



**Mame-Diarra Niang**  
*Remember to Forget*

—

**Raymond Meeks**  
*The Inhabitants*

# Press opening

# Tuesday, October 8, 2024 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

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Monday to Sunday : 11 a.m – 7 p.m.  
Full fare 10 € / Reduced fare 6 €

# Summary

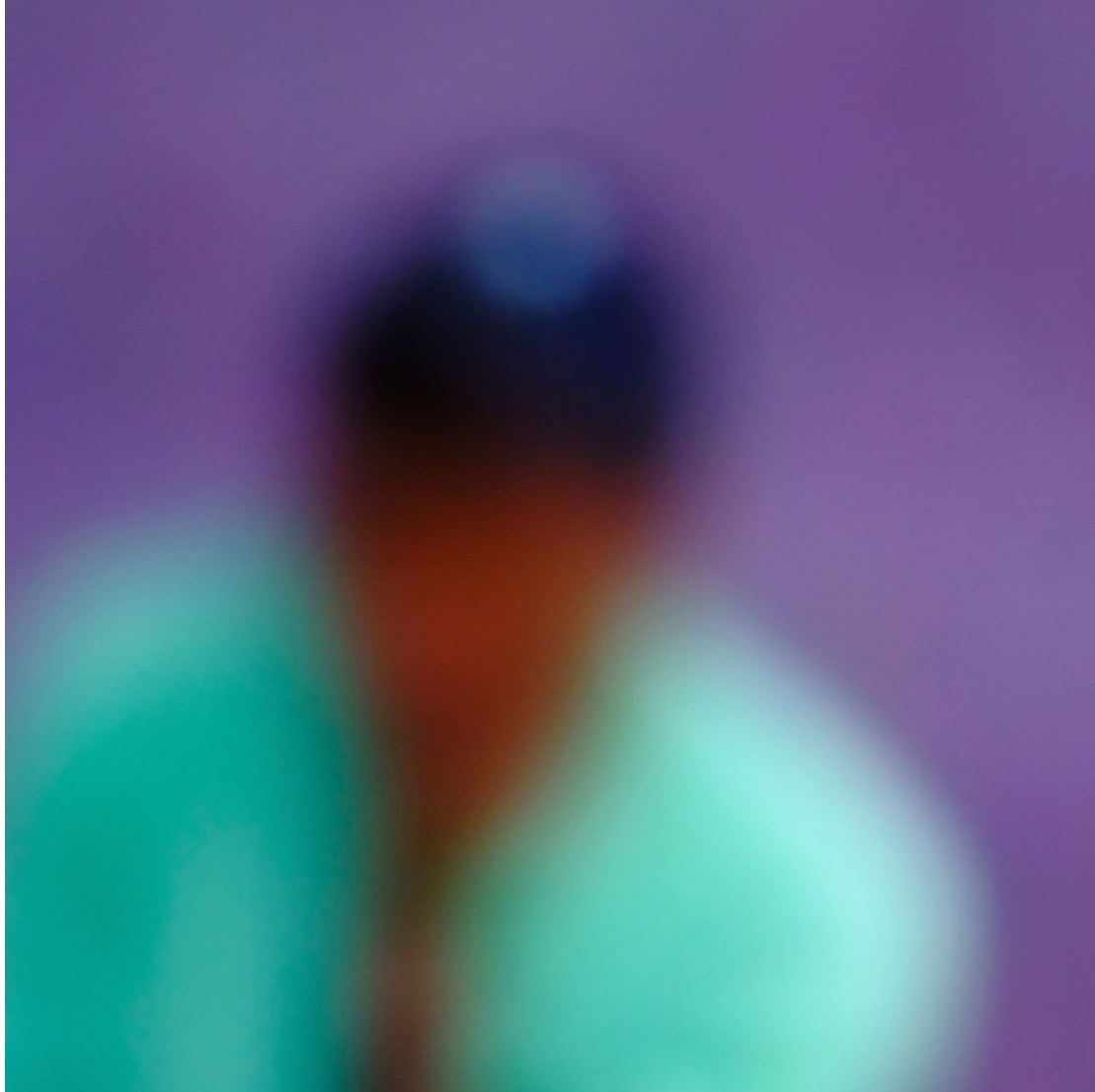
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*Morphologie du rêve #6*, from the series *Sama Guent Guii* © Mame-Diarra Niang. Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/  
Johannesburg/ Amsterdam

# Mame-Diarra Niang

## *Remember to Forget*

October 9, 2024 — January 5, 2025

CUBE

The black body is at the heart of French artist Mame-Diarra Niang's new series. She doesn't want to define it, or tell its story. On the contrary, she wants to untie it from the ways it has been represented by centuries of Western narratives. She therefore seeks to make it abstract, through what she calls forms of non-portraits.

Each of the images in this tetralogy can be viewed as an evocation of the artist herself. "What constitutes me?" she ponders. Her personality cannot be reduced to a fixed, imposed or subjected identity. It's made up of experience, memory and forgetting. As such, it is in perpetual flux. It is this dynamic, this constantly shifting territory, that she explores.

In this work, initiated during a long period of confinement by re-photographing digital screens, Mame-Diarra Niang plays with the characteristic imperfections of conventional photography, such as blurriness, distortions and halos. Like a psychologist resorting to the inkblots of a Rorschach test to expose what's hidden in the subconscious, she uses these contemporary imagery's defects as projection surfaces. "I am this blur," she says.

### Exhibition curator

Clément Chéroux

Director, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson

### MEDIA PARTNER

**Society**

### EXHIBITION

*Remember to Forget* is the photographer's first monographic exhibition in France.

*Æther (2024)*, the series that concludes the exhibition, is original and shown here for the very first time.

### BIOGRAPHY

Mame-Diarra Niang was born in Lyon, France, in 1982, and lives in Paris.

Self-taught artist and photographer, she explores what she terms the "plasticity of territory".

Mame-Diarra Niang has exhibited her work on numerous occasions, through monographic exhibitions, notably at Zeitz MOCAA in Cape Town (2023-2024), at the Stevenson Gallery in Johannesburg and Amsterdam (2022, 2021, 2017, 2014), or through group shows: *Glitch. The Art of Interference* at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich (2023), *Unbound: Performance as Rupture* at the Julia Stoschek Foundation in Berlin (2023), the Sharjah Biennale (2023), the Hamburg Photography Triennial (2022), the Dakar Biennale (2022), the São Paulo Biennale (2018) or the Berlin Biennale (2018), to name but a few of the most recent.

Mame-Diarra Niang's work has been acquired by major photographic collections such as MoMa, Sharjah Art Foundation, Huis Marseille Museum for Photography, Pinakothek der Moderne Munich, Frac Corse, Frac Réunion, the Centre National des Arts Plastiques (Cnap), Soloviev Foundation and Walther Collection.

Niang published her first artist's book, *The Citadel: A Trilogy*, in 2022 with MACK, a three-volume edition articulating her "personal yet analytical relationship with place".

She is currently working on a second book to be published by MACK.



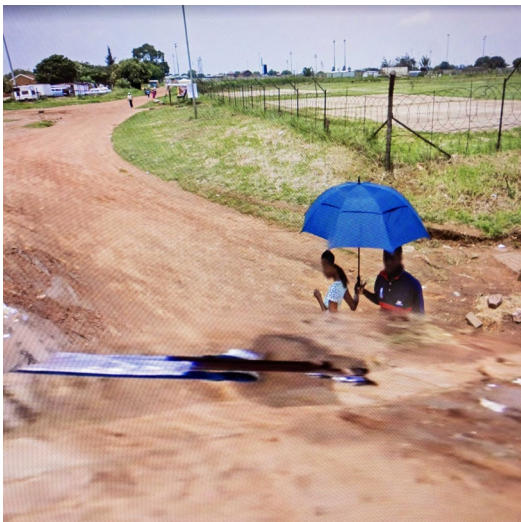
*Continue #22, from the series Call Me When You Get There © Mame-Diarra Niang. Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam*



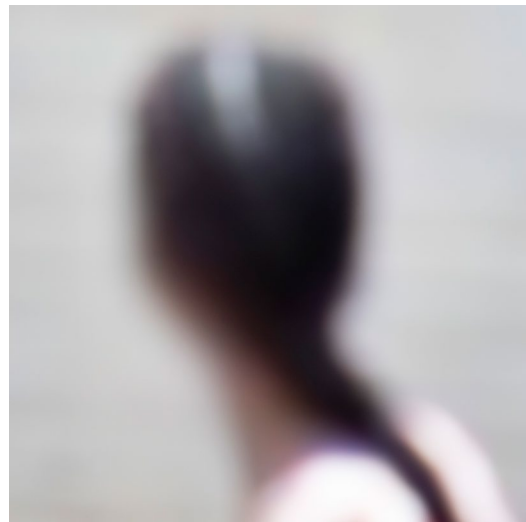
01  
*Turn #2*, from the series *Call Me When You Get There* © Mame-Diarra Niang.  
Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam



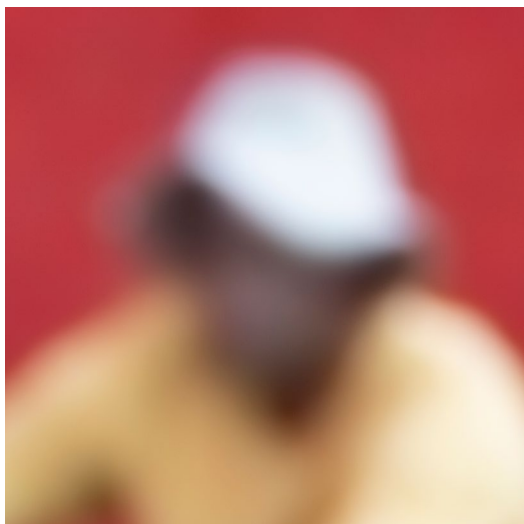
02  
*Continue #35*, from the series *Call Me When You Get There* © Mame-Diarra Niang.  
Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam



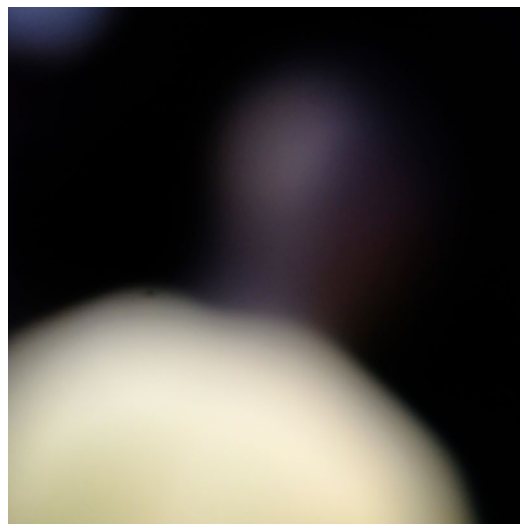
03  
*Continue #22*, from the series *Call Me When You Get There* © Mame-Diarra Niang.  
Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam



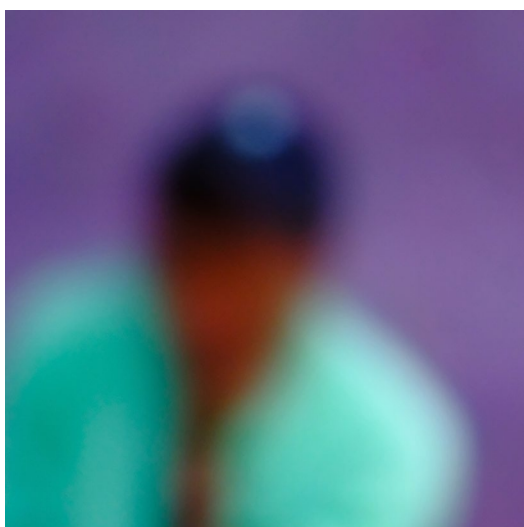
04  
*Ce qui monte*, from the series *Léthé* © Mame-Diarra Niang.  
Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam



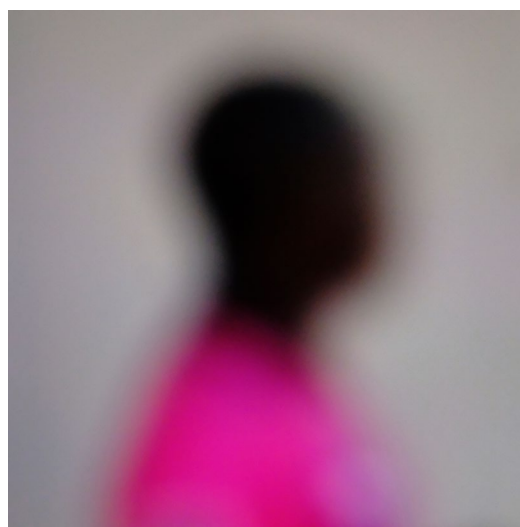
05  
*Figure le moment qui précède*, from the series *Léthé* © Mame-Diarra Niang.  
Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam



06  
*Morphologie du rêve #3*, from the series *Sama Guent Guui* © Mame-Diarra Niang.  
Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam

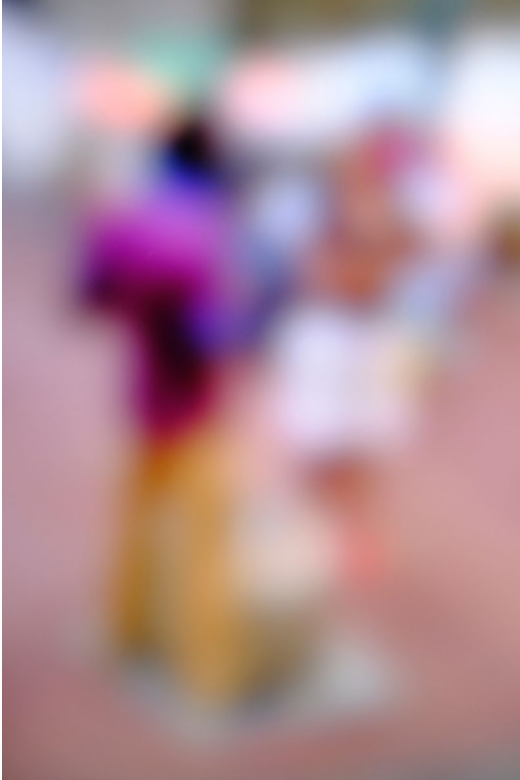


07  
*Morphologie du rêve #4*, from the series *Sama Guent Guui* © Mame-Diarra Niang.  
Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam

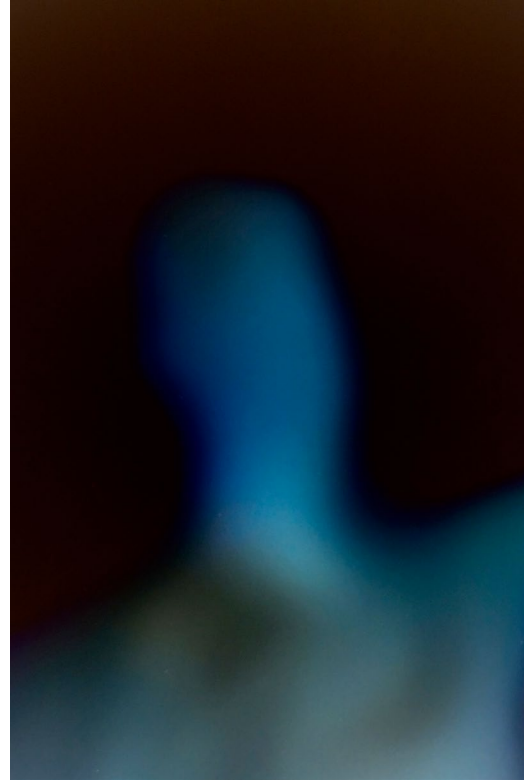


08  
*Morphologie du rêve #6*, from the series *Sama Guent Guui* © Mame-Diarra Niang.  
Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam





10  
*Morphologie du rêve #23*, from the series *Sama Guent Guii* © Mame-Diarra Niang. Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam



11  
*Æther* © Mame-Diarra Niang. Courtesy of Stevenson Cape Town/ Johannesburg/ Amsterdam

Recipient of the Immersion program of the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, American photographer Raymond Meeks spent a long time in France in the year 2022. He photographed in the South, on the border with Spain, and on the northern coast around Calais, two crossing points for asylum seekers on their way to England. He has chosen not to photograph the faces of the displaced, but rather the traces and residue of their itinerancy. There's a shoe in the dirt, a blanket rolled up on the ground, a jacket hanging on the branches... Meeks is especially attentive to the inhospitable spaces migrants temporarily inhabit: ditches, embankments, motorway roadsides, riverbanks, wastelands and other non-places. Even when not directly visible, rivers are omnipresent in his images. These waterways might even act as a metaphor for migration flows. There are also many obstacles—stony embankments, concrete blocks, brambles or barbed wire—which might only suggest the plight of refugees on a daily basis. *The Bourgeois de Calais*, as sculpted by Auguste Rodin, also appear in the series, bearing witness to the catastrophic history of the 100 Years' War. The project is accompanied by a text from American writer George Weld, who shares with Meeks' photographs a similar approach marked by discretion and empathy.

#### Exhibition curator

Clément Chéroux

Director, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson

#### MEDIA PARTNER

**Society**

#### BIOGRAPHY

Raymond Meeks (Ohio, 1963) has been recognized for his books and pictures centered on memory and place, the way in which a landscape can shape an individual and, in the abstract, how a place possesses you in its absence. Meeks lives and works in the Hudson Valley (New York). He is the sixth laureate of Immersion, a French-American photography commission sponsored by Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. *The Inhabitants*, a book made in collaboration with writer George Weld, was published in August 2023 by MACK.

Raymond Meeks is a 2020 recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in Photography and was awarded a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 2022.

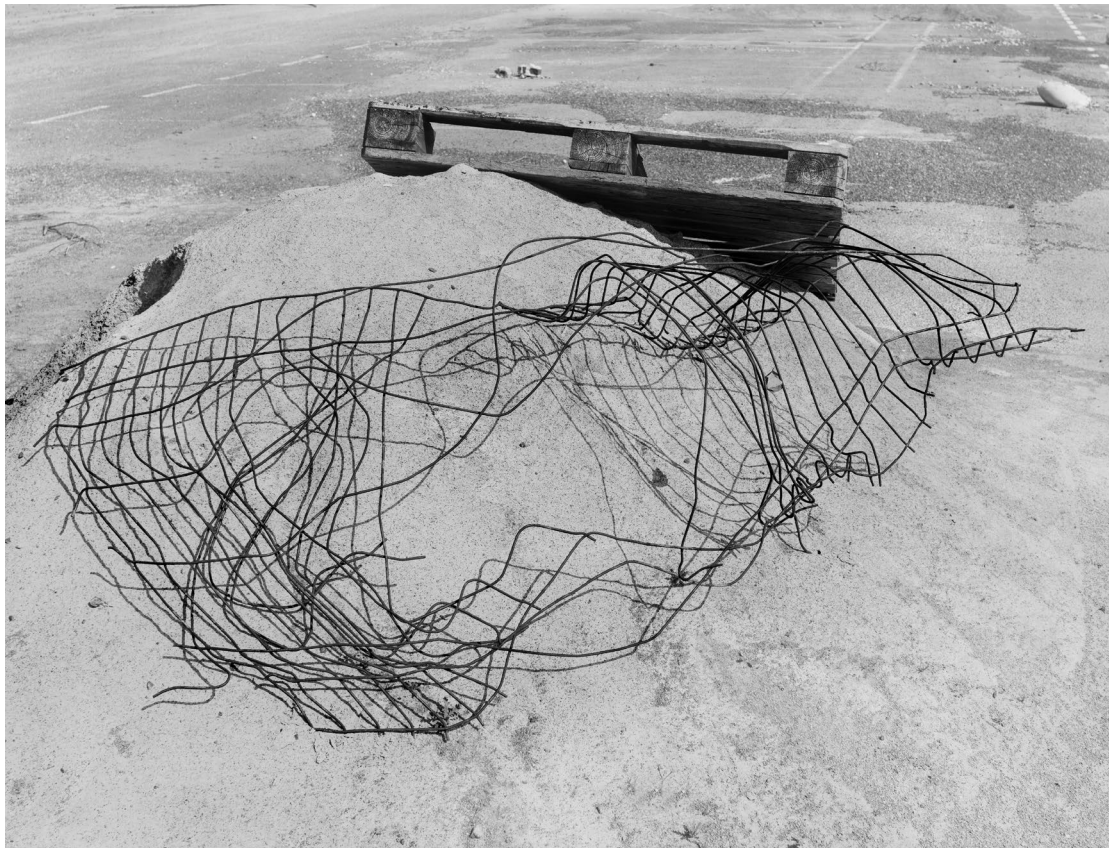
*The Inhabitants* is Raymond Meeks' first monographic exhibition in France.

#### IMMERSION

Immersion is designed to support contemporary photography in France and the United States. Initiated in 2014 by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, this Franco-American photographic commission is an annual program of cross-residencies, exhibitions and publications, alternatively open to a U.S.-based photographer wishing to work on an original project in France, mentored by an English-speaking professional, and, the following year, to a French-based photographer wishing to work on an original project in the U.S., mentored by a French professional. Each year, as part of an alliance established with the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris and the International Center of Photography in New York (ICP), Immersion results in solo exhibitions held at these two prestigious institutions.

The sixth edition was sponsored by David Company, Director of Programs at the ICP. Raymond Meeks completed his residency in France in 2022. The outcome of his work was presented at the ICP in September 2023, alongside the two previous winners, Vasantha Yoganathan (France) and Gregory Halpern (USA).

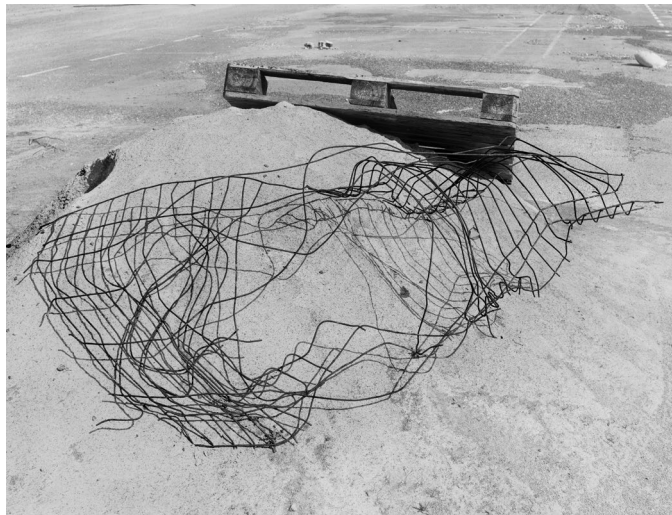




*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks



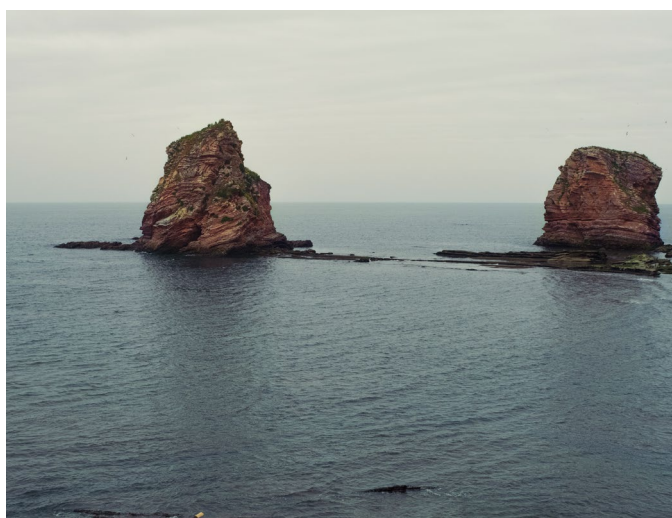
01  
*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks



02  
*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks



03  
*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks



04  
*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks



05  
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07  
*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks



08  
*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks



09  
*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks



10  
*The Inhabitants* © Raymond Meeks

# Special display to celebrate the new edition of Henri Cartier-Bresson's *The Decisive Moment* on show until January 5, 2025

## Press visuals

To celebrate the publication of the new edition of Henri Cartier-Bresson's famous book *The Decisive Moment* (Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, June 2023), the Fondation has designed a special display featuring a dozen of the book's most striking images, several cover copies of the original book and an exceptional document. The display remains on view until January 5, 2025.

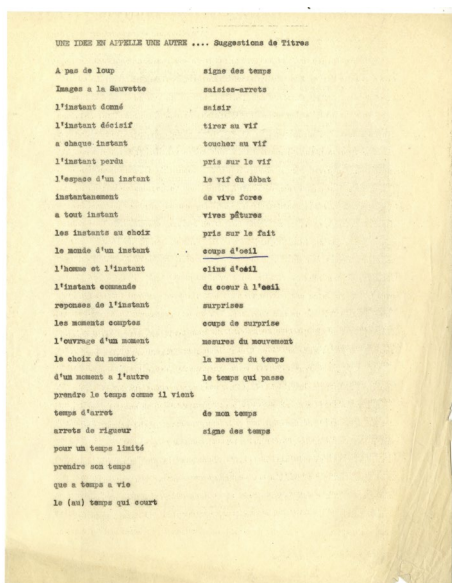
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01  
The Decisive Moment © Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson



02  
Henri Cartier-Bresson, *Sunday on the banks of the Seine*, France, 1938  
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson / Magnum Photos.



03  
Henri Cartier-Bresson, « Une idée en appelle une autre... Suggestions de titres », 1952 © Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson



04  
Henri Cartier-Bresson, *Valencia*, Spain, 1933  
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson / Magnum Photos.



01  
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, November 2018  
© Cyrille Weiner.



02  
Front desk and bookstore  
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, June 2024  
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson



03  
Carolyn Drake - *Men Untitled* exhibition  
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, September 2023  
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson.



04  
Vasanthan Yogananthan - *Mystery Street* exhibition  
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, May 2023  
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05  
Stephen Shore - *Véhicular & Vernacular* exhibition  
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, June 2024  
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06  
Ruth Orkin - *Bike Trip, USA, 1939* exhibition  
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, September 2023  
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