

PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION

RE/*construction*



© Francesca Hummler

In the exhibition *RE/construction*, **Mina Boromand**, **Francesca Hummler**, **William Lakin** and **Daniel Szalai** play with images, fragmenting in order to reconstruct them. Far from a literal reproduction of reality, this generation has seized on photography, whether digital, contemporary, vernacular or archival, to create new narratives.



© William Lakin

Presented in Arles with the support of Nikon, the *RE/construction* exhibition brings together 4 artists selected from the 24 laureates awarded as part of the **Carte Blanche Students** program created in 2017 by **Picto Foundation**, **Paris Photo** and **SNCF Gares & Connexions**.

Here, the artist becomes a demiurge, destroying and reconstructing ideas and images; for **Daniel Szalai**, using 3D images and drawing inspiration from the technique of facial recognition dairy farms; for **Mina Boromand**, a personal archives that a failing visual memory prevents her from fixing them; for **Francesca Hummler**, photography serves as a tool for recognizing and legitimizing the singular family ties with her adopted sister, through the powerful metaphor of the home; finally, for **William Lakin**, it's the codes of masculinity that are dissected, breaking down gender stereotypes around masculinity.



© Daniel Szalai

The *RE/construction* of the image also **invites us to rethink the way we show photography**. For these artists, scenography and mixed-media installations are natural tools for enriching the narrative. These practices enable them to emancipate themselves from the traditional straitjacket of the medium, pushing back the boundaries of photographic practice and questioning its future.

This exhibition, presented as part of **the opening week of the Rencontres de la Photographie d'Arles**, is supported by Nikon. This year's curation is by independent curator Emmanuelle Halkin. Discover the work of the 4 selected artists...

FRANCESCA HUMMLER

Francesca Hummler is a visual artist and researcher working with photography. After a BA in Arts & Media and a BS in Biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego in 2019, she obtained an MA in Photography at the Royal College of Art in London in 2022. **Interested in questions of identity**, she draws on her experience as the daughter of German immigrants in the United States to explore archives, family intimacy and generational trauma. Influenced by the concept of photo-therapy, Francesca often uses self-portraiture to unravel her sense of identity. Recently, she has extended her therapeutic practices to photographing other people, offering them comfort as they work through their traumas.



© Francesca Hummler

OUR DOLLHOUSE

Francesca Hummler has been photographing her younger sister Masantu for over ten years. A way of making up for the absence of photos of her adopted sister as a baby. Through the powerful metaphor of the doll's house, the fabricated image here replaces the missing family archive, legitimizing family ties and the presence of a black girl in a German-American family.

M I N A B O R O M A N D

Mina Boromand is an Iranian artist currently based in London. Her career began with her participation in the Iranian revolution of 1979 as an idealistic young supporter, taking to the streets in opposition to dictatorship and autocracy. The revolution and its tragic consequences triggered a series of events that came to define her life and work; a sequence of moves, from Iran to Afghanistan, to the Soviet Union and finally to Britain. **She draws on this rich history of revolution, displacement, idealism and pain to fuel her work**, which, like her own life, crosses boundaries of medium, style, tone and composition. **She offers the viewer a glimpse into her memories** - memories she hides behind the veil of aphantasia, a disease that makes visualization impossible.



© Mina Boromand

A P H A N T A S I A

In the Aphantasia series, Mina Boromand creates personal archives that her visual memory prevents her from fixing. She uses this process to express her experience of exile. Layers are superimposed on photographic prints, threads and calligraphy intertwine; a way for her to visually connect her memories to one another and bring her intimate journey through time and space to life.

WILLIAM LAKIN

Based in London, **William Lakin** is currently working on research projects and is a PhD student at the London College of Communication on the theme of disinformation and strategic narratives. **His work focuses on shared narratives and ideologies.** He uses a multidisciplinary art practice as a tool to isolate and disrupt the practices of marginal online communities. His intention is to reveal the character and function of these spaces, and what they can tell us about the larger subject of identity play. He sees his practice as an exercise in problem-solving, an ongoing process of trial and error in which he seeks to develop visual solutions to communicate abstract phenomena.



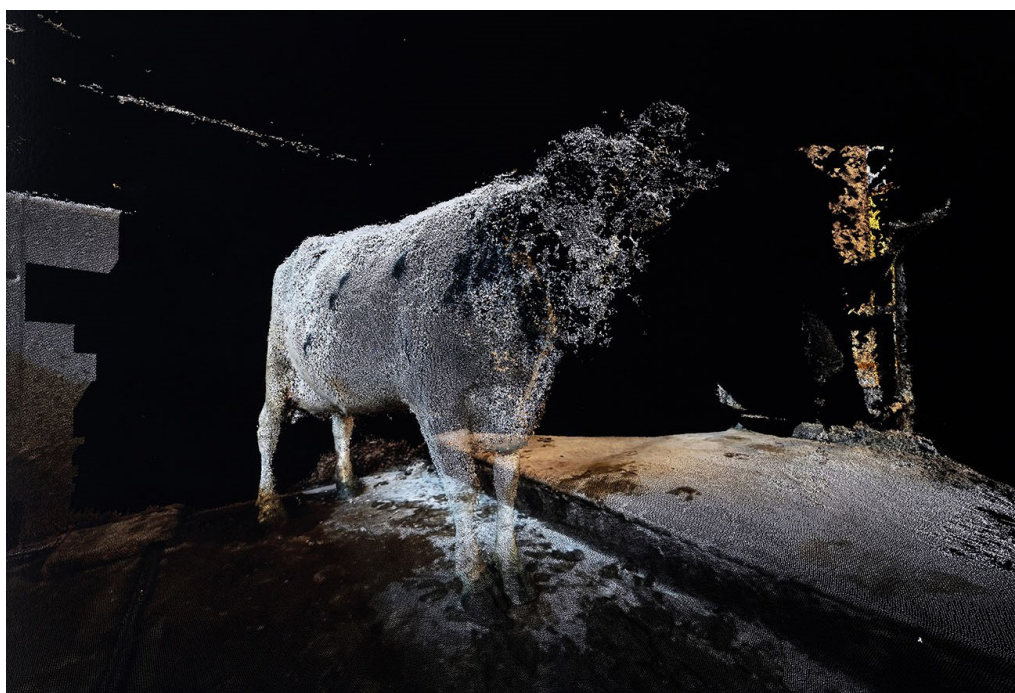
© William Lakin

FIVE MINUTES AFTER BIRTH

In this series, William Lakin analyzes and deconstructs the social conditioning men undergo in modern Western societies. Referring to the great clichés of virility and the traditional roles of men and women, this work is a critical response to men's quest for power and control. It also questions their inclination to develop competitive behaviors, often harmful to themselves and those around them.

DANIEL SZALAI

Daniel Szalai is a Hungarian artist. His projects investigate the particular manifestations of the relationship between man and animal, and **reflect on societal, political and economic anomalies**. He mixes different media in his artistic practice, developing them notably in installations. Szalai studied photography at the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design in Budapest and the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, and also holds a degree in art and design theory. Szalai is a member of the Carte Blanche collective, the Studio of Young Artists association and the Studio of Young Photographers, Hungary. He lives and works in Budapest.



© Daniel Szalai

UNLEASH YOUR HERD'S POTENTIAL

Daniel Szalai's project is inspired by facial recognition techniques used on industrial dairy farms. He uses photogrammetry, a 3D scanning technique originally developed for cartography. Here, the animal and its environment take the form of clouds of information, where the living seems to have been crowded out. These digital images are a powerful symbol of the skewed relationship humans now have with nature, but also of a world in which living beings are mere parameterized commodities.

Emmanuelle Halkin is a graduate of the École du Louvre. She is an independent curator and editor. In 2014, she joined the artistic committee of the FETART collective, which supports emerging photography. From 2017 to 2021, she was co-artistic director of The Anonymous Project archive, and has designed several exhibitions and editorial projects based on this collection. In 2021 and 2023, she is artistic director of Rencontres Photographiques du 10e for the FETART collective. Since 2022, she has also been curator-in-residence for Diaphane, in the Hauts-de-France.

Carte Blanche Students

[Carte Blanche Students](#) is a program dedicated to Master's and Bachelor's students at European photography and visual arts schools, co-organized by **Picto Foundation**, **Paris Photo** and **SNCF Gares & Connexions**.

A jury of art world professionals meets in June each year to select 20 finalists from over 200 European Photographic and Visual Arts schools. 4 laureates are chosen, whose projects are presented to the public as part of an exhibition/projection on giant screens in a parisian train station, as well as during Paris Photo in a dedicated area of the fair, accompanied by its partners **Hahnemühle**, **Filmolux** and **Saif**.

Since 2022, **Saif** supports one laureate of each edition with the Saif x Carte Blanche Etudiants scholarship.

Atelier de l'image

29 Rue du 4 Septembre,
13200 Arles

Exhibition - **RE/construction**

Monday July 3 to Saturday July 8
From 10 am to 7 pm

Opening evening Wednesday, July 5

Located just a stone's throw from the Roman Amphitheatre and the banks of the Rhône, the Atelier de l'image is a multi-disciplinary art space dedicated primarily to photography.

The RE/*construction* exhibition is produced with the support of



Carte Blanche Students, a program co-organized since 2017 by



With the support of



For further information, please contact

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