

Valérie Jouve : Suite

CA'ASI, Venice

May 11 – August 30, 2017

Suite is dedicated to a series of photographs taken by Valérie Jouve of the Rotana tower beginning in 2013, during the construction phase. Four years later, the artist returned to Jordan, where the finished hotel embodies innovation in a new quarter of the capital, Amman. The photographs exhibited in Venice re-enact with their viewers an experience of the sites performed by the images.

With a documentary aesthetic, Jouve's approach to architecture remains outside the immanent gaze that an architect maintains towards their own project. Sensitive to the upheaval in the district, the photographer grants us access to an epic of the inanimate, selected as a metaphor of the living and the contemporary. The protagonist of these images confronts the tower at street level, or confronts it with the expanse of the urban landscape. Her gaze is that of a transcendental pedestrian who acknowledges, with intuition and majestic exactitude, the obvious or secret relations of scale that are established between the building and the city.

The use of the large-format camera helps the gaze to become more exact. Photographs on film place everything in the light. The images captured at 24 x 36 tell the viewer about the human territory and the major event it is undergoing, the shift from small traders to modern business. Are the movements of old-fashioned trade cousins of the gestures of decision-makers, or not?

Does international trade create a hermetic bubble impenetrable to the surrounding reality? What power relations does the Rotana tower establish with "the reality three streets behind it" that the photographer questions? Do they enter into dialogue or do they grind against each other?

A disciple of Michel Foucault as much as of Walker Evans, Valérie Jouve knows the value of an uncompromising archive when it comes to commitment, pursued as an investigation and concluded with realism.

In counterpoint to the major exhibitions dedicated to her emblematic series – Leaving the Office, Built Landscapes, Façades, The Street, Characters – and held in key venues for contemporary art – the Pompidou Centre, the MAC/VAL, the Jeu de Paume gallery – the site of exchange that is the CA'ASI plays a more experimental role with the artist.

An interaction is sought between the architecture, and an artistic reflection on this architecture. The commission that led the architects to build a tower in Jordan led them, in turn, to commission a work of contemporary art. The intellectual contract between Jouve and Architecture-Studio entailed having to renounce the Rotana tower as a "subject" of the image. It is not the "subject" that makes an image, but the issues that it raises.

Jouve approaches the building as a supplement to her broader interrogation of the way architecture, as a slice of the city, projects the future. Her gaze upon Jordan is also that of a global citizen who has shared the lives of Palestinians and spent a whole year practicing her art in the West Bank. The evolution of the Middle-Eastern city already formed part of her visual and critical image back. There and elsewhere, her images rely on the critical acuity that perception energetically develops in the face of reality, and its silence.

Architecture-Studio curved the cylinder of their tower in order to set it as light as a feather at the foot of the quarter, on a transparent pedestal bursting with life. But Jouve shows things from a different perspective.

Hugo Lacroix

VALÉRIE JOUVE

— Suite

Born in 1964 in Saint-Étienne, Valérie Jouve is a photographer and director graduated from the National School of Photography of Arles. She studied sociology before devoting herself to photography. The urban world is one of the central themes of her work. Fascinated by the city, she captures her characters, their behaviors, and seizes this daily representation that our projections build throughout the city. The question of the treatment of space is at the heart of the subject: it is a matter of understanding how the figure confers a presence on what surrounds it. Architecture intervenes as an emblematic form of the space that the individual gives himself to exist. The gap between collective and individual consciousness is thus posited in aesthetic terms.

In tandem with her artistic activity, Valérie Jouve teaches at the *École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture* of Paris La Villette. She collaborates with architects on various photographic commissions dealing with architecture and the city. With Hugues Reip and Stéphanie Nava, she founded the seminar "Philosophy Art Architecture", around the architectural film.

Valérie Jouve conceives her exhibitions as visual compositions, devoted to the place. The images are therefore constructed independently and can be used on other montages, as was the case in his last retrospective exhibition, "Body in Resistance" at *Jeu de Paume* in Paris in 2015.

Since the production in 2003 of her first film *Grand Littoral* - presented at numerous festivals, at the MOMA of New York in 2004 and awarded at the International Festival of Documentary Film of Marseille - Valérie Jouve pursues a practice that mixes photography and filmed sequences, considering that these two recording tools can work together.

She exhibited her work for the first time in 1995 at the MAC in Marseille, then on numerous occasions in Europe and in the United States. The Center Pompidou devoted a personal exhibition to her in 2010 where she showed photographs taken in the Palestinian territories. After the success of her first film *Grand Littoral*, she directs *Münster lands* in 2007 on the invitation of the Skulptur Projekte 07, presented in Münster in Germany. She has just released her latest movie, *BLUES*, co-produced with Arte.

The FRAC Basse-Normandie devoted a personal exhibition to her in 2011, as well as the Sprengel Museum in Hanover in Germany in 2005, the IAC in Villeurbanne in 2003 and the Winterthur Museum in Switzerland in 2002. Her work is present in important public collections such as The Museum of Modern Art in Paris, the MAC / VAL in Vitry-sur-Seine, the Georges Pompidou Center, the Museum Folkwang in Essen, Germany, the NSM Vie / ABN-AMRO Foundation, the Stedelijkmuseum in Amsterdam in the Netherlands and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, USA.

Her work has been rewarded with the Niépce Prize in 2013. She is named Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters in 2011.

Today, Valérie Jouve is represented by the Galerie Xippas, located in Paris.



CA'ASI

LA MAISON COMMUNE
D'ARCHITECTURE STUDIO A VENISE



Architecture-Studio has founded the CA'ASI in 2009 in Venice, a cultural venue dedicated to urban planning, architecture and contemporary art. It is open to all those who want to share, dialog, confront their ideas and make professional debate available for the general public.

The competitions and exhibitions series hosted at CA'ASI aim to highlight architectural projects creativity, and help a rising generation of young architects achieve worldwide recognition. These events endeavor to emphasize the social, environmental and participative approach, representative of a new way of thinking the community all over the world.

Since 2010, CA'ASI have hosted the exhibitions *New Chinese Architecture* (2010), *Inside the Cristal Palace* (2011), *Young Arab Architects* (2012), *Construction Ahead* (2013), *Young Architects in Africa* (2014), *African Cities in Motion* (2015) and *Mission Trans-Missions* (2016).

The CA'ASI benefits from the incredible cultural dynamism and creativity of Venice and strives, through its programming, to echo, enrich and interact with the Architecture and Arts Biennales which bring together, every year, a vibrant, curious and multi-cultural audience.

www.ca-asi.com

AS.Architecture-Studio

Architecture-Studio defines architecture as “an art involved with society, the construction of mankind’s living environment”, based on group work and shared knowledge. The ambition to go beyond individuality and to favor dialogue and debate transforms individual knowledge into increased creative potential.

Founded in Paris in 1973, Architecture-Studio brings together 150 architects, planners, landscape architects and interior designers of 25 different nationalities, around 12 partners: Martin Robain, Rodo Tisnado, Jean-François Bonne, Alain Bretagnolle, René-Henri Arnaud, Laurent-Marc Fischer, Marc Lehmann, Roueïda Ayache, Gaspard Joly, Marie-Caroline Piot, Mariano Efron, Amar Sabe el Leil.

The European Parliament in Strasbourg, the Onassis Cultural Centre in Athens, the 2010 World Expo master plan in Shanghai, the National Theatre of Bahrain or the urban design of Montpellier’s Park Marianne district stand among the practice’s landmark completions.

The international presence of Architecture-Studio is particularly strong with offices in Paris, Shanghai, Beijing and Venice.

www.architecture-studio.fr



Practical information

Opening cocktail: May 11, 2017 – from 3:00 pm

Exhibition: May 12 – August 30, 2017

Free entrance, 11:00 am – 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays and Tuesdays

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