

ELSA & JOHANNA

(Johanna Benainous & Elsa Parra)

EXHIBITION

November 7 - December 1st, 2018

AT THE OCCASION OF FESTIVAL
PHOTO SAINT GERMAIN
November 7 - 24

OPENING

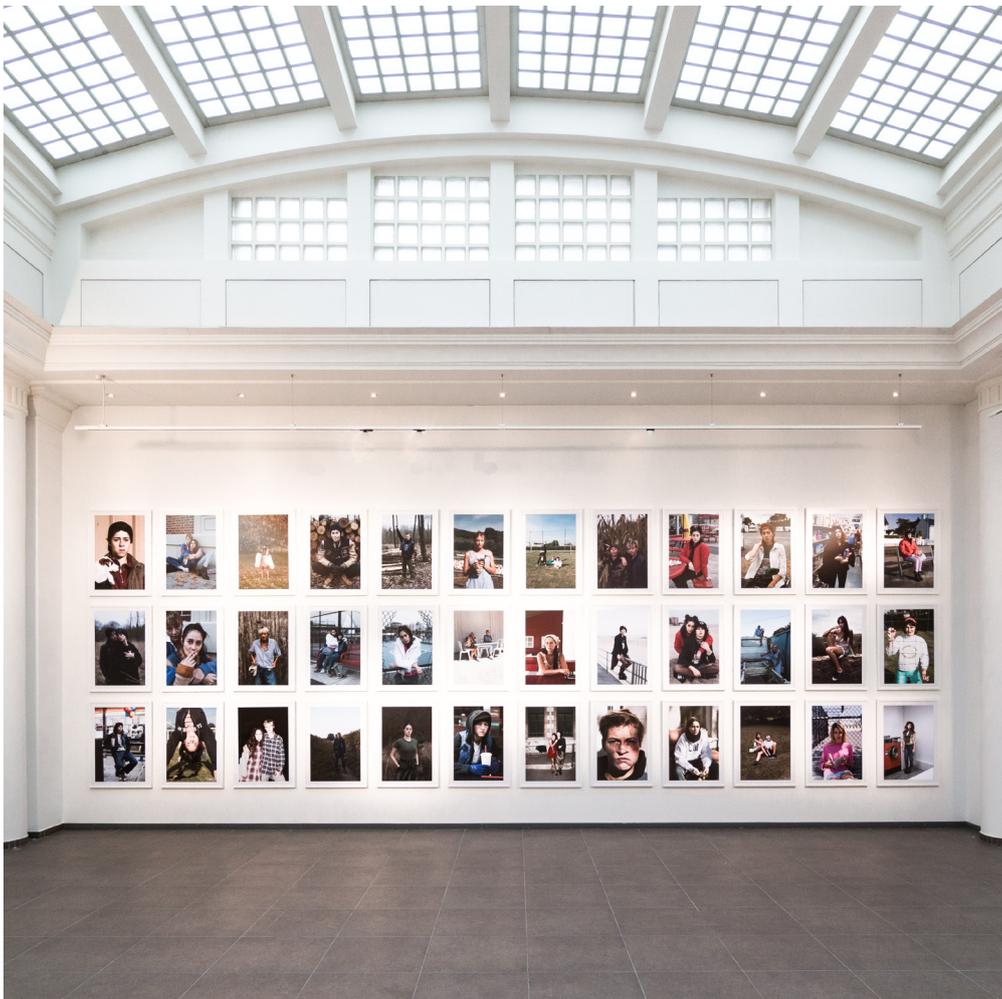
Wednesday November 7 from 6 to 9pm

Photo.Saint Germain
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Johanna Benaïnous (1991) and Elsa Parra (1990) are a duo of visual artists, photographers and directors. In 2016, they were noticed at Salon de Montrouge, ended up finalists of the HSBC Photography Award, and were nominated for the Révélations Emerige grant.

They met at the School of Visual Arts in NYC and received together the congratulations of the jury at Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 2015. They were guest artists at the Festival Circulation(s) 2017 and Festival Photo Saint Germain 2017. They won the 2nd Picto Fashion Award 2017, and got into the collections of Palais Galliera (Fashion Museum of Paris). **In 2017, Galerie La Forest Divonne presents them for the first time in the Brussels space for the exhibition *Kaléidoscope*.** In 2018, the FMAC (Paris Contemporary Art Municipal Fund) acquired the whole set of 88 portrait of the series *A Couple of Them*, made between 2014 and 2016. 36 of them are exhibited on the FMAC booth at FIAC 2018.



Elsa&Johanna, A couple of them, 36 portraits de 90x63cm, jet d'encre sur papier baryté, 2014-2016.
Vue de l'exposition *Kaléidoscope*, Galerie La Forest Divonne - Brussels

Galerie La Forest Divonne - Paris organizes the first solo exhibition of Elsa and Johanna (Johanna Benaïnous and Elsa Parra) on the occasion of the Photo Saint - Germain 2018 Festival. The exhibition will be articulated around two series of images, a part of *A Couple of Them*, and a new unpublished series, *Calgary*, produced in 2018 in Canada, exploring both portrait and identity.

For the series *A Couple of Them*, the two artists slip into the skin of characters observed in the street or coming from their imagination through common urban explorations. A whole set of touching characters, true to life, oddly familiar : the album of a generation, in a way.

The exhibition will confront these portraits with a new series of more intimate images. While the portraits of *A couple of them* are mostly seized in the street or in public spaces, according to an objective shooting protocol, the unpublished *Calgary* series penetrates the intimacy of its subjects photographing them in their interiors, in more personal situations. The shots are less fixed, more varied in their frames, illustrating a more subjective point of view, sheltered behind the walls of houses and individual apartments. These new images continue and develop the artistic research initiated by the two photographers in 2014. Again, Elsa and Johanna play all characters, in this troubling photo album where the same faces lend their features to such different individuals - making the universal and the particular meet.



Elsa&Johanna, *A Couple of Them* 92, jet d'encre sur papier baryté, 90x63cm, 2014-2016



Elsa&Johanna, *A Couple of Them* 92, jet d'encre sur papier baryté, 90x63cm, 2014-2016

CV ELSA & JOHANNA

AWARDS & GRANTS

2018

Public acquisition by the FMAC

Private acquisition by the Palais Galliera

2017

2nd prize 'Prix Picto de la mode 2017'

Carte blanche Etro

Selected to create the official visuals of 'Festival Photo Saint-Germain'

Selected for 'La Galerie du club des AD 2017'

Invited for 'Festival Circulation(s) 2017'

2016

Nominated for 'Bourse Révélation Emerige'

Nominated for '61e Salon de Montrouge'

Finalists of 'Prix HSBC pour la photographie'

RESIDENCY

2018

Centre d'art Mains d'œuvres, Saint-Ouen, Paris

SOLO SHOWS

2018

Solo show, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris

2017

Le reflet de la cuillère, Espace des femmes, Festival Photo Saint-Germain, Paris

Los ojos vendados, Etro flagship, Saint-Germain, Paris

2015

A couple of them, Beaux-Arts de Paris, Paris

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2018

Millenials au féminin, Havas Gallery, Puteaux

Le redoublement, Artinck, Brussels

Profils, Pavillon Blanc, Centre d'art Henri Molina, Colomiers

2017

Kaléidoscope, curated by Jean de Malherbe, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels

Morceaux choisis, hosted by Robin Buchholz, Galerie Bubenbergh, Paris

La Galerie du Club des AD, Arles

Jeune création 67, Paris

Ubique, les vacances immobiles, Glassbox, Paris

Proyecta, Imaginando otros posibles, curated by Sandra Maunac, Madrid

Le quatrième sexe, curated by Marie Maertens, Espace Coeur, Paris

Festival Circulation(s) #7, le Centquatre, Paris

2016

Une inconnue d'avance, curated by Gaël Charbau, Villa Emerige, Paris

Felicità, curated by Alexia Fabre, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris

Dress codes, curated by Alexandra Dhainaut, Mains d'Œuvre, Saint-Ouen

Parcours Saint-Germain, Le Mont St Michel Store, Paris

Vertige en terrain plat, curated by Mathilde s'expose, Fondation Brownstone, Paris

Salon de Montrouge #61, curated by Ami Barrack,

Beffroi de Montrouge

2014

Festival Slideluck Photoville, curated by Gideon Jacobs, Brooklyn, New-York

EDUCATION

Johanna Benainous

2015 MFA (with jury's honors), Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris

2014 Exchange Program at The School of Visual Arts, New-York

2013 BFA, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris

Elsa Parra

2015 MFA (with jury's honors) Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris

2014 Exchange Program at The School of Visual Arts, New-York

2013 BFA, La Cambre, Brussels