



EXHIBITION

HUGUES DUBOIS: A THIRTY-FIVE YEAR CAREER IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Hughes Dubois is a master of the photography of art objects from all continents. For thirty-five years, he has worked for the world's leading museums, institutions, art galleries, and private collectors, for whom he has taken a prodigious 50,000 photographs, published for the most part in some 150 books. His photographs are artworks unto themselves and have been recognized through the award of three international prizes.

*Parcours des Mondes is honoring Dubois with a retrospective exhibition that explores his art in an intimate manner and reveals a new side of his work. It begins with the first "North Sea" Polaroids, in which the young photographer offers a glimpse of his poetic vision of the landscapes of his childhood through a series of triptychs. The exhibition then takes us to the root of his professional work through the presentation of 186 Polaroids of art objects. Until the American manufacturer ceased production of these legendary cameras in 2007, photographers used them to make test prints before taking their definitive shots. Dubois kept these Polaroids in meticulously annotated albums, which today constitute "souvenirs" in his archives. In the course of the development of his 1984 book titled *Rediscovered Masterpieces of Mesoamerica*, published by Editions Art 135, Dubois met Edwin Herbert Land in San Francisco. Land was the inventor of the Polaroid process and a major collector of Pre-Columbian sculpture. The encounter was a decisive one, and Dubois began to keep the shots with which he had formed particular attachments. A selection of these Polaroids is shown here. They are arranged in thematic groupings that follow the photographer's path, and they become witnesses of a bygone practice now superseded by the digital age.*

*These prints are also the origin of personal creative efforts, which developed in tandem with his professional activities. Guided by his sensitivity to the humanity and presence that objects emanate, Dubois produced a series of Polaroid "object portraits." Freeing himself of the very sophisticated techniques that are normally the hallmark of his work, he worked on this project for some twenty years. A book titled *Le Sensible et la Force* (Sensitivity and Power), published in 2004, embodies this renewal, and four large-format prints represent it in the exhibition.*

Dubois' personal projects were also realized with his wife, Caroline Leloup-Dubois, with whom he worked in close collaboration. Enthralled by the Buddhist temple of Borobudur on the island of Java, they would shoot photographs together by the light of the full moon of the bas-reliefs depicting the phases of Buddha's life. Beginning in 2016, a traveling exhibition will present life-size prints of these shots, which will give the viewer the opportunity to experience the monumentality of the edifice and feel the unique aesthetic sensation that the light of the full moon creates, and which Dubois so delicately captures. Four prints from this upcoming show will be seen here as a preview.

This exhibition's components will shed light on both the extent and variety of mankind's artistic creations and the artistic sensibilities of a photographer who has blossomed over his long and remarkable career.

Valentine Plisnier

10 AM - 08 PM at l'espace Tribal, 22 rue Visconti

