

# PRESS RELEASE

## DÉPAYSÉ



FRANKFURT AM MAIN, NOVEMBER 2015

### **Serge Clément. Dépaysé**

**November 21st, 2015 – January 31st, 2016**

Opening: Friday, November 20th, 2015, 7 pm

Press preview: Friday, November 20th, 2015, 11 am

**Dépaysé** explores the intimate connection between the Canadian artist Serge Clément (\*1950 in Valleyfield, Canada) and his work. The exhibition features a unique selection of fifty black and white photographs and an oversized hand made book. These works were developed on the margins of the artist's many photographic projects over a forty-year career. His approach, offering poetic and cryptic images, ranges from documentary to installation, including social commentary, personal reflection, and photographic essay. This is his first institutional solo exhibition carried out in Germany.

For Clément, photography has always been closely related to the book, particularly with the idea that an image refers to other images. On the one hand, it signifies that an image is a leaky container – with smoke, fog, streams and rivers, reflections, and streets running across the image. On the other, Clément constantly questions the power of the photographic image to capture reality. Moreover, a huge book is often placed in the center of the exhibition. The handmade book without words or references to time or location has large, pliable pages, which aren't easy to turn. It is presented in the exhibition together with fifty silver gelatin prints on fibre-based paper printed by the artist.

The title of exhibition is a French term that describes the condition of being “out of place”, feeling “strange” or “lost”. A certain street, a certain perspective, this deserted place, the passerby is not really tied to a clearly identifiable real world, but belong to the abstract universe of an essentially imaginary city. It is not important to know whether the place in question is Montreal, Lyon, Tokyo or New York or when the photograph was taken since the viewer is not expected to recognize a particular location but rather to lose himself between several places and times. As a visual journey into the heart of urban solitude and its periphery, Serge Clément's work irresistibly draws the viewer into an intimate relationship with the image. The present seems always to be referring back to the memory of a fleeting instant charged with an emotion that is as intense as it is vague.

Serge Clément is a master of the play of mirrors and of deceptive transparencies, of subtle filtering meant to disorient the viewer and to make him move between real and imaginary space. *Dépaysé* displays variations of the visual and mental space that connects the photographer to the world of which he frames a fragment of darkness penetrated by light. These images are made up of intimacy, secrets, memory and discovery. Clément thus confronts us with a surreal strangeness.

The exhibition was curated by Catherine Bédard and Celina Lunsford and is a cooperation with Canadian Cultural Centre Paris and Embassy of Canada, Berlin. *Dépaysé* has also toured to Diffusion: Cardiff International Festival of Photography.

### Biography – Serge Clément

Serge Clément (\*1950, Valleyfield, Canada) has been a photographer since the beginning of the 1970s. His works have been exhibited worldwide in several solo exhibitions and are part of numerous private and public collections.

His solo exhibitions include *Cité fragile* during the Mois de la Photo in Paris (1994), *Vertige-Vestige* at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain (1998) and the Centre Photographique d'Île de-France (1999), *Persona* at the Galerie Occurrence (Montreal, 2000), *Fragrant Light* at the Rotonde-Exchange Square (Hong Kong, 2000), *Fragments* at the 10 Chancery Lane Gallery (Hong Kong, 2010), *Courants ~ contre-courants* at the Musée de la Photographie in Charleroi, Belgium (2010), *Dépayisé* at Canadian Culture Centre in Paris (2014) and at Diffusion: Cardiff International Festival of Photography (2015).

Serge Clément's work has also been featured in several group exhibitions, including *Présence de la photographie dans la collection du Musée du Québec* at the Musée National des Beaux-Arts du Québec (Quebec City, 1995), *Photographie au présent* at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (Paris, 1998), *Streetwalk* at OP Fotogallery (Hong Kong, 1998), *The Frame, the Setting and the Site* at the Centro de la Imagen (Mexico City, 2000) and *Branching Out* at the Sepia International Inc. / The Alkazi Collection of Photography (New York, 2007).

Starting with his very first works (*Affichage and Automobile*, 1976–77; *Notes urbaines*, 1980–84; *Suite européenne*, 1984–87), Clément has been interested in modern urban environments, revealing their archaeological and metaphysical depth. Beginning with his first solo publication (*Cité fragile*, 1992), the artist has explored various modes of expression, from classic documentary (*Halloween*, 1997) to installations (*Persona*, 2000; *Parfum de lumière*, 2004) via a poetic narrative (*Vertige Vestige*, 1998), urban perspectives (*Fragrant Light*, 2000; *Sutures: Berlin* 2000–2003, 2003) and photo book (*Courants ~ contre-courants*, 2007).

Serge Clément has received many grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec, including the prestigious Studio du Québec à New York grant in 2007. His work features in many public and private collections both in Canada and abroad. He is represented by the Galerie Simon Blais (Montreal) and Le Réverbère gallery (Lyon), where his work has been shown several times.

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### The Special Edition Book & Photograph

Published by Kehrer Verlag, the book *Dépaysé* consists of 138 images and 192 pages entirely designed by Serge Clément and Bruno Ricca accompanies the exhibition. A special edition, which includes an original photograph signed by the artist, will also be available during the exhibition:

1 Copy SERGE CLÉMENT. DÉPAYSÉ Kehrer Verlag.

1 silver gelatin photograph on fiber-based paper 15.2 x 22,8 cm, signed, printed and numbered by the artist.

The collector has a choice from 4 images

Limited edition of 96

Shipping within Europe

Book: 35 Euro (special price during the exhibition)

Book & Photograph: 250 Euro

### Exhibition Opening

“Serge Clément. Dépaysé” will open on **Friday, November 20, 2015, at 7pm**. Opening speakers are Dr. Thomas Duhnkrack, Head of the Board, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt; Celina Lunsford (Artistic Director, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt), Catherine Bédard (Deputy Director, Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris) und Katharina Fichtner (Cultural Attaché, Embassy of Canada, Berlin). The artist will be present.

### Accompanying Programme

#### Saturday, November 21 2015, 6pm

ARTIST TALK

“From a Selection to a Collection, a Constellation”

Admission: 5 Euro/reduced 3 Euro

In English

#### Saturday/Sunday, November 21/22 2015, 10am-6pm

WORKSHOP

“Learning from the Photo Book”

In English

Guided tours through the exhibition “Serge Clément. Dépaysé” are offered every Wednesday, 6pm. Guided group tours in German and English on request.

### Venue

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt

Braubachstraße 30–32, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

Tel. +49 (0) 69 29 17 26, email: [contact@fffrankfurt.org](mailto:contact@fffrankfurt.org)

[www.fffrankfurt.org](http://www.fffrankfurt.org)

Opening hours during the exhibition:

Tuesday–Sunday: 11am–6pm, Wednesday: 11am–8pm, Monday closed.

Admission: 6 € (reduced: 3 €)

**For more information** about the exhibition and press images, please contact Annie Buenker by telephone +49 (0) 69 29 17 26 or by email at [presse@fffrankfurt.org](mailto:presse@fffrankfurt.org).