the exhibition brings together a selection of recent works created over the past year. In black and white, captured with a large-format camera, these photographs revisit themes dear to the artist, exploring the connection between humans and those around them, whether it is the relationship with nature or the urban environment.

On the shoulder of time – Michel Poivert

“Photography is a pathway. It serves not only to produce images but is an ascetic practice born from analog culture that disregards distances in favor of the tangible yet invisible connection between us and the living community. Valérie Jouve’s extensive artistic and political journey, along with her anthropological and poetic quest for the reconciliation of humans with the world, materializes. Here is a visual fable, in which the values of black and white and all its gradations come to fruition in large-format photography. The instrument captures imagined realities such as rituals where time expands without ignoring history.

There is nothing idealistic in these representations of the link between humans and beings of bark and stone, but rather the staging of our need for reconnection with

xippas

Paris | Geneva | Punta del Este

ourselves through sharing and homage. Far from the long-explored metropolises, away from the colonized areas that were her ethical refuge, Valérie Jouve actively considers the emotions we must seek in close proximity to sacred presences. It is not just the countryside or “nature” that is celebrated here, but, as already seen with the California cedars in the 1990s and Palestinian women in the 2000s, the power and breath of the living guided by a frequency resonated by a song.

An optical ode that Valérie Jouve knows how to extract from the depths of ages through portraits of primitive architectures of dolmens, wise ruins in the shadow of the growth of centuries-old trees around which humans seek ultimate resonances. Black and white has the virtue of abstracting time in mechanical representations; born of progress, they then have the ability to offer a primitive version of the world. It is here that we encounter the human tribe of Valérie Jouve’s characters, here we observe her modest rituals that bear witness to the fragile balance evident in the ancient traces of megaliths. A need for solace has transformed into a desire beyond images.”

The French photographer and filmmaker Valérie Jouve was born in 1964 in Saint-Étienne. She lives and works in Paris. A graduate of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie in Arles, Valérie Jouve began studying sociology before devoting herself to photography. Since 2023, Valérie Jouve teaches at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

The urban world is one of the central themes of Valérie Jouve’s work. Fascinated by the city, she captures its characters, their behavior and this daily representation that the city imposes to us by freezing, through photography, everything that forms its identity. The question of the treatment of space is at the heart of the subject: it’s a question of understanding how the figure gives a presence to what surrounds it. Architecture acts as an emblematic form of the space that the individual gives himself to exist. The gap between collective and individual consciousness is thus posed in aesthetic terms. Her exhibitions are often designed as visual compositions, for the duration of the show. The images are constructed independently to be used in the montages during the different exhibitions.

The CPIF (Photographic Center of Île-de-France) is dedicating a personal exhibition to Valérie Jouve until April 14, 2024. Her work is also included in the collective exhibition “Corps à corps” at the Centre Pompidou, on view until March 25, 2024.

Her work has been exhibited by the largest French institutions: the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Saint-Etienne Métropole, the Petit Palais in Paris and “Les Rencontres d’Arles” in 2018, the Jeu de Paume in 2015, the MAC/VAL in 2014 and the Centre Pompidou in 2010.

Her first film “Grand Littoral” (2003), was presented in numerous festivals, as well as at the MoMA in New York in 2004.