



Elsa&Johanna

Elsa Parra (born 1990) and Johanna Benainous (born 1991) have been collaborating since 2014 under the name of the duo Elsa & Johanna.

Working at the crossroads of photography, performance and video, they have been creating visual narratives since their meeting, of which they are the interpreters. The use of autofiction, at the heart of Elsa & Johanna's work, allows them to stage characters freed from their own identity, questioning the contemporary individual, the notions of self-representation and anonymity.

Their work has been exhibited at the Salon de Montrouge (2016), the MAC/VAL, Paris Photo and the Festival d'Hyères (2019). In 2020, they are finalists for the Prix Découverte Louis Roederer at the Rencontres d'Arles, they are part of the Société Générale Contemporary Art Collection, they are commissioned by the Palais de la Découverte and they are part of the exhibition «Staging Identity» at the MathildenhöhelInstitut in Darmstadt alongside Pipilotti Rist and Cindy Sherman.

Their photographs are part of the collections of the CNAP, the Fond d'Acquisition d'Art Contemporain de la ville de Paris and the Société Générale, among others.

In 2021, the artists hold their first retrospective exhibition entitled «The plural life of identity» at the Städtische Galerie in Karlsruhe, Germany. In 2022 Elsa & Johanna open the Season at the MEP Studio in Paris with an exhibition dedicated to their latest project «The Timeless Story of Moormerland», produced in Germany.

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** *The Timeless Story Of Moormerland*, Galerie La Forest Divonne - Paris (October 2023)
Palace Odyssée, by invitation of RATP and Palais de la Découverte, Champs-Élysées Clémenceau metro station, Paris
A Couple Of Them, at the invitation of Fonds d'art contemporain - Paris Collections
open-air exhibition on the Pont Saint Ange, Paris
- 2022** *Ce que vaut une femme : les douze heures du jour et de la nuit*, Maison Auguste Comte, Paris, France
The timeless story of Moormerland, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
The Plural Life of Identity, Städtische Galerie, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2021** *Palace Odyssée*, Etincelles du Palais de la découverte, Paris, France
The Plural life of identity, Städtische Galerie, Karlsruhe, Germany
Palace Odyssée, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
PARIS PHOTO, Grand Palais, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
Festival air de fête, invited by FRAC Bretagne, Saint-Briac-sur-Mer, France
A Couple of Them, FMAC Paris, Caserne Baudoyer, Paris, France
- 2020** *Silver Springs*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium
Find the truth, Les Rencontres d'Arles, exhibition with Galerie La Forest Divonne
- 2019** *PARIS PHOTO*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France

Rosarium - C'est le soleil qui finira par nous perdre, curated by Ann Stouvenel, Mains d'OEuvres, Saint Ouen, France

2018 *A Cross Perspective*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Festival Photo Saint-Germain, Paris, France

2017 *Le Reflet de la cuillère*, Espace des femmes, Festival Photo Saint-Germain, Paris, France
Los Ojos Vendados, Etro, Saint-Germain, Paris, France

2015 *A Couple of Them*, Beaux-arts de Paris, France

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 Art Brussels, La Forest Divonne Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
Expo Chicago, La Forest Divonne Gallery, Chicago, USA

2021 *Per Se*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais éphémère, Paris, France
Find the truth, Jimei X Arles, Jimei Photo Festival, Jimei, China

2020 *Art Paris Art Fair*, in the section «Un regard sur la scène française», curated by Gaël Charbau, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Staging Identity, Institut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstad, Germany

2019 *Some of us*, curated by Jérôme Cotinet-Alphaize, Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany
Festival International de Journalisme, Couthures-sur-Garonne, France
34ème Festival International de Photographie de Hyères, Villa Noailles, France
Qu'est-ce que tu regardes ?, Espace Beaurepaire, Paris, France
Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Lignes de vies, une exposition de légendes, curated by Franck Lamy, Museum of Contemporary Art of Val-de-Marne (MAC / VAL), Vitry-sur-Seine, France
100% L'Expo - Sorties d'écoles, Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris, France
POSTURES - La figure seule, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium

2018 *FIAC 2018 - FMAC's booth*, Grand Palais, Paris, France
30 ans - Anniversaire de la Galerie La Forest Divonne, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
Prix Picto de la mode, Palais Galliera, Paris, France
Les Apparences, La Graineterie, Houilles, France
L'homme qui marchait dans la couleur, Galerie du Crous, Paris, France
La figure seule, Château de Poncé, Poncé, France
Millennials au féminin, Galerie Havas, Puteaux, France
Le redoublement, Artinkk, Brussels, Belgium
Profils, Pavillon Blanc, Henri Molina Art Center, Colomiers, France

2017 *Kaléidoscope*, curated by Jean de Malherbe, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium
Morceaux choisis, curated by Jean de Malherbe, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium
La Galerie du Club des AD, Arles, France
Jeune création 67, Paris, France
Ubique, les vacances immobiles, Glassbox, Paris, France
Proyecta, Imaginando otros posibles, curated by Sandra Maunac, Madrid, Espagne
Le quatrième sexe, curated by Marie Maertens, Espace Coeur, Paris, France
Festival Circulation(s) #7, le Centquatre, Paris, France

2016 *Une inconnue d'avance*, curated by Gaël Charbau, Villa Emerige, Paris, France
Felicità, curated by Alexia Fabre, Palais des beaux-arts, Paris, France
Dress codes, curated by Alexandra Dhainaut, Mains d'OEuvre, Saint-Ouen, France

Parcours Saint-Germain, Le Mont St Michel, Paris, France
Vertige en terrain plat, curated by « Mathilde s'expose », Fondation Brownstone, Paris, France
Salon de Montrouge #61, curated by Ami Barrack, Beffroi de Montrouge, France

RESIDENCES

2023 Les Champs des Impossibles, 'Résidence Capsule 2023', Perche, France

2018-2019 Mains d'Œuvres Art Center, Saint-Ouen, Paris, France

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

CNAP - Centre National d'Art Plastiques

Palais de la Découverte

Crédit Agricole Art Collection

Société Générale Contemporary Art Collection

FMAC (Municipal fund of contemporary art of the City of Paris), France

Palais Galliera (Fashion Museum of the City of Paris), France

Departmental collection of contemporary art of Seine Saint-Denis, France

AWARDS

2023 Winners of the Grand Paris Express «Tandem» program for the creation of a permanent work in one of the future metro stations, in collaboration with architect Thomas Richez, under the direction of José-Manuel Gonçalves.

Winners for the creation of two artistic posters for the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2024

2021 Nominated for Prix Balzac 2021 (Prize of the Friends of Balzac)

2020 Nominated for the Roederer Prize, Rencontres d'Arles

2019 Winners of the Public Prize of the 34th International Festival of Hyères

2017 Winners of Prix Picto de la mode 2017

White card «Etro

Selected for the official visuals of the «Festival Photo Saint-Germain

Selected by « La Galerie du club des AD 2017

Invited to the « Festival Circulation(s) 2017

2016 Nominated for the «Emerige Revelations Grant

Nominated for the «61st Salon de Montrouge

Finalists for the «HSBC Prize for Photography

BIBLIOGRAPHY(selection)

2022 Elsa&Johanna, *Ce que vaut une femme : les douze heures du jour et de la nuit*, The Eyes, 2022, 176p
Text by Marie Robert, chief curator at the Musée d'Orsay, in charge of photography

2021 Elsa & Johanna, Fanny Taillandier, La Martinière, collection «Percevoir» under the direction of Simon Baker, preface by Simon Baker, 2021, 128p

Beyond The Shadows, editions H2L2, texts by Gael Charbau, Texts by Salomé Brustein, Eugénie Adda, Baptiste Gourden, Arthur Larrue, 2021, 174p

2017 *Kaléidoscope*, texte d'Arthur Larrue, éditions Galerie La Forest Divonne, 30p