

CHRISTOPHE DELORY

My work takes the form of projects composed of photographic series, videos, and notebooks. These projects seek to highlight the heroic dimension of beings and places as a silent way of resisting, inhabiting, and persisting in the world. The aim is to reveal the discreet transcendence, the memorial charge, or the invisible dignity that certain gestures, certain presences, and certain territories conceal. I use a 4x5-inch camera and medium-format digital equipment to establish, from the moment the picture is taken, a relationship of tension and listening between the camera, the subject, and myself. These tools force me to slow down, to be precise, to pay a kind of attention that becomes almost ritualistic—a way of entering into a vulnerable relationship with reality.

The artistic gestures I propose focus on built and living heritage: minorities, places of memory, vernacular culture. Through them, I seek to recount the territory, its morphology, its history, its emotional and memorial significance. This transcendence of a condition that I am attempting to develop does not consist in magnifying reality, but in revealing its latent power: that "greater than oneself" that germinates in every existence, in every trace, in every stone.

The use of three media—photography, video, and notebooks—allows me to weave a polyphonic reading of reality. This intertwining of forms opens up a space where the gaze, memory, and speech can dialogue and complement each other to bring out the heroic potential of our human positions—that fragile and stubborn impulse that drives us to form societies.



Artisans

For two years, I explored the world of exceptional artisan workshops, capturing rare skills and profound human stories. Discreet but always inspiring, they work with a sense of urgency and imperative necessity, embodying an unbreakable link between tradition and innovation. They are more than their gestures, their tasks, and their actions: we are beyond the act of making. They are the heroes of a world where the sacred still has its place. Their work redefines craftsmanship as a living heritage, diluted in the present. Fearing their disappearance, I photographed them solemnly, as symbols of trust, fragility, and power.



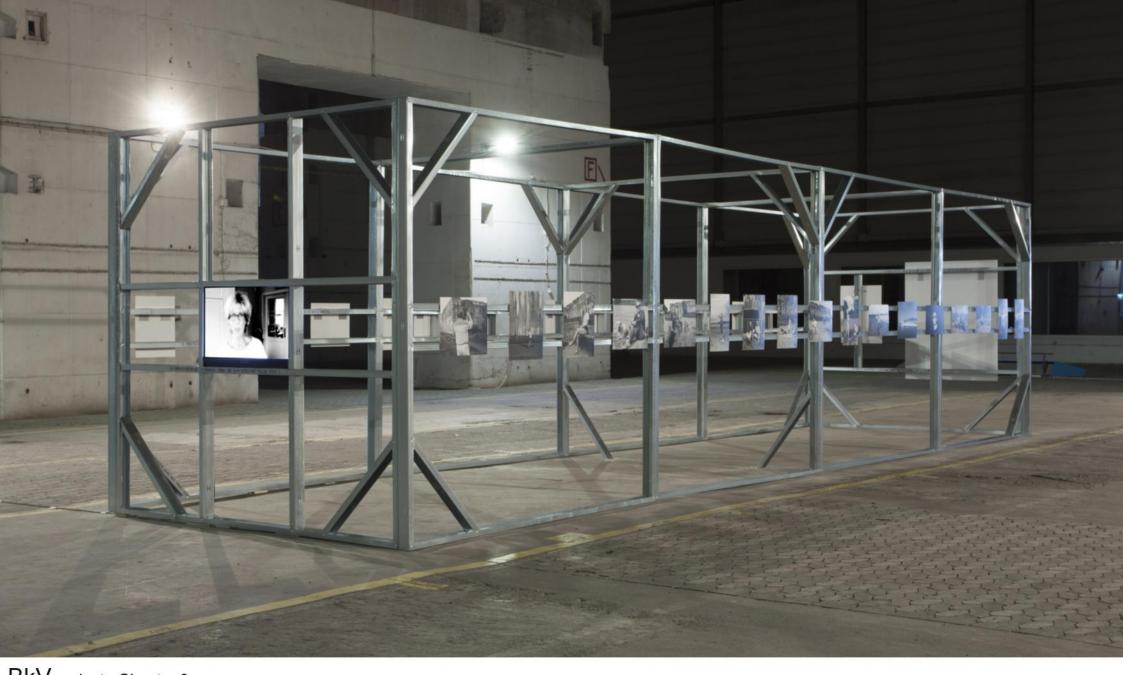
Interviews with Christophe by IEA Nantes See the slideshow Press article



BkV project - Chapter 1

The physical remains of history. I photographed the architecture of the bunker to bear witness to its extraordinary architectural significance. My body became a technical reference point, reflecting the feeling of being overwhelmed.

Documentary on the project



BkV project - Chapter 3
How to live with 500,000 cubic meters of concrete. I met with residents, workers, and passersby who live near the bunker to see and hear about the impact of concrete on their lives.



The inhabitants photographed welcomed me into their homes for interviews about life in the town of Rekum, their definition of happiness as citizens, their visit to the bunker, their opinion on the creation of the memorial site...

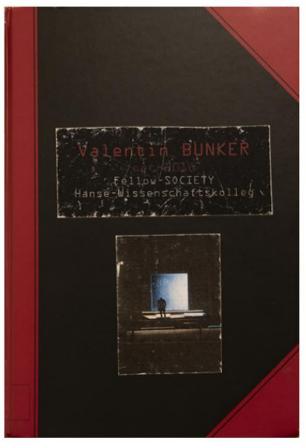
watch the video



BkV project - Chapter 2

The spectral remains of history. 1,600 forced labourers died on the construction site, the bodies of some of them mixed into the concrete; I felt as though the walls were speaking to me, and I translated this communication into images in an aesthetic, non-narrative experiment.









The workbook contains images created during my research on the bunker, as well as my first choice photographs. It reveals my experiments with colour combinations in images, but also my fears about manipulating images. I share it with the project participants. It is a workbook in which instinct frees up mistakes and opens up other possibilities. Most of the images will never be used anywhere other than in the notebook.



Wool from the North

A former iconic spinning mill, The Nordwolle embodies these places of memory transformed into living spaces. A symbol of both Germany's heroic industrial era and its decline, I photographed its new architecture and inhabitants, an extension of its geographical heritage while moving away from its lost grandeur.



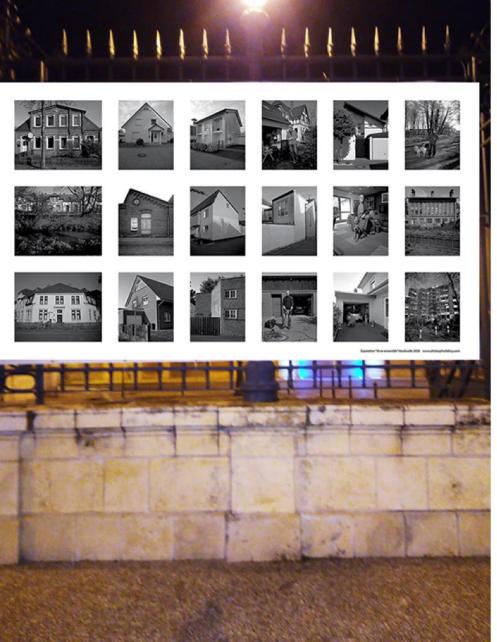






The workbook allows participants to follow the development of the project. It includes architectural photos and portraits, exhibition plans, and views of exhibitions.

press article





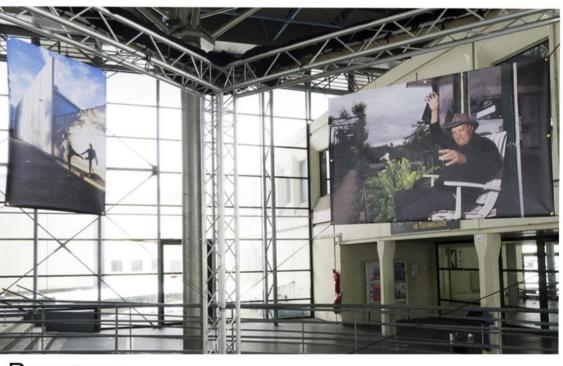


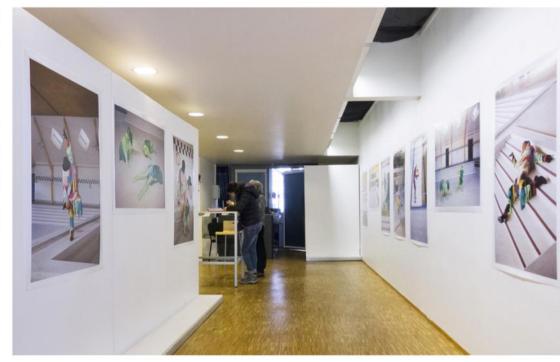
Balsan/Nordwolle

The two former industrial spinning mills, Balsan in France and Nordwolle in Germany, have been renovated. I organized this event to put the various choices into perspective. In-person and video conference between Chateauroux and Bremen.









Panorama

The challenge of this project, in collaboration with choreographer Lionel Hoche, lies in transforming urban space through the body. The aim is to invite residents to embrace the city not only as a place of passage or daily use, but as a space for artistic and collective expression. By going beyond the purely utilitarian function of public space, every gesture and every movement becomes a form of urban poetry, a way of reinventing the connection between individuals and their environment.



Citizen of heritage

This series, born out of a creative residency at Collectif À Propos, celebrates civic engagement in all its forms. Through an artistic and collective project, it gives a voice to those who, through their determination and altruism, redefine what it means to be a citizen on a daily basis. A human adventure where each participation becomes a heroic act, full of meaning and solidarity.

5 C-print photographs 48x60cm + 9 C-print photographs 60x75cm + one flag Pierre Emmanuel Middle School, Pau 2022











Educational program set up with the art teacher. Shot with a 4x5-inch camera and exposed on 526x25cm c-print.

Pierre Emmanuel Middle School, Pau, 2021.













Spectral City

This project, conducted in collaboration with Dr. Pushpa Arabindoo, associate professor in the Department of Geography at UCL (University College London), is part of her research on urban change in India. I captured the changing city and its inhabitants before their eviction. These images convey the urgency of a present already marked by impending absence, where every gesture and every stone bears the trace of a foretold disappearance. An urban and visual narrative bearing witness to what once was, before everything changed.









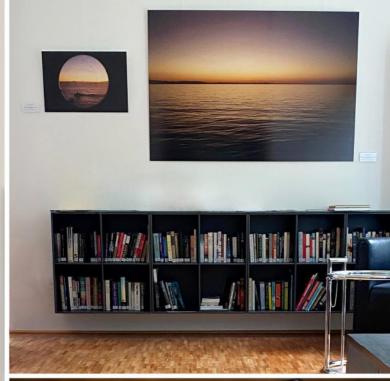






Commercial temporality
An urban narrative about the survival of Greek grocery stores bought out by the Turkish community in Brussels. It is the story of the transformation of a city through minorities. Project carried out in collaboration with anthropologist Katerina Seraïdari. Read the scientific article







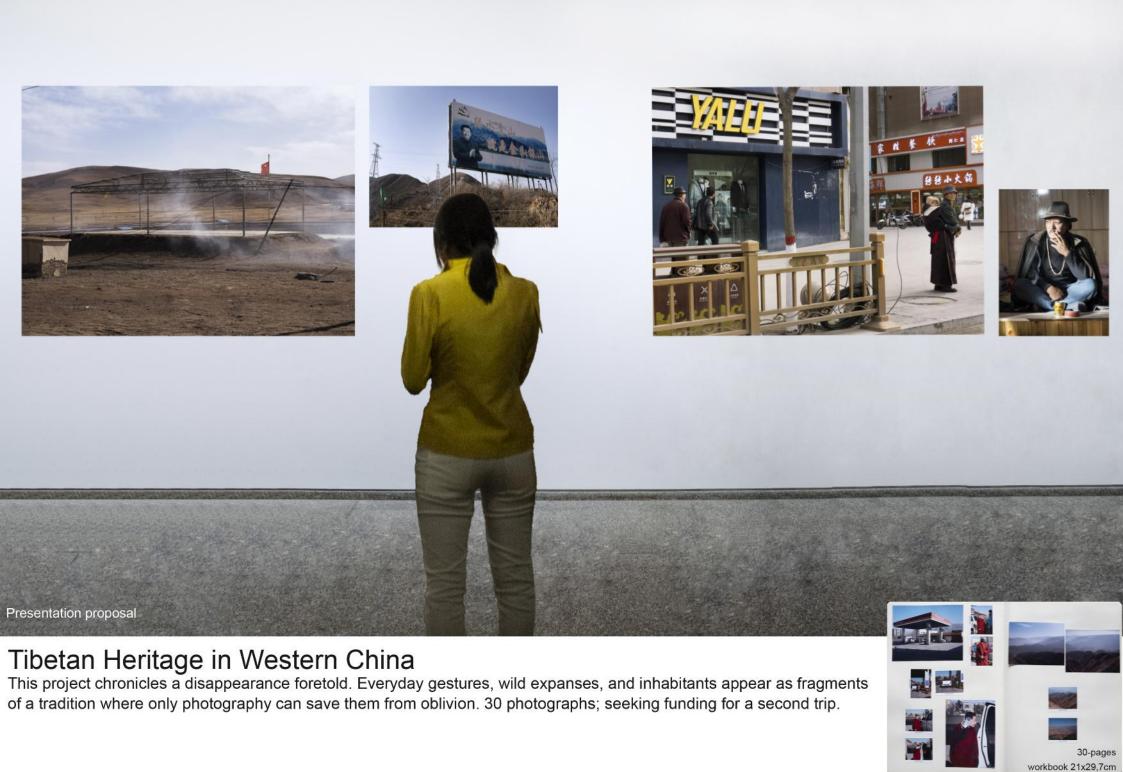
Solaris AT 42-18

Scientific expedition in the Pacific Ocean Project carried out in collaboration with Dr. Colleen Hansel, WHOI USA. Using the sunset photo, I juxtaposed a view of my cabin through the porthole, which gives a liberating sense of balance.

Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg, Allemagne 2022.



Blériot beach, Sangatte
A story of art about the traces left behind by migrants who attempt to cross from Calais to England every night. Although the footprints are fleeting, every night a new group leaves new ones behind. I offer a poetic narrative of these daily dramas.



















Living heritage in Stockholm City

A series of portraits of Stockholm residents in partnership with the Slipvillan art center, the Historical Museum, and Folkets Hus; each person answered a questionnaire about their connection to the city. A soundtrack with a single voice will bring together all of the testimonials, along with several videos of common places. Each participant will receive a 10x15cm print.

Artistic residency: 2024 LHISC Centrum for Fotografi, 25th Birthday, Stockholm 2025 Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg BkV Bunker Valentin Germany 2024 The Nordwolle Atelier de la Poissonnerie France 2024 Slipvillan, Folkets Hus & Historiska Museet "Linving Heritage in Stockholm 2022-2023 Citoyenneté, Collège Innovant Pierre Emmanuel Pau France City" Sweden 2022 AT 42-18 Solaris, Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Germany 2023 MiAA Côte d'Opale DRAC, VVF & UNAT France 2021-2022 "Gemeinsames LEBEN AUF DER Nordwolle" musée du Nordwolle Germany 2022 Collectif A Propos Heritage Citizens Pau/France 2021 2nd price Wipplay Portrait and landscape 2022 EAC Parc naturel du Perche, France Résidence-mission 2021 Bunker Valentin: Erinnerungsort; Parliament, French Institute & Denkort 2020-2021 Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg NdW the Nordwolle Germany Allemagne 2019-2020 Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg BkV Bunker Valentin Germany 2021 Audience Award "Mon environnement de travail "Usimages industrial heritage biennale France Workshops: 2020 The Hidden Art Project Oldenburg Germany 2019 Photography as urban narrative EHESS CNRS conference 2025 Comprehensive High School Blaise Pascal Chateauroux 2019 Spectral City Alliance française Chennai, India 2024 Middle School Jean Monnet Chateauroux, France 2019 Artisans, Bertrand museum France 2023 PassCulture private lesson online +50H 2018 Award of best modern film Hello Summer Beijing China 2022 Perche natural park France "Le bâti Percheron" parcours EAC 2018 Panorama, University of Paris 13 2022 Gemeinsames LEBEN AUF DER Nordwolle Germany 2017 Panorama cities of Pierrefitte & Villetaneuse, France 2021 Nordwolle/Balsan France 2017 "Sociales sciences: places and situations of everyday life" at the EHESS 2018-2019 Middle School Orléans & Chateauroux "Artisans" 2017 Artisans, Institute for Advanced Studies Nantes, France 2017 Collage portraits 160X120cm in Villetaneuse & Pierrefite cities France 2016 Swimming Pool Jeunes Photographie Européenne Festival Circulation 2014 Portraits Salon des artistes Indre, France 2013 Surveys by Photography at the Université St Louis Bruxelles Belgique 1996 Viêt-Nam, first trip. Paris & Cannes France

Exhibition and awards:

1994 Portrait & Sculpture, la Galerie de Montmartre France

1992 Prix Hoffmann of photography Espagne

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