

Fribourg photography survey 2022

Cécile Monnier

*des nuits sans silence*

17 DEC – 5 FEB 2023

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From shooting process to presentation, from its sense of presence to its function as archive or testimony, Cécile Monnier's photographic practice finds itself in an investigation of the perceptible and material aspects of the image. Often taken on film, her photos are sometimes reworked with collage and presented with particular attention to medium, framing and the compositional relationship between works. Far from the glib, accelerated nature of digital photorealism, her serene poetic takes us back to the source of the evocative power of the visual.

For the Fribourg photographic survey, Cécile Monnier chose to wander the banks of the rivers of Fribourg Canton, drawing on the figure of the fisherman as a sort of guide or go-between. She garnered contrasted black and white images, full of detail, with understated narratives. These images contribute to a world in which human vision is not at the service of an organised description of reality but is rather incorporated into a landscape in which realism and magic come together as one.

The photographer mobilizes perception in the context of encounters with what is actually taking place. She immerses herself in regions and traverses atmospheres that she then renders in their more or less abstract details. Here her exploratory dives are orientated by a survey of the human impact on the environment of the canton's rivers. But the resulting images refuse to feed too directly off generalised discourse on infrastructure and pollution. Instead we get engagement, a polyphony of the ordinary and the imaginary as the artist invites us to see the river not as some manageable finished object but as a fleeting milieu in the midst of transformation.

Fishing and photography share the same semantics of catch and capture. There's nothing accidental in this thematic choice, which allows the artist to reflect on photography, an instrument complicit in the modern idea of nature as something we hold at our disposal. Cécile Monnier puts her photos in perspective through an intuitive selection of archives. This visual atlas pays homage to the canton's collections and highlights the growing accessibility of certain digital collections. In these collections the river is represented as the subject of multiple narratives that take in myth, agency and accident, at the meeting point between the arts and sciences, amateur and official documents. In opposition to the nature of this archival conservation, the flow of water is captured in a raw shot on a screen on the floor. *des nuits sans silence* thus offers a reflection on the split of natural and historic (passing of) time.

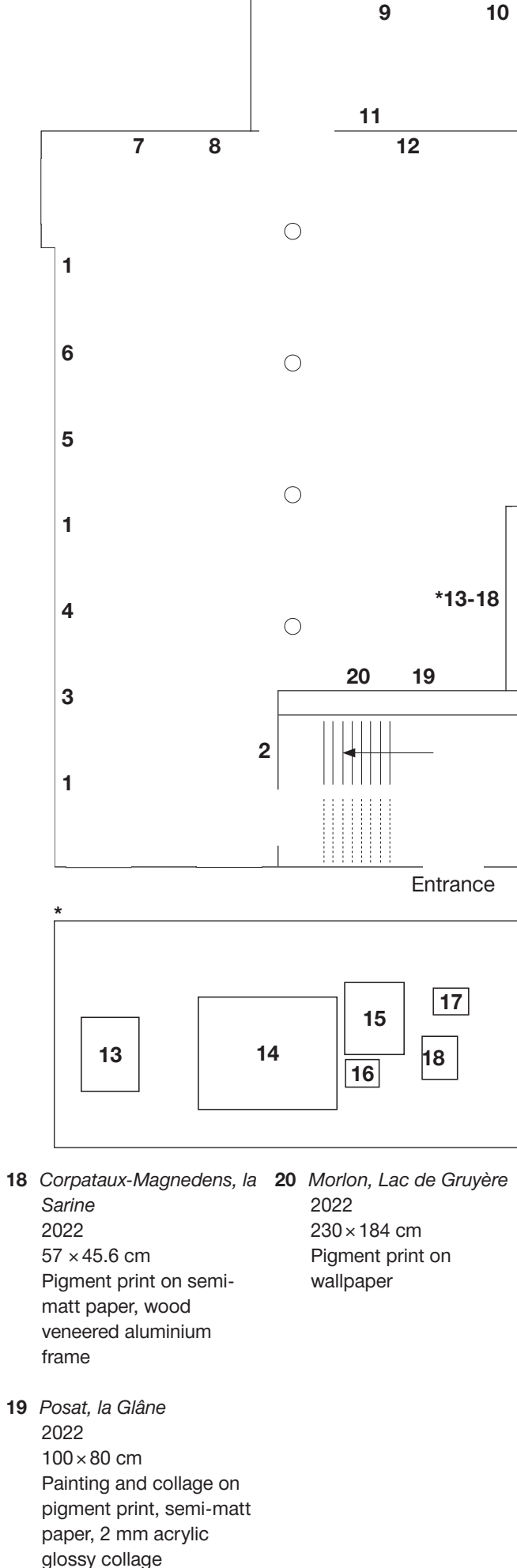
The exhibition's accompanying publication was produced in cooperation with the Fribourg Cantonal and University Library. Together with the exhibition it makes a plea for more resilient and restorative approaches.

**Cécile Monnier** is the recipient of the 2022 Fribourg photographic survey prize organised every two years by the Office for Culture of Fribourg Canton. Born in the south of France, she has lived and worked in Lausanne for around ten years. In parallel to her artistic work, she is established as an independent photographer and teaches at ERACOM in Lausanne.

Following *d'une vie où il n'avait pas de place* (VFG Young Talent Award for Photography, 2020–2021), which evokes a figure of mysterious, elusiveness, she exhibited *soulever demain* (La Grange à Emile, Martigny, 2021, Le Manoir, Martigny, 2021), a poetic survey in relation to the painter Albert Chavaz.

- 1** Archives  
2022  
Variable dimensions  
Colour laser prints on paper
- 2** *Matran, la Glâne*  
2022  
100 × 80 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, wood veneered aluminium frame
- 3** *Matran, la Glâne*  
2022  
150 × 120 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, mounted on aluminium
- 4** *Les Gorges de la Jogne*  
2022  
150 × 120 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, mounted on aluminium
- 5** *Charmey, la Jogne*  
2022  
150 × 120 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, mounted on aluminium
- 6** *Les Gorges de la Jogne*  
2022  
150 × 120 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, mounted on aluminium
- 7** *Sainte-Apolline, la Glâne*  
2022  
150 × 187.5 cm  
Pigment print on wallpaper
- 8** *Posat, la Glâne*  
2022  
150 × 120 cm  
Painting and collage on pigment print, semi-matt paper, 2mm acrylic glossy collage
- 9** *Basse-ville de Fribourg, la Sarine*  
2022  
184 × 230 cm  
Pigment print on wallpaper

- 10** *La Tuffière, La Sarine*  
2022  
59 min  
Video
- 11** *La Halle, la Glâne*  
2022  
36 × 28.8 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, wood veneered aluminium frame
- 12** *Posat, la Glâne*  
2022  
150 × 120 cm  
Painting and collage on pigment print, semi-matt paper, 2mm acrylic glossy collage
- 13** *Chatonnaye, la Broye*  
2022  
100 × 80 cm  
Painting and collage on pigment print, semi-matt paper, 2mm acrylic glossy collage
- 14** *Lac de Montsalvens*  
2022  
150 × 120 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, wood veneer aluminium frame
- 15** *Matran, la Glâne*  
2022  
100 × 80 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, wood veneered aluminium frame
- 16** *Matran, la Glâne*  
2022  
36 × 45 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, wood veneered aluminium frame
- 17** *Vuisternens-devant-Romont, la Neirigue*  
2022  
36 × 45 cm  
Pigment print on semi-matt paper, wood veneered aluminium frame



## Event

19 JAN 18:30 Visite des Amis-e-s (Fr/De) en présence des artistes

## Opening hours during the holidays

24 DEC 11-16:00  
25 DEC 11-16:00  
31 DEC 11-18:00  
01 JAN closed

## Commented tours, mediation and school visits

Registration and request for information by e-mail to [mediation@friart.ch](mailto:mediation@friart.ch) or by phone 026 323 23 51  
Program developed by Fanny Delarze (Kollektiv Ortie)

## Kunsthalle Friart Fribourg

Nicolas Brulhart, Estelle Negro, Sacha Rappo, Julie Folly, Nicolas Horvath, Pierrick Brégeon/Eurostandard, Fabian Stücheli Stephan Weber, Bernhard Zitz, Guillaume Baeriswyl, Anja Delz, Jack Sims, Atelier 48, TRNSTN radio, Clémence de Weck and the committee of Fri-Art, the Friends of Friart, reception staff, Conceição Silva Carvalho, Aliona Cazacu

## The artist would like to thank

Jury: Philippe Trinchan, Matthieu Gafsou, Nathalie Herschdorfer, Daniele Muscionico, Nicolas Savary, Romano Zerbini and Nicolas Brulhart; all team of Friart, Davide Nerini, Coraline Cherix, Alain Wolff, Cédric Barras, Fred, Daniel Alexandre Fahrni, Manuel Pompini, Zoé Daeppen, Adeline Favre, Aline Favre, Caroline Schuster-Cordone, Silvia Zehnder-Jörg, Laurence Cesa, Fribourg Sport Fishing Club, Fribourg photographic collections, Cultural Property Service (SBC), Archaeological Service of the State of Fribourg (SAEF), Museum of Art and History of Fribourg (MAHF), La Maison de la Rivière

The Fribourg photographic survey is organised in collaboration with the Office for Culture of Fribourg Canton. The accompanying publication is produced in collaboration with the Fribourg Cantonal and University Library.

Our thanks to Fribourg Canton and Ville de Fribourg for the wines of honour at the opening.

Translation : Jack Sims

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