

Maison du quartier Nzima, series Les Fantômes de Bassam, 115x154,7cm, 2016

## FROM ONE HORIZON TO ANOTHER

**Edith Roux** 

13.10 -18.11 . 2017

Opening Thursday October 12 . 6pm-9pm

## GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise

19, rue des Filles du Calvaire 75003 Paris - M° Filles du Calvaire du mardi au vendredi de 14h à 19h, le samedi de 11h à 19h et sur RDV

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# From one horizon to another

In her latest work made in the Ivory Coast, Edith Roux questions France's relationship with its former colony.

In an attempt to contribute to the decolonization of the imaginary, her research thrives with postcolonial theories and mainly refers to the archive.

Through her conceptual approach of photography mixed with hybrid works that are both documentary and fictional, Edith Roux deals with the question of the conditions of images' production.

Here she attempts to deconstruct some images we have of the colonial era that still haunt the present, in order to open up a new space of possibilities. The vernacular images, the thickness of time, the dialectical relationship of the Former with the Now become supports to these visual propositions.

Les Fantômes de Bassam (2016) is a series of 18 photographs that were shot in the historic town of Grand Bassam - a city located about 40 kilometers to the East from of Abidjan. The city was the first economical, colonial and administrative capital of Ivory Coast, as well as the largest harbour of the country. Notice the functionalist colonial architecture and urbanism of the former French district of the city, which is today abandoned. Also, The surrounding N'zima neighborhood reveals the permanence of traditional cultures.

The ruin is of particular interest for the artist, thanks to its inherent ability to make several temporalities coexist. The fragment is in a state of in-between: it refers to what no longer exists but still remains a vestige. The photographs in Grand Bassam show inhabitants staged in their own role. Edith Roux then inserts characters from postcards dating from the colonial era. Only the grain, as well as the grid or the black & white print reveal the origin of these incrustations. The confrontation of present and former elements in the picture is intended to arouse questioning. Are these settlers from old times representing the figures of the repressed in History? Which forms of colonialism hide behind these faces, erased by Time?

In the installation *Les Portés* (2017), photographs of various sizes are affixed on the wall. They are issued from postcards made in Ivory Coast between 1908 and 1937. Some are shown integrally, perpendicularly to the wall. Others reveal only a portion of the image, as if the rest was hidden in the wall. These postcards portray settlers in Ivory Coast, carried in hammocks or chairs by Africans who are probably Ivorians.

In some of the images, the artist has erased some elements so that one can only see the settlers appearing in a situation of «carried», as well as the text of the postcard. The pixelated background refers to the present time. The men who seem to be floating in space are left in an absurd or even ridiculous position.. In other images appear only the carriers and captions. Erasing certain parts of the images means to give a representation of the Ivorians in a situation which is no longer of servility. Nevertheless, on those images, the bodies of the native Ivorians appear as being marked by this period.. The gestures of carrying stay in suspense while the raised arms are transformed into a surge of resistance. Are they precursors of hope towards the desire of an Africa that will walk on a path that it has chosen itself?

The video *The Defilé* (2016) takes place on the beach of Grand Bassam where street vendors sell their merchandise to tourists. But the sound of their voices, covered by the one of the sea, does not reach the tourists' ears who are securely watching be hind the blue fence, alongside the camera. Stuck between a horizonless sea and the blue fence, these vendors who come from different countries in Africa keep on parading. But how fragile is the fence? A crack splits the side of a beam. Could it fall at any time?

With *Melêh Nian Bêh (2016)*, the spectator is looking at an old postcard from the colonial time in the Ivory coast dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. Much to the surprise of the spectator, the postcard is animated and the women starts talking. Her eyes move and face the spectator. She says, «melêh nian bêh,» in nzima, her native language, which means «je vous regarde» in French. By trying to escape a masculine, colonial gaze, the woman is defying a frozen narrative of history.

From one horizon to another, the movements made in the images by Edith Roux aim to set in motion the historical narrative in the current geopolitical context in which decolonization of the imaginary seems to be a step towards future.

# From one horizon to another



Le Défilé, HD video, colour, sound, 6"9, 2016



Ancien cercle sénégalais, series Les Fantômes de Bassam ink jet print, 115x141cm, 2016



Les Portés, Installation details, 2017

## **BIOGRAPHY**

#### Born in 1963 in France, lives and work in Paris

Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie, Arles History of Art at Emory University, Atlanta, USA

### Solo exhibitions (selection) 2017

Les Dépossédés, Artothèque de Grenoble, France From one jhorizon to another, Galerie Dix9, Paris **2016** 

Nemausus, galerie Negpos, part of Rencontres Images et Villes, Nîmes, France

#### 2015

Les Depossédes, Sous silence, Rencontres photographiques de Lorient, France Sous silence, Screen Space, Melbourne, Australia **2014** 

Seuil, Corniche des Maures, Jemmapes art space, Le Mois de la Photo, Paris

Les dépossédés/Dystopie, Le Granit art center, Belfort **2013** 

Les Dépossédés, Sous silence, Galerie Dix9, Paris Galerie du Château d'eau, Toulouse, France Musée d'art et d'archéologie, Aurillac, France Observatoire photographique du PNTH, Centre Régional de la photographie, Douchy-les-Mines; France 2012

Les Dépossédés, Galerie le Bleu du ciel, Lyon, France Les Dépossédés/Sous silence: L'Imagerie, Lannion, FR Euroland et Sous silence, Palais Rihour, Lille, FR Minitopia, Médiathèque l'Odyssée de Lomme, Lille, FR Passages, galerie Intérieur, Lille, FR

#### 2009

Walled out/Minitopia, Galerie Dix9, Paris **2006** 

#### Archipaysages, galerie La Ferronnerie, Paris

**2005**Euroland, Galerie Villa des Tourelles, Nanterre, FR
Euroland/Underscape, Galerie La Ferronnerie, Paris

La traversée du paysage, le 19, Contemporary art space, Montbéliard, FR

#### 1999

2004

Passages, la Galerie de photographie, Montpellier, FR 1998

Espace Saint-Cyprien, Forum de l'image, Toulouse, FR

#### 1997

Passages, Encontros da Imagem, Braga, Portugal **1996** 

Shanghai, la Chambre Claire, Mois de la Photo, Paris **1993** 

Photographie et architecture, Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles, FR 1992

L'esprit d'une collection, Musée Réattu, Arles, FR

### Group exhibitions (selection) 2017

Paysages français:une aventure photographique 1984-2017, BNF, Paris

Photo Basel, Galerie Dix9/Hélène Lacharmoise Limites/ Frontières/ Paysages, galerie Le Passage, Etel, France

#### 2016

Paris Photo, Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise City after city, Triennale de Milan, Italy Rencontres Images et Ville, Nîmes, FR **2015** 

Seuil, corniche des Maures, Rencontres d'Arles collection du Conservatoire du Littoral Etonnantes affinités, collection du Chateau d'Eau, Toulouse, Couvent des Jacobins Famille et communauté, Galerie du Faouédic, Rencontres photographiques de Lorient, FR

#### 2014

Economie Humaine, espace d'art contemporain HEC, Jouy en Josas, curateur P. Ardenne et B. Polla Mondes futurs, La Terrasse, espace d'art, Nanterre Villes en mutation, Captures, Espace d'art contemporain, les Voûtes du port, Royan

#### 2013

Musée de la photographie, Lishui, China Nuit de la photo, Le Bleu du ciel/Biennale de Lyon Are you talking to me?, festival des Explorateurs, Toulouse, FR

Sous silence, Musée Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, FR **2012** 

Sous silence, Centre d'art le Bal, Paris Sous silence, la Saison Vidéo, Lille, FR

#### 2011

Musée d'architecture de Tallinn, Estonia The Empty quarter gallery, Dubaï Metropolis-City life in the Urban age, Noorderlicht Photofestival, Groningen, Netherlands

#### 2010

Une seconde nature, Les Transphotographiques, Lille **2009** 

Slick art fair, Paris, Galerie Dix9

La ville à 360°, Galerie du cloître, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Rennes

Observer la ville, galerie Villa des Tourelles, Nanterre

Dreamscape, Festival QPN, Le Lieu Unique, Nantes **2007** 

Rêves de cités, de Brasilia aux gated communities, galerie La Ferronnerie, Paris

Biennale de la photographie de Canton, Musée des Beaux-arts de Canton, China

Foire Art Amsterdam, Netherlands

#### 2006

Urbi et Orbi, Biennale de la photographie, Sedan Dreamscape, Festival Photo/Video, Biarritz, FR **2005** 

Bon voyage, Centre d'art Le Quartier, Quimper Trophées, Galerie La Ferronnerie, Paris Festival Nature et Paysage, La Gacilly, Bretagne Villes imprévisibles, Forum de l'Architecture, Lausanne, Switzerland

#### 2004

Métamorphose du réel, Encontros da Imagem, Braga, Portugal

Dreamscape, Festival Visa pour l'Image, Perpignan **2003** 

Regarde il neige, Contemporary Art Center, Vassivière, FR

Global detail, Noorderlicht Photofestival, Groningen, NL **2001** 

Sense of space, Noorderlicht Photofestival, Groningen **2000** 

Usine, friche industrielle du chemin vert, Paris **1999** 

Regards sur le monde rural, La Filature, Mulhouse FR

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