

Telematic Art

# Art Cafe f/2

## CONTEMPORARY BREATH-TAKING ART Artist Profiles

Twenty Four Hours My Art Cafe. Connecting artists and visitors in contemporary art. The Path to Excellence. Art Cafe Rhizomatic Exhibitions with international contemporary artists. Art Cafe f/2 is a fine art gallery dedicated to the promotion of international artists.

**CONCEPTUAL ART CAFE. ART CAFE IDEAS BECOMES A MACHINE THAT MAKES THE ART.**

Zébulon Rouge

Could you tell us a little more about you? Where are you from? What kind of study have you done?

I live in a small village in the South of France. I grew up in Marseilles under violent lights, close to the sea, and the white limestone rock which appears like bone. I studied agronomy and am a landscape gardener.

Why have you chosen photography to express yourself and since when do you practice it?

I taught myself, and came to photography in stages. For years i had a rather conventional way of taking photographs, with a second-hand single reflex camera i produced matter for memories. In 2001 i bought a good quality compact digital camera for professional use in my projects of garden creation studies. A graphic designer friend taught me how to use Photoshop, this was a newer, more creative approach to images. Little by little i began reading books and magazines about photography, running round exhi-



photographs and seeing was also changing, it was becoming captivating almost sensual. Something



flex digital camera, and worked on the places where i found something magical, natural spots and disused industrial sites. Then i joined a group of 10 passionate amateurs, we swapped photos via email, with a new theme each month, getting different people from outside of the group to comment on them. Then 15 months ago i discovered Flickr...

How do you work? What are your favorites topics? Also, which are the photographers you admire the most?

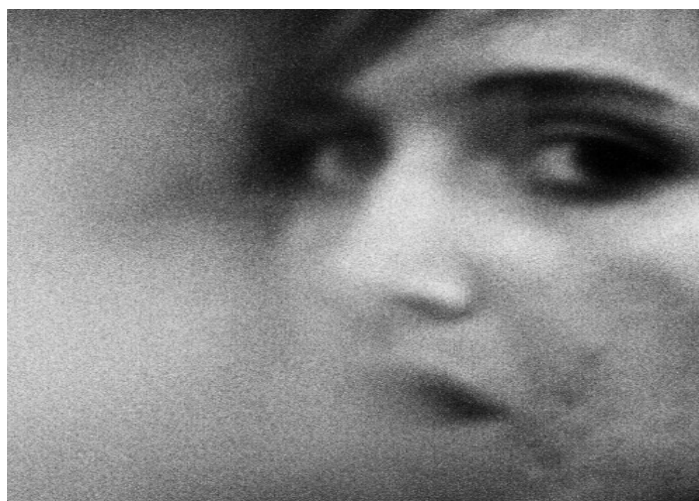
I often have my camera with me, i can photograph in any place, any time, though i don't necessarily do that. It's an adventure on every street and forest corner. Sometimes for fun, i mentally take pictures without a camera... It's astonishing how persistent these images can be. Sometimes paintings, drawings or poetry inspires me, or dreams, memories that return. To respond to these impulses, i recently experimented with sessions in places where i know when the light is at its best, finding models and getting their permission, their participation for a simple production. I really like this way of working. It requires organization, presents many obstacles, but it's exalting work, to get as close as possible to what one is looking for. I discovered recently Jorge Molder whose work denies a unique reality for the benefit of a world with multiple possible. Carrie Levy's portraits with naked models in their own house, who diverting their faces inviting you in the identification... Or still Bill Armstrong and his fabulous suggestion of color portraits. This sum-



Art Cafe f/2 |T|H|E| |C|O|I|M|M|U|N||C|I|A|T|I|O|N| |C|A|F|E| with |T|O|U|G|H|T|F|U|L| |C|I|O|N|T|E|N|T|

bitions, looking differently the work of photographer friends. My way of taking

like touching with the eyes... Finally 3 years ago, i began using a good single lens re-



Art Cafe f/2 Exhibition with Zébulon Rouge "The man is the one to whom a picture misses".

mer in Arles city Nan Goldin's huge slide show really touched me. In this register i saw in museum art gallery of Stockholm the series Teenage Lust de Larry Clark on the teenagers lost of the 80s in USA, there also, an enormous emotion. Seen also works of Graciela Iturbide of Mexico and Romualdas Rakauskas of Lithuanie, incredible power in relations between the human and the nature. On Flickr I found many magnificent artists.

**Your work on computer, do you print it and on what support? Do you have exhibitions plans and other artistic plans?**

Two years ago i began work on a black and white series, and a few colour shots, on my office printer. It's very pleasing to make things materialise but my gosh! There's no mercy, especially if the printer is not great. I had to make several tests before obtaining a result which I found acceptable at the time and which today leaves me doubting. This spring, for my first exhibition, i contacted a professional laboratory, for 40/40 and 40/60 formats in black and white on thick Hahnemuhle paper, with aluminium backing. That's another thing, it lives up to it's promises but also reveals little weaknesses. There's a reason why a print is also called an "épreuve" (transl: arduous task/proof) in French! But the exhibition was a success and will be followed up. The desire is there to make new prints from shots that are building up and then exhibit.

**How would you qualify your work? What kind of meaning, of truth do you want to show, to tell? What are you seeking for?**

I seek a strength of feeling capable of overturning. It's an attempt at writing poetry through photography, the forms of which are constantly moving outwards. Beyond representation. I wanted to obtain images which diffuse out of their frames, stories with multiple interpretations. Sometimes i use water and smoke as unpredictable revealers. There ephemeral architecture remind us of



**Art Cafe f/2 Exhibition with Zébulon Rouge "Lucy in the sky".**

our own fragility, and at the same time, their existences eternally in change, making a prodigious gift, the mystery of the world. I have a weakness for weak light, those of the frontiers between day and night, those during eclipses. To make a good photo, I need to switch into a state of photographic trance, later comes the un-

derstanding, and in front of my screen I distill. My photos question reality. I agree with the definition of Jean Baudrillard; photography is our exorcism: primitive societies had masks, the bourgeoisie had mirrors and we have our images.

**Why are you in flickr and what do you expect from this kind of possibility?**

Flickr is a magic lantern for me, a crazy kaleidoscope of images, with the possibility of contacting the people who produce those images. I have been so lucky to be

drives, and especially, the possibility of showing one's production to a great many people. One can test one's work by exposing it to the comments of other photographers. And thanks to Art Café, a virtual exhibition space.

## References

- [1] Your Art Cafe Contact  
Art historian Doris Stricher,  
dorisstricher [at] gmail.com
- [2] Homepage Zébulon Rouge,  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tournicoti-tournicoton/>

able to discover different views and cultures. The opportunity of perceiving the undercurrents in the way of shooting, and finding one's place, building a personal view. Flickr it is also the true nightmare which eats my time. I even tried to stop once, it is more difficult than to stop the cigarette! Well, it's also an engine that