



*Press release*

**DENIS ROCHE**  
***ALLER ET RETOUR DANS LA CHAMBRE BLANCHE***  
**MAISON D'ART BERNARD ANTHONIOZ, NOGENT-SUR-MARNE, FRANCE**  
**FROM NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 TO JANUARY 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**

From November 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 to January 29<sup>th</sup> 2017, the Maison d'Art Bernard Anthonioz in Nogent-sur-Marne (France) is presenting an exhibition of photographer Denis Roche (1937-2015) entitled *Aller et retour dans la chambre blanche*, curated by Caroline Cournède. The exhibition gathers about fifty seen and unseen photographs commented by the artist from *La disparition des Lucioles*, published in 1982 by Editions de l'Etoile and reprinted this year, along with others, iconic or little known, all revolving around the notion of gap.

This notion of gap at play in the photographs exhibited here first shows in Denis Roche **physical movement**, between here (where the artist presses the click button of his camera) and there (where he is not or no longer), as well as in his experiments with the camera, that he puts upside down or twists away from its traditional codes, framing and meaning. This camera, appearing in many of his shots, can be seen as an extension and incarnation of the artist, as much as a calling into question of the photographic practice. Beyond spatial movement, the notion of gap also reveals itself in its **temporal dimension**, through the time left between two shots, the gap between the time experienced and the time represented, as well as in the transfer of point of view, from the photographer in a precise moment in time to the viewer's, at any other time.

**As spectators move along the exhibition, a discontinuous story unfolds** – blanks between photographs, jump in time and space – including excerpts of texts by Denis Roche, photo captions, and comments from *La disparition des Lucioles*: a photographic journey that very much resembles a storyboard. The movie is about to start...

The title of the exhibition: *Aller et retour dans la chambre blanche*<sup>1</sup> refers to a chapter of *La disparition des Lucioles*, and allows for multiple readings: the back and forth element prefaces the importance of the notion of gap. At the same time, it evokes the intimate dimension, and questions the photographic practice in reference to *La Chambre Claire*<sup>2</sup> by Roland Barthes. It also embraces, in a back and forth motion, the two practices dear to Denis Roche, writing and photography, in this in-between, this space left blank where everything is possible, the space where creation happens.

**Denis Roche (1937-2015)** is a photographer, poet, editor, as well as author of about thirty books. His photographic work has been published in several monographic books. He was the Art Director of Editions Tchou from 1964 to 1970, as well as a board member of the magazine *Tel Quel* in the 1960's. He started to work at Editions du Seuil in 1971 and created the "Fiction & Cie" collection of contemporary literature, which he directed until 2004. Along with Gilles Mora, Bernard Plossu and Claude Nori, he founded Les Cahiers de la photographie in 1980, and received the grand prix de photographie de la Ville de Paris in 1997. His work has been showcased in many exhibitions in France and abroad, at Le Réverbère gallery in Lyon, the musée Nicéphore Niépce of Chalon-sur-Saône, and at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris in 2001, to name only a few. In 2015, a great retrospective exhibition will be held at the Pavillon Populaire in Montpellier, under the supervision of Gilles Mora. Le Réverbère gallery in Lyon has been representing Denis Roche since 1989.

<sup>1</sup> *Back and forth in the white room*

<sup>2</sup> *Camera Lucida ; Reflection on Photography (1981)*, Hill and Wang: New York.



27 mars 1981. Denderah, Egypte.  
© Denis Roche

**In 2006, the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques (FNAGP) opened the Maison d'Art Bernard Anthonioz (MABA) in Nogent-sur-Marne, an art center dedicated to the promotion and presentation of contemporary art, as well as experimental projects.** The foundation organizes four exhibitions every year mostly focused on photography and graphic arts revolving around history and memory, territory and environment, as well as cinematographic representation. The Maison d'Art Bernard Anthonioz, member of the Tram Ile-de-France network, is involved in an active policy regarding its public and offers a wide variety of cultural events around its exhibition programming.

**Exhibition from November 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 to January 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Curator: Caroline Cournède**

Opening on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 9:30pm

**Press visit on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:45am on the occasion of the discovery tour of the Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques (FNAGP)**

**Maison d'Art Bernard Anthonioz**

16, rue Charles VII

94130 Nogent-sur-Marne, France

Tel.: +33 (0)1 48 71 90 07

[contact@maba.fnagp.fr](mailto:contact@maba.fnagp.fr)

<http://maba.fnagp.fr>

Open to the public on weekdays from 1pm to 6pm

Saturdays and Sundays from 12pm to 6pm

Closed on Tuesdays and public holidays

Free entrance

**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

**Press relations**

Lorraine Hussenet

Tel.: +33 (0)1 48 78 92 20

[lohussenot@hotmail.com](mailto:lohussenot@hotmail.com)

*Visuals available on request*