

FRÉDÉRIC LECLOUX  
PHOTOGRAPHER AND WRITER







Rasuwa, Nepal, 2014. Photograph : Alexandrine Larue

## BIOGRAPHY

Frédéric Lecloux is a Belgian-French photographer and writer born in 1972. His photographs are distributed by VU' Agency in Paris since 2003. Autodidact, he graduated at a later stage from the École nationale supérieure de la photographie in Arles (2016) and in Nepali language form the Institut national de langues et civilisations orientales in Paris (2021). He is the author of several books of texts and photographs, among which *To the Desert* (2022), *Territoires du cinématographe* (2022), *Nepal. Epiphanies of the Everyday* (2017), and *L'Usure du monde* (2008). All are published by Le Bec en l'air, a photobook publisher for which he also works as an associate editor. First guest of m7's Les Nouvelles oubliées residency in 2019, he is also a recipient of the Leverhulme Trust Artist in Residence Grant (Great Britain) in 2016 and of the Cnap documentary grant (Paris) in 2015. He taught numerous workshops aimed at questioning the usages of photography with, among others, photo.circle (Nepal), the Rencontres d'Arles and in school context. He now guides photographers looking to turn professional, mainly through VU' Éducation. He runs a blog on which he posts translations, interviews, analyses and critical texts about photography.

## STATEMENT

“A photograph.

Not just an interesting scene, to be frozen onto a surface: a photograph.

One of the images that exist in me, though I don't know where, or with what features, to the point where I get a vibration in the real, and the framing scintillates so that the image takes on flesh and matches up with its internal trace, still latent a second earlier.

Except that ordinarily the realness stops vibrating well before I act. Faced with what could become a photograph, I need time. To observe necessity intensifying. To understand. To doubt. To let the image get infused with the knowing. Not to accept it being infused only with a flash of vision. The flash is essential, but I can't turn it into a photograph other than by postponing the gesture of execution until life reveals the kind of flash it actually is. It's often a fake; in which case, best do nothing. The innocent photographer? That's not me. I'd like it to be the case, but it's not. After all that, if I'm not dissolved in the confrontation, well then yes, I'll take the photograph.

What follows is a time of patience, worry, excitement, uncertainty as to whether the camera saw the same thing as me. Not to mention the randomness of chemistry. But I gradually slip into insouciance, and soon stop thinking about it. Then one day the film comes back from the lab in the post. I spread it out on the light table. Among the images that say just what they say, I seek a familiar form. An irradiation. When I find it, I'm raised up again, with a flash still more decisive than at the moment of pressing the shutter, by a vibration, a trace, a framing of the real, previously recognised, now sanctioned by a sprinkling of silver salts on nine square centimetres of polyester.

A photograph. I see it as an organ transplant. And I immediately recompose myself. Without even having had time to feel the wound, I'm healing myself. Less infirm now.”

## MONOGRAPHS

*Au désert*, Le Bec en l'air, 2022

*Les familles de travailleurs migrants népalais au Qatar*

Textes et photographies., en partenariat avec Amnesty International

*Nepal. Epiphanies of the Everyday*, Le Bec en l'air, 2017

Texts and photographs.

*La grande Route par tous les temps*, Arnaud Bizalio, 2017

Sonnets and photographs.

*Brumes à venir*, Le Bec en l'air, 2012

*À la recherche de la Belgique*

Text and photographs.

*L'Usure du Monde*, Le Bec en l'air, 2008

*Hommage à Nicolas Bouvier*

Texts and photographs, preface by Éliane Bouvier, postface by Christian Caujolle.

*Lentement vers l'Asie*, Glénat, 2006

Travel narrative.

*Katmandou 2058*, La Renaissance du Livre, 2003

Photographs, text by Gérard Toffin (CNRS).

*Au Cœur de l'Himalaya*, La Renaissance du Livre, 1998

Texts and photographs, preface by Olivier Föllmi.

## BOOKS IN COLLABORATION

*Territoires du cinématographe*, Le Bec en l'air, 2022

Texts and photographs, with Anne-Lore Mesnage.

Denis Brihat, *Indes*, portfolio à compte d'auteur, 2022

« *L'autre nom d'une gratitude* »

Text, for a portfolio of 10 images by Denis Brihat in India in 1955.

*Bonne année*, Le Bec en l'air, 2017

Text, about the greetings cards of some famous French photographers :

Denis Brihat, Robert Doisneau, Jean-Pierre Sudre, Jean Dieuzaide, Willy Ronis & Izis.

Francis Jolly, *Nous voulons voyager*, Tribew, 2016

« *Voir le Monde* »

Texts, about a series by Francis Jolly entitled *Les Mouches*.

*Étonnamment étonnée*, Le Bec en l'air, 2013

*Une description de la Friche la Belle de Mai*

*avec de délicats morceaux de fiction dedans*

50 photographs with a text by Arno Bertina.

*Lit National*, Le Bec en l'air, collection Collatéral, 2013

25 photographs for a text by Joy Sorman.

Collective, *Nouveaux Regards. Identités Parcours & Mémoire*, Le Bec en l'air, 2013

10 portraits of artists.

*Le simulacre du printemps*, Le Bec en l'air, collection Collatéral, 2008

24 photographs from the series *Marthe* with a text by Ingrid Thobois.

## ARTICLES AND PORTFOLIOS

¿*Interrogations?*, n°34, « Suivre l'image et ses multiples états dans les collaborations art/science », 2022

« *Du sensible au politique : la réciprocité entre approches biographique et documentaire pour saisir le non-dicible dans un film ethnographique* »

Text, with Valérie Cuzol.

*Arno Bertina*, Classiques Garnier, coll. Écrivains francophones d'aujourd'hui, 2018

« *Par où deux choses travaillent ensemble. Notes sur le rapport texte/image chez Arno Bertina, prises à la lecture de deux livres, restituées à la lumière d'un troisième* »

Text, directed by Aurélie Adler.

*Pix, The Nepal issue* (New Delhi), 13, April 2016

« *Everyday Epiphanies* »

Text and photographs.

*Feuilleton*, 6, January 2013

« *Qui l'encre, qui le texte ?* »

Text, with a portfolio from the series *Brumes à venir*.

*Nicolas Bouvier, espace et écriture*, Zoé, 2010

« *L'Usure du Monde* »

Text, directed by Hervé Guyader. Proceedings of the eponymous colloquium, Brest, 2008.

*L'Alpe*, 24, Glénat, June 2004

« *Avoir 20 ans à Katmandou* »

Text and photographs.

*Leica Fotografie*, January 2003

« *Kathmandu* »

Text and photographs.

## WRITINGS ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHY

[blog.fredericlecloux.com](http://blog.fredericlecloux.com)

### Personal texts

Essays and critical writings, conversations with photographers or artists, translation of Jörg M. Colberg's papers about photography from English to French (Conscientious photography Magazine).

### Commissioned texts

*Les Nouvelles oubliées, a residency by m7 (France), since 2021*

Conducting a long interview with the photographer invited in residency.

In 2021 : [Alain Willaume](#).

In 2022 : Bertrand Meunier.

*Népal Intime*, 2012

*Fondation Alliance Française à Paris*

Introduction text for an exhibition of young Nepalese photographers.

## INSTITUTIONNAL (SELECTION)

*Departments of Ardèche and Drôme*

**Territoires du cinématographe, 2019-2022**

Department of Drôme / Department of Ardèche /

Maison de l'Image (Aubenas) / Les Écrans (Valence)

Photographic creation residency aimed at highlighting the territorial anchoring of cinema in these departments. With Anne-Lore Mesnage.

**Outcome :** local exhibitions in 2021 and 2022

exhibition at Lux, scène nationale de Valence in January 2023;

Publication of the book *Territoires du cinématographe*, Le Bec en l'air, 2022.

*Communauté de communes Ardèche-Rhône-Coiron*

**Olivier de Serres, 2019**

Compagnie Émilie Valantin / Présence(s) Photographie (Montélimar)

Photographic assignment on the occasion of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Olivier de Serres.. With Anne-Lore Mesnage,

**Outcome :** projections, with text reading by Émilie Valantin and Jean Sclavis.

*Communauté de Communes des Baronnie en Drôme Provençale*

**Gargoulette'NB, 2017**

Residency by Compagnie Antiquarks / Convention Territoriale d'éducation Artistique et Culturelle

Artisted associated to the second season of the residency.

**Outcome :** exhibition « Ton identité, c'est ta grimace », Médiathèque de Nyons, 2017.

*Friche la Belle de Mai, Marseille*

**Une description de la Friche avec de délicats morceaux de fiction dedans, 2013**

Photographic and literary creation residency with novelist Arno Bertina.

**Outcome :** Publication of the book *Étonnamment étonnée*, Le Bec en l'air, 2013.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC FILMS

***Quel côté de l'absence ?, 2018***

Documentary, co-directed with Valérie Cuzol. 35 min., colour.

Five witnesses speak about their perception of death in a migratory context.

***Figures avec paysages absents, 2017***

17 e-kus, 17 second each, colour and black and white.

A creation inspired by the photographic albums of some Nepali families in Nottingham on the occasion the Leverhulme Trust residency at the city's university

## PUBLISHER

Associate editor at Le Bec en l'air, a photobook publisher, since 2012

Submissions manager, book edition.

## EDUCATION

VU' Éducation, mentorship program of the Fonds Régnier pour la création, photography workshops, school workshops and mediation.

[Download the detailed educational presentation \(in French only\).](#)

### Thesis co-direction

*École doctorale 354, Prism (UMR 7061), Aix-Marseille Université (France)*

Co-direction of a research and creation thesis by Walid Ghali, entitled *Paysage urbain et mobilité. Un voyage photographique à travers les territoires ibadites au Maghreb*.

Thesis directed by Natacha Cyrulnik, defended on 31 March 2021.

### Séminars and conferences

*Centre for Popular Culture in the Humanities (Hong-kong)*

**Presentation of the film *Quel côté de l'absence ?*, co-directed with Valérie Cuzol**

Thanatic Ethics webinar, 2022.

*École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Marseille (France)*

**Projection of the film *Quel côté de l'absence ?*, co-directed with Valérie Cuzol**

2<sup>d</sup> festival « Allez savoir », a festival for social sciences, 2021.

*Centre Max Weber, UMR 5283, Université Lumière Lyon II (France)*

**Projection of the film *Quel côté de l'absence ?*, co-directed with Valérie Cuzol**

Study days « Le participatif dans l'image animée »

organised by the Séminaire Image animée of the Centre Max Weber, 2020.

*Le Rize, Villeurbanne (France)*

**Projection of the film *Quel côté de l'absence ?*, co-directed with Valérie Cuzol**

Projection followed by a conversation with Marina Chauillac, 2020.

*Centre Max Weber, UMR 5283, Université Lumière Lyon II (France)*

**Projection of the film *Quel côté de l'absence ?*, co-directed with Valérie Cuzol**

« Rendez-Vous Doc' » of the Centre Max Weber, 2019.

*University of Liverpool (Great Britain)*

**Conférence and projection of the series *Nepal-Qatar : the Void and the fullness***

Séminar « Refugees in Literature, Film, Art, and Media : perspective on the past and present », 2018.

*Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (Switzerland)*

**« Photography as a documentary practice », conference and projection**

As part of the seminar of Jean-François Bayart, 2018.

*University of Nottingham (Royaume-Uni)*

**Creation of *Figures with absent landscapes*, with the Nepali community of the city**

Leverhulme Trust Artist in Residence Grant 2016-2017.

[Watch the movies created during the residency.](#)

*University of Liverpool, Liverpool Hope University & John Moores University (Great Britain)*

**Keynote speaker**

11<sup>th</sup> « Liverpool Travel Seminar : Travel, Text and Image », 2017.

*University of Oxford, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology (Great Britain)*

**Conference and projection of the series *Nepal-Qatar : the Void and the Fullness***

Workshop « Circuits of Labour, Obligation and Debt : International Migrants, Their Families, and the Migration Industry in Nepal », 2017.

*University of Nottingham (Great Britain)*

**Conférence-projection « Photography, a pretext to address the road »**

Workshop « Re-enacting the Silk Road. Silk Road Representations: Travels, Texts & Images », 2013.

*Faculté Victor Segalen, Brest (France)*

**« L'Usure du Monde, un an en famille sur les routes de L'Usage du Monde, de Nicolas Bouvier », conference and projection**

Colloquium « Nicolas Bouvier, espace et écriture », 2008.

## MAIN EXHIBITIONS

2023

*Territoires du cinématographe* Lux, Scène nationale de Valence (France)

2022

*Nepal-Qatar: the Void and the Void* Centre du patrimoine arménien, Valence (France)

*Nepal-Qatar: the Void and the Void* Amnesty International (France)

*Epiphanies of the everyday* In the public space, Bourg-Saint-Maurice (France)

*The Dolpo Box* Musée d'art contemporain, Montélimar (France)

2021

*Territoires du cinématographe* In the public space, Aubenas (France)

2019

*The Dolpo Box* Dieulefit (France)

*L'Usure du Monde* Photobook belge, Foto Museum, Antwerp (Belgium)

2018

*Epiphanies of the everyday / Explanation, peace, forgetfulness*

Festival Présence(s) Photographie, Montélimar (France)

*Nepal-Qatar: the Void and the Fullness*

Exhibition, lectures and projections, with Amnesty International (France)

2017

*Figures with absent landscapes* University of Nottingham (Great Britain)

*L'Usure du Monde* Rencontres des cinémas d'Europe, Aubenas (France)

2016

*Népal-Qatar: le Vide et le plein*

Conférence-projection, Musée Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône (France)

*L'Usure du Monde* Alliance Française, Kathmandu (Nepal)

2015

*Epiphanies of the everyday* Festival Photo Kathmandu (Nepal)

*Ni Vitesse ni bruit* Retrospective projection, Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne (Switzerland)

*Brumes à venir / Marthe* Leica Store, Lille (France)

2013

*Epiphanies of the everyday* Alliance Française, Kathmandu (Nepal)

2011

*E-ku* Projection, Les Nuits Photographiques, Paris (France)

*Brumes à venir* Transphotographiques, Lille (France)

*L'Usure du Monde* Rencontres photographiques, Lorient (France)

2008

*L'Usure du Monde* Photo Phnom Penh festival (Cambodia)

2007

*L'Usure du Monde*

French cultural centres in Islamabad, Lahore & Karachi (Pakistan), Kabul (Afghanistan),

Tehran (Iran), Belgrade & Niš (Serbia), Skoplje (Macedonia)

2004-2008

*Kathmandu 2058*

Fnac Galleries (France and Belgium)

Le Botanique, Brussels (Belgium)



## AWARDS, RESIDENCE & GRANT

### *The Dolpo Box*

*Guest of Les Nouvelles oubliées, a residency aimed at exploring an archive,*

*by rn7 (Drôme, France), 2019*

Funded by the department of Drôme.

### *Figures with absent landscapes*

*Leverhulme Trust Artist in residence Grant (Great Britain), 2016 (grant), 2017 (residency)*

### *Nepal-Qatar : the void and the Fullness*

*Documentary photography grant, Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris, 2015*

### *Le Bord de l'éclipse*

*Finalist, Leica Oskar Barnack award, 2015*

### *Brumes à venir*

*Finalist, Scam award, 2010*

### *Epiphanies of the Everyday*

*Finalist, Académie des Beaux-Arts award, Paris, 2007*

### *Kathmandu 2058*

*Finalist, Scam award, 2006*

*Finalist, Leica Oskar Barnack award, 2003*

## COLLECTIONS

Bibliothèque Nationale de France (Prints and Photography department),

Fnac (Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône),

Leica France,

Private collections.

## PERFORMANCE

### *In the shade of a doubt*

Created in Marseille in December 2013 at the invitation of La Friche la Belle de mai,

*In the shade of a doubt* is a 40 minutes dialogue between an analog slideshow

by Frédéric Lecloux and a live soundtrack by Foley artist Céline Bernard.

Cover : Nepal, October 2014, series « Explanation, peace, forgetfulness ».

Next page : Farsaneh, Tehran, Iran, 2005, series « L'Usure du Monde ».







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