

ELSA & JOHANNA

Séquences

EXHIBITION - PARIS

From March 5 to April 11, 2026

OPENING

Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 6 pm to 9 pm

ÉVÈNEMENTS

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g Late Opening « Jeudi des Beaux-Arts »
Thursday, April 2, 6-9 pm
Meet the Artists



Elsa & Johanna, *Kilomètre zéro II*, pigment print on baryta paper, 2025, © Elsa & Johanna

SUMMARY

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La Forest Divonne gallery is delighted to present the new photographic series by Elsa & Johanna, entitled “Séquences”.

This exhibition comes at a particularly busy time for the artists. Following their citywide installations for “Un été au Havre”, invited by Gaël Charbau, and their major solo exhibition at the Centre Photographique de Marseille last summer, their monumental photographic work will soon be unveiled at Champigny train station, as laureates of the “Tandem” program of the Grand Paris Express.



Elsa & Johanna, *Kilomètre zéro I et Intuition II*, pigment print on baryta paper, 2025, © Elsa & Johanna



Elsa & Johanna, *Disparition I et II*, pigment print on baryta paper, 2025, © Elsa & Johanna



With “Séquences”, Elsa and Johanna open a new chapter in their photographic practice, making the landscape a protagonist in its own right. During a residency at Moulin Blanchard in the Perche region, and more specifically near the Bellême forest, the talented duo produced this new series, inspired by the lines, contours, and chromatic variations of the landscape. They returned in the summer to construct their shots, when the light intensifies and the colors reach their full saturation.

Their working method, which has become their artistic signature, relies on a rigorous and narrative staging, where each image is conceived as a painting that tells a story: carefully chosen settings, subtle mastery of natural light effects, precise clothing and accessories, and the presence of bodies and poses meticulously composed by Elsa and Johanna, who play all the characters in their photographic fictions. Here, the artists fully integrate the landscape into their visual vocabulary, transforming fields, forest edges, and rolling roads into almost cinematic, mental scenes. The Percheron territory—agricultural, wooded, undulating—becomes a pictorial surface on which sequences unfold with pop-infused accents, sometimes crossed by a subtle, mysterious tension.

According to Elsa & Johanna: “This play between reality and imagination is a delightful balance: opening a door to an imaginary world, immersing ourselves in it for hours, and then returning to reality while integrating fragments of fiction.”

Color occupies a central place in this series, treated as a painter would with a palette. It dialogues with the tradition of American and European painting, evoking both the silent, laboring figures of Jean-François Millet’s *The Gleaners* and the introspective landscapes of Andrew Wyeth, as well as the suspended atmospheres of Edward Hopper. Cinematic references also fuel their inspiration: the muted strangeness of David Lynch, the formal rigor and palette of Wes Anderson, the Hitchcockian tension of *North by Northwest*, the controlled dramaturgy of Sam Mendes, the contemplative restraint of Peter Weir, and the grand classic epics of John Huston’s narratives.

Between painting and cinema, *Séquences* unfolds like a contemporary fresco, where the landscape becomes a mirror of inner states. Elsa and Johanna invent a world that is both familiar and unsettling, where each image seems to anticipate the next, like successive shots in a film or fragments of a story written from one image to the next.

This is the sixth exhibition that Galerie La Forest Divonne has devoted to them, across its Paris and Brussels spaces. The gallery has also presented them at numerous art fairs, including Expo Chicago, Art Paris, and Paris Photo.

La Forest Divonne gallery has represented the work of Elsa & Johanna since 2017.



Elsa & Johanna, *L'enlèvement II*, pigment print on baryta paper, 2025, © Elsa & Johanna



Elsa & Johanna, *La récolte*, pigment print on baryta paper, 2025, © Elsa & Johanna

BIOGRAPHY

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 MathildenhöheInstitut 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.

Their photographs are included, among others, in the collections of the CNAP, the Fonds d'Art Contemporain - Paris Collections, the Städtische Galerie Karlsruhe, and Société Générale.



Elsa & Johanna, *La fin du jour I*, pigment print on baryta paper, 2025, © Elsa & Johanna

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Séquences*, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris, France
- 2025 *Ce que vaut une femme - Les 12 heures du jour et de la nuit*, Centre National de Bretagne, Rennes, France
Un été au Havre, commissariat Gaël Charbau, Le Havre, France
Ce que vaut une femme : Les Douze heures du jour et de la nuit, Château de Haroué, Centre des Monuments Nationaux, France
Beyond the Shadows, Gallery Kana Kawanishi, Tokyo, Japan
- 2024 *Beyond the Shadows*, Institut Français du Japon, Tokyo, Japan
Climbing into Another Skin, Mai Mano House, Budapest, Hungary
Chronicles of the Ordinary, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgium
- 2023 *The Blurring Days, The Timeless Story of Moormerland*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
Beyond the Shadows, T3 TOKYO Festival, Tokyo, Japan
Samples, Moulin Blanchard, Le Champ des Impossibles, Perche-en-Nocé, France
A Couple of Them, Pont Saint-Ange, Paris, France
Palace Odyssée, Métro Champ-Élysée Clémenceau, Paris, France
- 2022 *Les douze heures du jour et de la nuit*, Maison Auguste Comte, Paris, France
The Timeless Story of Moormerland, Studio de la Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
- 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
Find the Truth, Paris Photo, Grand Palais, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
Festival air de fête, invité par le FRAC Bretagne, Saint-Briac-sur-Mer, France
A Couple of Them, FMAC Paris, murs de la Caserne Baudoyer, Paris, France
- 2020 *Silver Springs*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgique
Les Rencontres d'Arles, exposition *Find the truth*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, France
- 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, Paris, France
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, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium
Expo Chicago, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Chicago, United States
- 2022 *Entres les mondes*, Palecete Santo Estevao Alfama, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2021 *A Couple of Them*, Hyperfestival, Place Baudoyer/Hôtel de Ville, Paris, France
Je te laisse les clefs, H Gallery, Paris, France
Beyond the shadows, Art Paris Art Fair, France

Prix Balzac 2021, Maison de Balzac, Paris, France
Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais éphémère, Paris, France

- 2020 *Per Se*, Festival Photo Saint-Germain + Photo Days, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
Find the truth, Jimei X Arles, Jimei Photo Festival, Jimei, China
Art Paris Art Fair, dans le parcours *Un regard sur la scène française*, under the artistic direction of Gaël Charbau, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Staging Identity, Institut Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, Germany
Not So Crazy Girls, curator Naomie Rubins, Espace Futur, Paris, France
Heartland, Art Paris Art Fair, invited by Gaël Charbau, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Ensemble, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 *Some of us*, commissariat Jérôme Cotinet-Alphaize, Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany
34ème Festival International de Photographie de Hyères, Villa Noailles, France
Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Lignes de vies, une exposition de légendes, commissariat Franck Lamy, Musée d'Art Contemporain du Val-de-Marne (MAC / VAL), Vitry-sur-Seine, France
100% L'Expo - Sorties d'écoles, Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris, France
Festival International de Journalisme, Couthures-sur-Garonne, France
Qu'est-ce que tu regardes ? Espace Beaurepaire, Paris, France
POSTURE(S), Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium
- 2018 FIAC 2018 - stand du FMAC, 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, Bruxelles, Belgique
Profils, Pavillon Blanc, Centre d'art Henri Molina, Colomiers, France
- 2017 *Kaléidoscope*, commissariat Jean de Malherbe, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium
Morceaux choisis, commissariat 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, commissariat Sandra Maunac, Madrid, Spain
Le quatrième sexe, commissariat Marie Maertens, Espace Coeur, Paris, France
Festival Circulation(s) #7, le Centquatre, Paris, France
- 2016 *Une inconnue d'avance*, commissariat Gaël Charbau, Villa Emerige, Paris, France
Felicità, commissariat Alexia Fabre, Palais des beaux-arts, Paris, France
Dress codes, commissariat Alexandra Dhainaut, Mains d'Oeuvre, Saint-Ouen, France
Parcours Saint-Germain, Le Mont St Michel, Paris, France
Vertige en terrain plat, commissariat « Mathilde s'expose », Fondation Brownstone, Paris, France
Salon de Montrouge #61, commissariat Ami Barrack, Beffroi de Montrouge, France

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Cnap (Centre national des arts plastiques), Paris, France
Fonds d'art contemporain – Paris Collections, France
Modern Art Museum Städtische Gallery, Karlsruhe, Germany
Collection d'Art Contemporain Crédit Agricole, Paris, France
Collection d'Art Contemporain Société Générale, Paris, France
Collection Photographique du Palais Galliera (Musée de la mode de la Ville de Paris), France

Collection Départementale d'Art Contemporain de la Seine Saint-Denis, France
Collection Photographique de la Villa Noailles, Hyères, France
Collection Picto Foundation, Paris, France
Collection Dior Lady Art, Paris, France
Palais de la Découverte, Paris France
FMAC (Fond Municipal d'Art Contemporain de la Ville de Paris), France

AWARDS

- 2023 Laureates of the Artistic Posters for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- 2021 Nominated for Le Prix Balzac 2021 (Prize of the Friends of Balzac)
Carte Blanche "Lady Dior as seen by"
- 2020 Laureates of the Société Générale x Beaux-Arts de Paris Collection Award
Nominated for the 2020 Louis Roederer Discovery Award, Les Rencontres d'Arles
Carte Blanche granted by the Palais de la Découverte and Gaël Charbau
- 2019 Winners of the Public Prize at the 34th International Festival of Hyères
Winners of the 2019 Voice of a Woman Awards with the short film 'Coup de Bol', NYC
Bronze Cube ADC Award 2020 from The One Club for 'Coup de Bol', NYC
- 2017 Winners of the 2nd Prize of the 2017 Picto Fashion Award
Selected for the 'Etro' Carte Blanche
Selected for the official visuals of the 'Festival Photo Saint-Germain'
Selected by the 'Galerie du Club des AD 2017'
Invited to the 'Circulation(s) Festival 2017
- 2016 Nominated for the Emerige Revelations Grant
Nominated for the 61st Salon de Montrouge
Finalists for the HSBC Photography Award

RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Capsule Residency, Le Champ des Impossibles, Perch-en-Nocé, France
2018-2019 Centre d'art Mains d'Œuvres, Saint-Ouen, Paris, France

INTERVIEWS (selection)

Elle Magazine, par Soline Delos
Saywho par Marie Maertens
Made in Mind Magazine par Flavia Rovetta
Les Inrockuptibles par Ingrid Luquet-Gad
France Culture par Aude Lavigne
L'Officiel par Felix Besson
Fisheye Magazine par Marie Moglia

PRESS (selection)

Elle Magazine, by Soline Delos
Mu in The City, by Gilles Bechet
9 Lives, by Pascal Therme
The Art Newspaper, by Alain Berlan
Libération, by Jérémy Piette

IDEAT, by Béatrice Andrieux
Stylist, by Stéphane Durand
Slash Paris, by Guillaume Benoît
Libération, by Jérémy Piette
LensCulture, by Alexander Strecker
Télérama Sortir, by Frédérique Chapuis
Libération, by Clémentine Mercier
L'Œil de la Photographie, by Jonas Cuénin

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2022 What a Woman Is Worth - The Twelve Hours of Day and Night, The Eyes Publishing
- 2021 Elsa & Johanna, Fanny Taillandier, La Martinière Publishing, “Percevoir” collection, edited by Simon Baker, foreword by Simon Baker, 2021, 128 pp
Beyond The Shadows, H2L2 Publishing, texts by Gael Charbau, Salomé Brustein, Eugénie Adda, Baptiste Gourden, Arthur Larrue, 2021, 174 pp
- 2017 Kaleidoscope, text by Arthur Larrue, Galerie La Forest Divonne Publishing, 30 pp

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ELSA & JOHANNA

Séquences

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From March 5 to April 11, 2026

OPENING

Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 6 pm to 9 pm

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Elsa & Johanna, *L'enlèvement III*, pigment print on baryta paper, 2025, © Elsa & Johanna



Elsa & Johanna, *Mirage IV*, pigment print on baryta paper, 2025, © Elsa & Johanna