



galerie photographique BJ

ALAIN CORNU SUR PARIS

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Since 2009, Alain Cornu has been shooting Paris' rooftops by night, climbing on the top of the capital's buildings to offer a new and poetic vision of the city.

Notre-Dame, the Eiffel Tower or the Sacré Coeur appear in the distance, like allusions to the prestigious City of Light. But the real Paris lies in its gray zinc or slate rooftops that cover the former maids' rooms. Out of this large grey landscape, countless small clay chimneys emerge, dotting the cold tones of the city with orange sparkles.

Exhibition from February 6th to April 23rd at l'Hôtel & Spa La Belle Juliette

The panorama of Parisian rooftops, presented to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site, originates in the transformation of the capital by Baron Haussmann. This urban uniqueness, instantly distinguishable, has been the setting for literary and artistic imaginary since the 19th century.

Alain Cornu discovered this vision of the city's rooftops on a sleepless night, and chose to photograph them in the traditional way, using a large-format camera and colour

film, with a long exposure that perfectly recreates the nocturnal atmosphere in both high and low light. These photographs offer us a new vision of the city, through the seasons and the variations of light, a fascinating look at a timeless Paris.

"I started this series because I wanted to pay a tribute to this city I love so much, and look upon it in a different manner. Taking photographs of the rooftops is a good way to show passers-by what's hidden, to rediscover Parisian buildings and monuments from a new perspective. It is also a mean to escape everyday matters and start witnessing instead of acting. [...] I have chosen to work at nightfall, because this very moment recalls fantasy and intimacy. Every dormer, every illuminated window is a life one can imagine. Aesthetically speaking, it is the artificial light that structures the composition of my images".

Born in 1966 in Decize (Nièvre), Alain Cornu lives and works in Paris. After secondary school studies devoted to visual arts, he entered the Ecole des Gobelins where he learned photography.




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Major of his class, he became a professional photographer in 1991. Since then, his work has followed two complementary paths: the studio where he develops his still-life and portrait projects and carries out numerous commissioned works, and the outside where he creates a personal work devoted to the landscape. Over the last twenty years he has explored France through the Atlantic coast, rural areas, forests and Paris and its surroundings. His series "Les Signes de la Forêt" (Signs of the Forest) was awarded the Kodak Talent Grant in 2007 and the Public Award at the 2010 Festival de Montpellier. His series "Sur Paris" was shown at the Thierry Bigaignon gallery in 2016 and was published as a book.

CONTACT

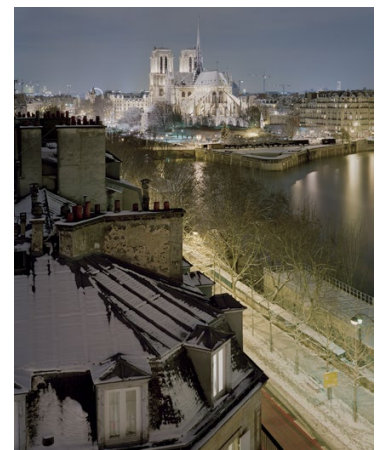
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