

LAURE ALBIN GUILLOT

THE CRAFTSWOMAN OF PHOTOGRAPHY

09 | 13 - 11 | 25 | 2018

PRESS
KIT

#LaureAlbin
Guillot



Laure Albin Guillot, Madame Sciamma, Paris, ca 1930
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections

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Maison Nationale des Artistes

14, rue Charles VII - 94130 Nogent sur Marne - France
<http://mna.fnagp.fr>

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CURATOR

Holder of a PhD in Art History, **Delphine Desveaux** is the director of the Roger-Viollet Collections. In charge of the conservation and promotion of the fund of nearly eight million photographs, she conceives and curates both monographic (Choumoff, un parisien russe at the Musée Rodin in 2005 and Laure Albin Guillot, l'enjeu classique at the Jeu de Paume in 2013) and themed exhibitions (*Portraits d'écrivains* at Victor Hugo's House in 2011, *Jours de Guerre / Excelsior* at the Senate in 2014 and *Dans l'atelier, l'artiste photographié* at the Petit Palais, musée des Beaux-arts de la Ville de Paris, in 2016).

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PARTNERS

This exhibition has been co-produced by the Jeu de Paume and the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques. The Maison Nationale des Artistes is an institution of the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques.

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The exhibition is organized with the support of the City of Paris.

MAIRIE DE PARIS 

The Jeu de Paume receives public funding from the **MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE** and its main corporate sponsors are the **NEUFLIZE OBC BANK** and **MANUFACTURE JAEGER-LECOULTRE**, historical sponsors.

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In keeping with their over ten-year long partnership, from September 13 to November 25, the Jeu de Paume and the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques (FNAGP) are happy to present an exhibition on Laure Albin Guillot, a major actress of the French photography in the 1920s-40s, at the Maison Nationale des Artistes (MNA) of Nogent-sur-Marne, France. Curated by Delphine Desveaux, director of the Roger-Viollet Collections at the Bibliothèque historique de la Ville de Paris, the exhibition will gather about forty reproductions from the Roger-Viollet Collections.

Founded in 1945, the MNA is an exceptional retirement home for ageing artists in need of a quiet place or in a situation of dependence. The MNA organizes temporary exhibitions dedicated to its residents and open to the public. Laure Albin Guillot (Paris, 1879-1962) lived at the MNA at the end of her life. In 2013, the Jeu de Paume held her first retrospective exhibition in Europe.

Laure Albin Guillot was among the most popular photographers in the interwar years. Her works were featured in salons and reviews starting in the early 1920s, but it was really during the 1930s and 1940s that she took over the French photographic landscape as both an artist and institutional figure. As an independent photographer, she tried various genres like portrait, nude, landscape, still life and reporting at a lesser extent. Extraordinary technician and witness of her time, she took advantage of the new modes of image diffusion, making illustrations and advertisements for the press and publishing sector.

In France, Laure Albin Guillot was also one of the firsts to explore the decorative dimension of photography through her formal researches on the infinitely small. Thanks to the photomicrography technique she renamed "micrography", Laure Albin Guillot combined science and plastic arts and opened new creative ways.

Member of the Société des artistes décorateurs, of the French Photographic society, director of the photographic archives of the General Directorate of Fine Arts (prior to the Ministry of Culture), first director of the Cinémathèque nationale and president of the Union féminine des carrières libérales et commerciales, she was a very active personality with a particular awareness for the media and cultural issues of her time.

The Roger-Viollet Collections are the fruit of the labor carried out from 1938 to 1985 by Hélène Roger (1901-1985) and Jean-Victor Fischer (1904-1985), two photography lovers and great travellers who founded the "Documentation générale photographique Roger-Viollet". Built on the iconographic fund of Laurent Ollivier created in 1880 with photographs by Léopold Mercier, Alinari, Broggi and Anderson, they added photographs from Hélène's family, which counted many art lovers of all kinds. This first collection of about 50,000 shots kept growing after the war thanks to a tireless acquisition policy (Albert Harlingue, Laure Albin Guillot, Roger Berson, Gaston Paris, Charles Hurault, Jacques Boyer, Lipnitzki, the Ferrier-Soulier studios, Neurdein...). This is how Hélène Roger and Jean-Victor Fischer built a unique photographic collection, which spanned over a century and a half of photographic history, almost from its origins to the 1970s. The founders of the Roger-Viollet Collections donated it to the City of Paris in 1985. They entered the Bibliothèque historique de la Ville de Paris in 2018.

LAURE ALBIN GUILLOT

CHRONOLOGY



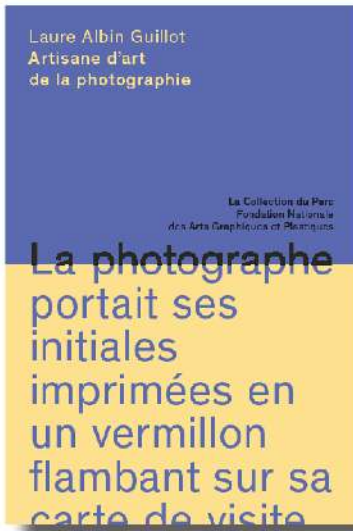
Laure Albin Guillot (1879-1962) dans son atelier, Paris, boulevard Beauséjour, vers 1935.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections

- 1879** Birth of Laure Meifredy on 14 February in Paris. She studies at the Lycée Molière, rue du Ranelagh, in the 16th arrondissement of Paris, and lives in the district all her life. Pianist, she would later say that she was destined for a career as concert performer.
- 1897** Marries Albin Guillot, medical student, organist and composer, who would exercise several professions: expert for the Paris hospitals, researcher and industrialist.
- 1922** “Madame Albin-Guillot” publishes her first fashion photographs in *Vogue*. Opens a portrait studio in her home at 88 rue du Ranelagh.
- 1924** Publishes in *Les Modes*, *L'Officiel de la couture et de la mode de Paris* and *Lectures pour tous*. Takes part in the Salon des Artistes Décorateurs and the Salon International de Photographie organised by the Société Française de Photographie. Exhibits in these two salons every year until the beginning of the 1950s.
- 1925** Becomes member of the Société Française de Photographie (SFP). Exhibits at the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes. In future “Laure Albin Guillot” is her artistic name. It is the start of her celebrity.
- 1928** The Salon de l'Escalier, “first independent photography salon” in Paris, gathers works by Atget, D'Ora, Kertész, Krull, Man Ray, Albin Guillot, Paul Nadar and Outerbridge.
- 1929** Death of Albin Guillot.
Moves to 43 boulevard de Beauséjour, has a studio constructed by Mallet-Stevens.
Receives and photographs personalities of art, music and literature, such as Paul Valéry, Colette, Anna de Noailles, Jean Cocteau.
- 1930** During the 1930s makes several voyages to North Africa, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Norway and the United States.
Her photography output is widely reproduced in the press and is the subject of several books. She participates in numerous solo and group shows in salons and galleries in Paris and abroad.

- 1931** President of the Union Féminine des Carrières Libérales et Commerciales (Female Union of Independent and Business Careers).
Publishes *Micrographie décorative*, luxurious work reproducing micrographs of microscopic preparations considered as decorative possibilities. This series had been initiated with her husband, himself a collector of such preparations.
- 1932** Is appointed head of the photographic archive of the Beaux-Arts administration (future Ministry of Culture).
- 1933** Becomes director of the Cinémathèque Nationale (precursor of the Cinémathèque Française) and conceives a vast project for a museum reuniting the “mechanical arts”: cinema, photography and records. The museum never sees the light of day.
- 1936** Illustrates *Narcisse* by Paul Valéry. The work is the first in a series of sumptuous artist’s books combining photography and literature.
- 1937** Member of the installation committee for photography and cinema at the Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques. She will later be responsible for the general report for the same exhibition.
Coorganises and participates in the exhibition “Les femmes artistes d’Europe” (Women Artists from Europe) at the Jeu de Paume.
- 1939** Takes views concerning the protection of Paris monuments and the evacuation of the collections of the Musée du Louvre.
- 1940** Leaves the direction of the photographic archives.
Publishes several artist’s books during the Occupation: *La Cantate du Narcisse* by Paul Valéry (1941), *Petits Métiers de Paris* (1942), *Arbres* with Paul Valéry (1943), *Ciels* with Marcelle Maurette (1944).
- 1942** Alongside Robert Doisneau and numerous other photographers, illustrates *Nouveaux Destins de l’intelligence française*, a work intended to promote the intellectual elite favoured by the Vichy regime. Carries out a lot of commercial work during the Occupation, in particular for fashion.
- 1945** Laure Albin Guillot continues to carry out a large number of portraits in her studio on the Boulevard de Beauséjour. She publishes her last works: *Splendeur de Paris* with Maurice Garçon (1945), *La Déesse Cypris* by Henry de Montherlant (1946) and *Illustrations pour les Préludes* de Claude Debussy (1948).
- 1956** Ends her career and retires to the Maison Nationale des Artistes in Nogent-sur-Marne.
- 1962** Dies in Paris on 22 February.

ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE



An edition dedicated to Laure Albin Guillot is published in the Collection du Parc.

Co-published by the Jeu de Paume the FNAGP and Bernard Chauveau.

Coll.: "La Collection du Parc"

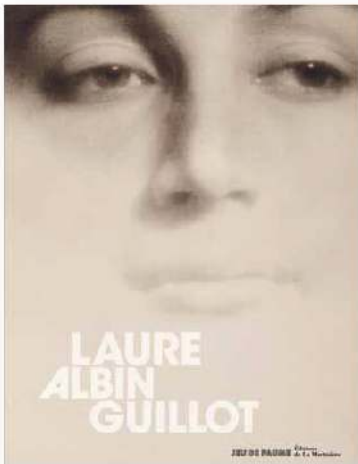
ISBN: 978-2-36306-252-9

Forthcoming in Septembre 2018.

Softback, 15 x 21 cm, 48 pages, 36 ill.

Price: € 8

>> Related publications



Catalogue of the exhibition at the Jeu de Paume, 2013

Laure Albin Guillot, The question of Classicism

Foreword from Marta Gili, texts from Delphine Desveaux, Michaël Houlette, Catherine Gonnard and Patrick-Gilles Persin
Bilingual French / English.

192 pages, 19,5 x 24 cm

Co-published by the Jeu de Paume and La Martinière

Out of print

VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday, Septembre 16, 4pm

Guided tour of the exhibition on Laure Albin Guillot on the occasion of the Journées Européennes du patrimoine.

In relation with the exhibition, the Jeu de Paume
Lorraine Hussenot for each of its exhibition.
Journées européennes du patrimoine. exhibition thanks to
and focuses on works.

Laure Albin Guillot is available on the
occasion of the Jeu de Paume.

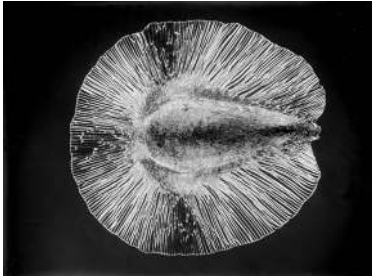
• www.jeudepaume.org / section "ressources"

PRESS VISUALS

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1. Laure Albin Guillot
Micrographie (graine), Paris, ca 1925.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections



2. Laure Albin Guillot
Etude de nu, Paris, ca 1930.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections



3. Laure Albin Guillot
Madame Sciama, Paris, ca 1940.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections



4. Laure Albin Guillot
Lucienne Boyer (1901-1983), chanteuse et comédienne, Paris, ca 1930.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections



5. Laure Albin Guillot
Étude de nu, solarisation, Paris, ca 1930.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections



6. Laure Albin Guillot (1879-1962) dans son atelier, Paris, boulevard Beauséjour, ca 1935.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections



7. Laure Albin Guillot
Anna de Noailles (1876-1933), écrivaine et poétesse, Paris, ca 1925.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections



8. Laure Albin Guillot
Jean Cocteau (1889-1963), écrivain, 1939.
© Laure Albin Guillot / Roger-Viollet Collections

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Press visit

Wednesday, September 12

> car pick-up at 2:30pm on Place de la Nation

Opening from 6pm to 8:30pm – shuttle leaving at
6pm from Place de la Nation

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Guillot**

MAISON NATIONALE DES ARTISTES

14, rue Charles VII - 94130 Nogent-sur-Marne - France

+33 (0)1 48 71 28 08 / contact@mna.fnagp.fr

<http://mna.fnagp.fr>

Open to the public everyday from 9am to 12pm and from 2pm to 6pm

ACCESS

RER A: Nogent-sur-Marne then bus 114 or 210, stop at Sous-préfecture

RER E: Nogent-Le Perreux then direction Tribunal d'instance

Metro line 1: Château de Vincennes then bus 114 or 210, stop at Sous-préfecture

PRICE

Free entrance

PRESS VISUALS

Press visuals to download at

www.jeudepaume.org

Username: presskit / Password: photos

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