

*press release 2021*

**MICHEL KIRCH**  
*photographe plasticien*

*l'horizon vertical*



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Michel Kirch au Musée de la Cour d'Or

- Born in Metz, France, 1959.
- Organ Prize at the Metz Conservatory.
- Medical studies in Strasbourg.
- A year's training as a mountain guide at the *French Army's High Mountain School* in Chamonix.
- Alternates for several years between major travel projects and practising medicine. Writes accounts of his travels and discovers photography.
- After one year in the Sahara, first exhibition "*Jeux de sable*" at Espace Canon, Paris.
- Personal shows in galleries in Europe, USA and Asia. (70 exhibitions into 18 pays)
- Is invited to represent France in the "*Shapes of Time*" exhibition at the "*Alessandria Biennale*", 2008
- Works acquired by public and private collections.
- The Province of Milan chooses works from his series "*Climates*" to accompany a lecture by Edgar Morin and establish a link between Morin's thinking and the world of art. Teatro Dal Verne, 2009
- Becomes the first artist to be chosen by the foundation "*L'Art pour la Conscience et le Partage des Biens Communs*", 2009
- Is chosen two years running (2009, 2010) by the Esther Woerdehoff Gallery for "*PARIS PHOTO*".
- Solo show with Esther Woerdehoff Gallery at "*MIA ARTFAIR*", Milan, 2011
- Is chosen two years running (2009, 2011) for MacParis.
- AZART PHOTO Price, at *MacParis Artfair*, 2011
- His "*TransPhotographies*" exhibition is spotlighted by the City of Marseille's cultural programme, 2010
- Invited by the John McDermott Gallery to the *Angkor Foto Festival* in 2010
- Exhibition at *Espace Cardin* sponsored by the European Space Agency, 2011
- In June 2012 he is named "*Intercultural Ambassador*" by the UNESCO Sorbonne Club
- Invited by the French Embassy in India to exhibit in New Delhi, Visual Art Gallery 2013
- Solo show, UNESCO Paris, during "*the Global Conference*", 2013
- RETROSPECTIVE on various sites in the city of Metz, including the *Musée de la Cour d'Or*, 2014
- Black & White Magazine: Award Winner Portfolio Contest 2013

- GRAND PRIX EURAZEO FOR PHOTOGRAPHY 2013.
- Show with the Baudoin Lebon Gallery at the *Art O'Clock Fair*, Paris 2013
- Nomination for the Pictet Price 2014 for "*Consumption*"
- Publication of the monograph "*les éveillés*", "*La Manufacture de l'Image Editions*", 2014
- Benaki Museum, Athens Photobook Show, 2015
- Invited by the Mairie de Paris and JECJ for the thematic "*Ponts et Cultures*" with solo show and conference, 2015
- Laureate of the International Competition "*l'Esprit de la Méditerranée*" by Photomed et Lensculture, 2016
- MONOCHROME PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2016
- Laureate at "Creative Quarterly" (Fine Art Professional), 2017
- Laureate at Festphoto Brazil, Porto Alegre, Brasil 2017
- Laureate at the "*32èmes Chelsea International Fine Art Competition*", New York, 2017
- Finalist at the Fondation Schneider, 2017
- "*The Origin of Light*", solo show at *Messmer Museum*, Riegel, Germany, 2017
- Finalist (5 finalists) for the "*Prix de Photographie de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts*", Paris 2017
- GUEST OF HONOR for the Month of Photography with solo show, *Musée de la Faïence et des Beaux-Arts de Nevers*, 2017
- Exhibition at the "MAISON EUROPÉENNE DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE", with Eurazeo Price, Paris 2018
- Elected by Creative Quarterly among the 100 Best Annual Artists 2017
- INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2017 (Fine Art Conceptual)
- Michel Kirch in "*Miroir de l'Art*" magazine in a selective list about the "*artists who make us dream*".
- MONOVISIONS PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS : 1st Place Black & White Conceptual Photo of the Year 2018
- ST'ART, solo show with "*le Collectionneur Moderne*", 2018
- "*Regards Croisés*", with the "*Fontaine Obscure Gallery*" and the austrian association "*Fluss*", Vienne 2019
- GUEST OF HONOR AT THE SALON D'AUTOMNE, Champs Elysees, Paris 2019
- Invited for a solo show by the "*Galerie Saphir*" to celebrate their 40th Anniversary, Paris 2019
- SINGLE IMAGE SPOTLIGHT AWARD WINNER : Black & White Magazine, march 2021



Michel Kirch invited by UNESCO to exhibit during the Global Conference.

*Michel Kirch "the Awakener"  
by Edgar Morin (Extracts)*



*Déambulation*

No one had yet thought of creating poetry out of the assembly of heterogeneous photographic elements, his innovative creative contribution. The photographic realism of his work is the essential, sufficient ingredient of the art of his compositions. They transfigure the real, imparting it with dreamlike qualities that are not unreal... but surreal.

Others may have spoken of the magical realism or "transreality" of Michel Kirch's compositions. To my mind, any reflection of reality is magical and all photography holds its share of magic: that of the "double": the magic of presence in absence, conferring a new presence to the reality represented, now absent. This is why photography is recognized as an art when it affords the singular, magical charm of the supernatural.

But here is Michel Kirch working a new kind of magic, with the meeting of several realities that do not communicate with one another. "Transreality", which links some realities to enable a new reality to emerge, is a term that suits his work well because it also contains the idea of surpassing, of going beyond. Hegel's "meta reality" could apply perhaps as well to Michel Kirch's art, in the sense that the surpassing conserves that which is surpassed, while creating a new reality.

It is because I am sensitive to all that surpasses while conserving that which does not –expressing the notion of metamorphosis– that I am touched by Michel Kirch's compositions. It is also because I am sensitive to all that can awaken our dormant poetic sense that I marvel at his work. I might add that I am moved to the very depths of my subconscious.

Thus, in passing from one composition to the other (...), I am borne away by a wave of emotions, as if by a symphony. (...) It is to be noted that humanity is always present in this work, whether in the shape of individuals or architecture reflecting the successive ages of the history of civilization.

Everything in this visionary art is at once familiar and alien, and each image provides material for dreaming, thinking, meditating. The work of Michel Kirch fosters meditation on the mystery of the human condition and the insertion of man in the universe.

*Edgar Morin*



MAIRIE DU 4ème Arr. de PARIS, «TU ES NOUS», Personal exhibition by the plastic photographer Michel KIRCH

PASCAL LAINÉ Gallery, "CYBERNÉTIQUE DU RÊVE",  
personal exhibition of Michel Kirch, may/july 2021,  
Ménerbes, France

UN LIEU UNE OEUVRE Gallery, "SPACIALITY" personal  
exhibition of Michel Kirch, may/july 2021, Ménerbes, France

SAPHIR Gallery, "LA VIE EST UN FILM" exhibition of Michel  
Kirch, august/ october 2020, DINARD, France

SAPHIR Gallery, "MONDES INTÉRIEURS" personal exhibi-  
tion of Michel Kirch, octobre/december 2019, Paris

MICHEL KIRCH GUEST OF HONOR AT THE SALON  
D'AUTOMNE 2019, october 2019, Champs-Élysées, PARIS

CASTLE OF WOLKERSDORF, international exhibition  
"Regards Croisés", France/Autriche, February 2018

ST'ART Art Fair, solo show with "LE COLLECTIONNEUR  
MODERNE", november 2018. Strasbourg (France)

FONTAINE OBSCURE Gallery, PHOT'AIX 2018,  
"REGARDS CROISÉS", international exhibition,  
october 04 / December 30, 2018, Aix-en-Provence (France)

MAISON EUROPÉENNE DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE,  
exhibition as a Laureate of the EURAZEO GRAND PRIZE.  
january/february 2018.

FAÏENCE AND BEAUX-ARTS MUSEUM of Nevers,  
" Le Je du Jeu ", solo show. Michel Kirch is the "guest of honor"  
of The Month of Photography in the Nièvre, october 2017,  
Nevers (France)

GARNIER DELAPORTE Gallery, " FRAGMENTS "   
solo show, october 2017, Chavignol (France)

AGORA Gallery, Chelsea International Fine Art Competition,  
august 2017, Manhattan (New York)

MESSMER MUSEUM, Gallery M. solo show "The Origin of  
Light", 6 july - 10 september 2017, Riegel, (Germany)

LE COLLECTIONNEUR MODERNE, exhibition  
"Mémoires Visuelles" - december 2016, Paris, France

ACHILLEA and AU MEDICIS Gallery, exhibition  
" Déplacement " - december 2016, Paris, France

MACPARIS, Espace Champerret, november 2016, Paris, France

**BEAUX ARTS GALLERY ET LIBRAIRIE SIGNATURES**

Solo show « L'EXODE FANTASTIQUE » by Michel Kirch  
november 2016

**AMTM ART'EXPO / CITÉ INTERNATIONALE DES ARTS -**

october 2016 - Paris

**PHOTOMED 2016**, Le festival de la photographie  
méditerranéenne - Michel Kirch present "MARE NOSTRUM"  
26 july 2016 - Sanary-sur-Mer (France)

**MAIRIE DU 4ÈME ARR. DE PARIS**, "TU ES NOUS",  
solo show, september 2015

**BENAKI MUSEUM**, Grèce - Athens Photobook Show, july 2015

**FOTOFEVER**, with **SABRINA RAFFAGHELLO** Gallery,  
november 2014, Louvre - Paris

**SCHWAB BEAUBOURG** Gallery, personal exhibition «les éveillés»  
and book signing, November 2014 Paris, France

**GRAND PRIX EURAZEO – ESPACE CENTRAL DUPON**,  
solo show, January / February 2014, Paris, France

**LA COUR D'OR MUSEUM**, solo show,  
" LES ÉVEILLES ", november 2013 / january 2014, Metz, France  
**MAC 2000** - Espace Champerret - november 2013, Paris, France

**FOTOFEVER** - with **SABRINA RAFFAGHELLO** Gallery- Louvre,  
november 2013, Paris France

**FESTIVAL MOSAÏQUE**, october 2013, Pont-Sainte-Marie, France

**BIBLIOTHÈQUE UNIVERSITAIRE**, solo show,  
october 2013, Metz, France

**ART O'CLOCK** - with **BAUDOIN LEBON** Gallery,  
september 2013, CNIT, Paris, France

**ARCHIVES MUNICIPALES**, solo show, september 2013,  
Metz, France

**PRIEURÉ SAINT-VINCENT**, solo show, september 2013,  
Chartres, France

**UNESCO** – solo show " transitions ", june 2013, Paris, France

**VISUAL ART GALLERY** with *French Embassy* –  
solo show " Quintessence ", with Dominique Paulin february  
2013 New Delhi, Inde

**MULTIMEDIART**, Bastille Design Center, september 2012,  
Paris, France

**ESPACE CARDIN EVOLUTION** with l'ESA and Astrium - solo  
show with Dominique Paulin, december 2011, Paris, France

**PARIS PHOTO**, with **ESTHER WOERDEHOFF** Gallery,  
Carrousel du Louvre, november 2011 Paris, France

**INSULA GALLERY**, solo show "CONVERSATION"  
november 2011, St Germain des Près, Paris, France

**BALT'ART**, l'Art et le Grand Paris, october 2011, Paris, France

**MIA ART FAIR**, with **ESTHER WOERDEHOFF** Gallery,  
may 2011, Milan, Italie

**ANGKOR FOTO FESTIVAL**, solo show,  
**JOHN MCDERMOTT** Gallery, december 2010,  
Angkor, Cambodge

**PARIS PHOTO**, with **ESTHER WOERDEHOFF** Gallery,  
Carrousel du Louvre, november 2010 Paris, France

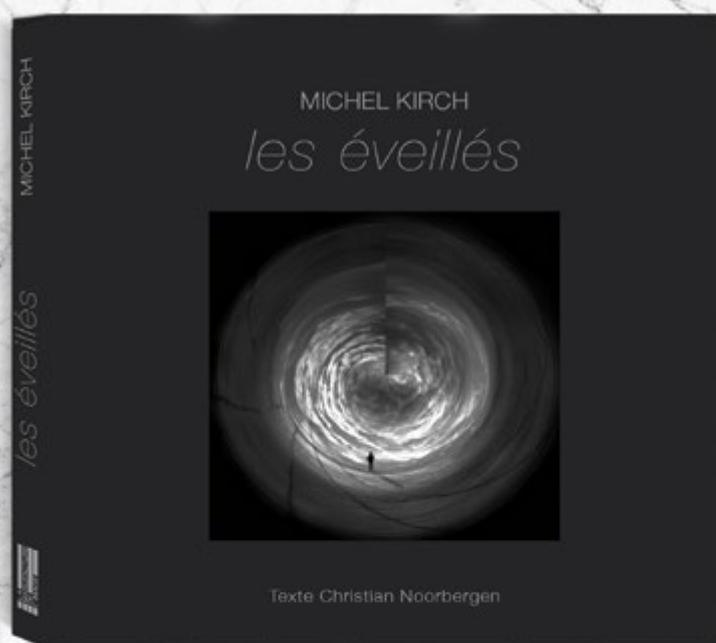
**MIART**, solo show, march 2010, Milan, Italie

**ESTHER WOERDEHOFF** Gallery, visions urbaines,  
february 2010, Paris, France

Event with **EDGAR MORIN**, solo show  
november 2009, Dal Verme theater. Milan, Italie

**BIENNALE D'ALESSANDRIA**  
"beyond the wall ",with Sabrina Raffaghello Gallery,  
May/August 2008 – Alexandrie, Italie

monograph  
> livre "les éveillés"



Book «les Éveillés» by Michel Kirch, texts by Christian Noorbergen

A book in a bilingual edition in the format 29 x 29 cm  
168 pages in full color  
Hard cover binder in fabric  
Texts of Christian Noorbergen  
publication: november 2014  
edition: the Manufacture de l'Image  
dissemination France : Vilo  
Distribution France : Daudin

*Michel Kirch guest of honor at the Salon d'Automne 2019*  
Champs-Élysées, PARIS, October 2019

«*MONDES INTÉRIEURS*», catalog of the exhibition at Saphir Gallery, October/December 2019

*VOGUE KOREA*, MICHEL KIRCH, Maître du Noir et Blanc- Master of black and white, January 2019

*MAGAZINE OR NORME*, Le Collectionneur Moderne Gallery is very proud to present this solo show of Michel Kirch for ST-ART Fair, November 2018

*LIFE MAGAZINE CHINA*, « *a divine revelation* », Michel Kirch, contributor and cover for «Eden Stories», 12 pages, January 2018

«*MONOCHROME AWARDS 2016*» book, Michel Kirch has been announced as the Overall Winner of Professional Category March 2017

*Cahiers Bernard Lazare*, Michel Kirch : «NEW BABEL», September 2016

*l'Oeil de la Photographie*, Sanary-sur-Mer : Michel Kirch, L'Esprit de la Méditerranée - (PhotoMed Exposition , Photomed Awards LensCulture), June 2016

*COURRIER INTERNATIONAL*, «le Loup» , par Michel Kirch de la série Baltic Memories dans le numéro spécial 25ème anniversaire et son supplément «le Monde en 2040», December 2015

*WINN'ART*, Michel Kirch «Passeur d'immensité « Christian Noorbergen, November 2015

*Cahiers Bernard Lazare*, Michel Kirch : «Une vérité n'est jamais absolue et un artiste a le devoir d'imposer la sienne», September 2015

*MIROIR DE L'ART*, Michel Kirch : La tentation totalitaire, May 2015

*l'Oeil de la Photographie*, Michel Kirch, «Climats», April 2015

*ARTENSION* , Michel Kirch : Ses passerelles d'univers par Christian Noorbergen, January / February 2015

Le livre «*les Éveillés*» de *Michel Kirch*, Texts of Christian Noorbergen , édition «La Manufacture de l'image» November 2014

*Consumption*, tryptique de Michel Kirch «les Touristes» inclus dans le livre, éditions teNeues, September 2014

*Les Echos*, Michel Kirch : Donner du sens au paysage February 2014

*Narthex*, l'univers onirique de Kirch, February 2014

*Les Echos* TV, donner du sens au paysage par Michel Kirch Janvier 2014

*Connaissance des Arts*, les songes de Michel Kirch January 2014

*Le Figaro*, Michel Kirch Grand Prix Eurazeo, December 2013

*Compétence Photo*, Michel Kirch Grand Prix Eurazeo, November 2013

*l'Est Eclair*, Michel Kirch, un rendez-vous d'envergure internationale, October 2013

*Images Magazine*, supplément matériel, Michel Kirch Grand Prix Eurazeo, December 2013

*Le Républicain Lorrain*, Michel Kirch au Musée de la Cour d'Or, December 2013

*Mirabelle TV*, Michel Kirch, interview au Parvis des Droits de l'Homme, December 2013

*Black and White Magazine*, spotlight award, November 2013

*L'Echo Républicain*, Michel Kirch dans l'immensité, September 2013

*La Semaine*, Michel Kirch l'instinct T, September 2013

*FR3 Télévision*, les éveillés de Michel Kirch, September 2013

*CULTUREBOX - FRANGETV INFO*, Michel Kirch expose à Chartres ses photomontages inspirés, September 2013

*Times of India*, Quintessence, photographs by Michel Kirch, February 2013

*Deccan Herald*, phantasmagoric images in monochrome by Kirch, February 2013

*Journal de la photographie*, instants sahéliens, January 2013

*La Revue de la Terre*, Explorama Michel Kirch, September 2012

*Azart Photo*, Michel Kirch, illusions, January 2012

*Déclic Photo*, la vérité est ailleurs, December 2011

*Chasseur d'Images*, les profondeurs poétiques de Michel Kirch, December 2011

*Le Journal du dimanche*, December 2011

*L'Officiel des Galeries et Musées*, Spécialités, Michel Kirch, December 2011

*Le Monde*, les poèmes visuels de Michel Kirch s'exposent à Paris, December 2011

*EURONEWS*, Rendez vous Spécialités de Michel Kirch, December 2011

*Télérama*, December 2011

*Azart Photo*, Prix Azart Photo, Michel Kirch, January 2011

*Miroir de l'Art*, Michel Kirch, visions oniriques, July 2010

*Art Point France*, le réalisme magique de Michel Kirch, May 2010

*ArtPrice Korea*, World artist Michel Kirch, February 2010



*l'espoir*

Today, we are experiencing climate change. Reliving humanity's eternal obsession with the Apocalypse and the end of time, all sorts of prophecies and theories are coming to light, from the most heartening to the most devastating.

It is tempting to express these visions, as if to conjure the torment ahead. "The gift of Death is that all we have left to do is die", said Nietzsche. And, as Beauty seems inseparable from the Universe, a certain harmony falls into place, and new landscapes appear. It has come to pass and the survivors contemplate the new Creation in the hope of a fertile dawn... What could be entitled *An Aesthetic of the Coming Catastrophe* is in fact a timeworn tale.

Cataclysms have shaped our history and geography in a ballet of slow or rapid mutation, causing the extinction of some species, triggering the generation of others. This is why vestiges of destruction, erosion, and disappearance often appear here as witnesses of time immemorial... to offer them a second life, in sum. As for mankind... *MK*



*night dance*

The character alone bears the brunt of the human condition. His gestures, his silences, his fervors are universal, insofar as they translate how each one of us can or must deal with making our place in the world. Miniscule and at the same time a giant, he is lost...and yet so fully present.

His silhouette conveys the legitimacy or impropriety of his presence in a given place. That presence could be read as incongruous if the energy driving him did not transcend the given landscape, the conventional idea. He is a catalyst, he is a conscience; the Awakening lies in wait...

Here, landscape is the test of the awakened. Its elements are powerful, sometimes immense, often unsettling. It mirrors the character's internal topography: darkly saturated depths, labyrinthic paths to choose from, craggy hills to climb.

But the landscape is in need of awakening, just as the awakened cannot be so without it. The two are complementary in their sharing of an energy whose genesis hinges on the balance of their encounter.

With "The Awakened", Michel Kirch confirms his intention to etch spirituality into the very structure of his work. **MK**



*chosen themes*  
*> New York Energy*

*NY Energy 4*

In New York, one dares. Anything seems possible once the framework has been defined, the rules set... Spilling out of the framework freely, while indefatigably proclaiming new limits...

Thus the World Trade Center, vast interchange and heart of the global economy. Thus a unique artistic influence and the first planet-wide melting pot, with innovation for a manifesto.

Sparking ceaseless interaction and unlikely synergies—allied to a powerful imagination—to confer a particular pulse to this city... Everything is in motion here, drawing you into an energy dance that will NY I make you or break you, depending on your nature... Infinity was the norm until 9/11, when, mirroring the collapse of the Twin Towers, the illusion of permanence and infallibility of the modern-day Babel came crashing down.

New York has since recovered its vibe... Despite the shadow cast and the symbols dashed to the ground... despite a devastating economic crisis in 2008... Continuity prevails, along with a new fragility to punctuate its cocky virility.

A feminine quality has at last invested the city, offering up, beyond the face of finite and temporary, the humble condition of humanity. With «NY Energy», my ambition is to make the city's particular vibration visible, while at the same time framing the now imaginable possibility of its disappearance. *MK*



*La naissance de l'amour 1*

Beyond survival, happiness is the key driver of humanity.

Its engine, its ideal, but also his misfortune ... because if happiness does not happen according to our desires, it becomes our failure, our misfortune ...

Eden, the garden of Origin, focuses on its particular space, almost all the desires of the Human. Everything is within reach hand, food and beauty, innocence and love, peace and sensuality. But there is a condition, which makes the price: do not touch the Tree of Knowledge, also called Tree of Good and Evil. The apple is the forbidden fruit.

Yielding to the temptation Edenic pair then knows the fall, and history has just begun.

Since nostalgia took hold of the man and it never ceases to regain that bygone era. And the union of two beings, their primordial reconciliation, is one of the most powerful vectors of this reconquest.

In «Eden Stories» I stage mainly couples in this confrontation more or less silent, dramatic or poetic, sublime or ridiculous. **MK**



*le sanctuaire*

"Homo Fukushima" is a mutant... the most advanced representative of the human species, more or less adapted to an environment whose climatic and geological components are intertwined with politics, economics and demographics...

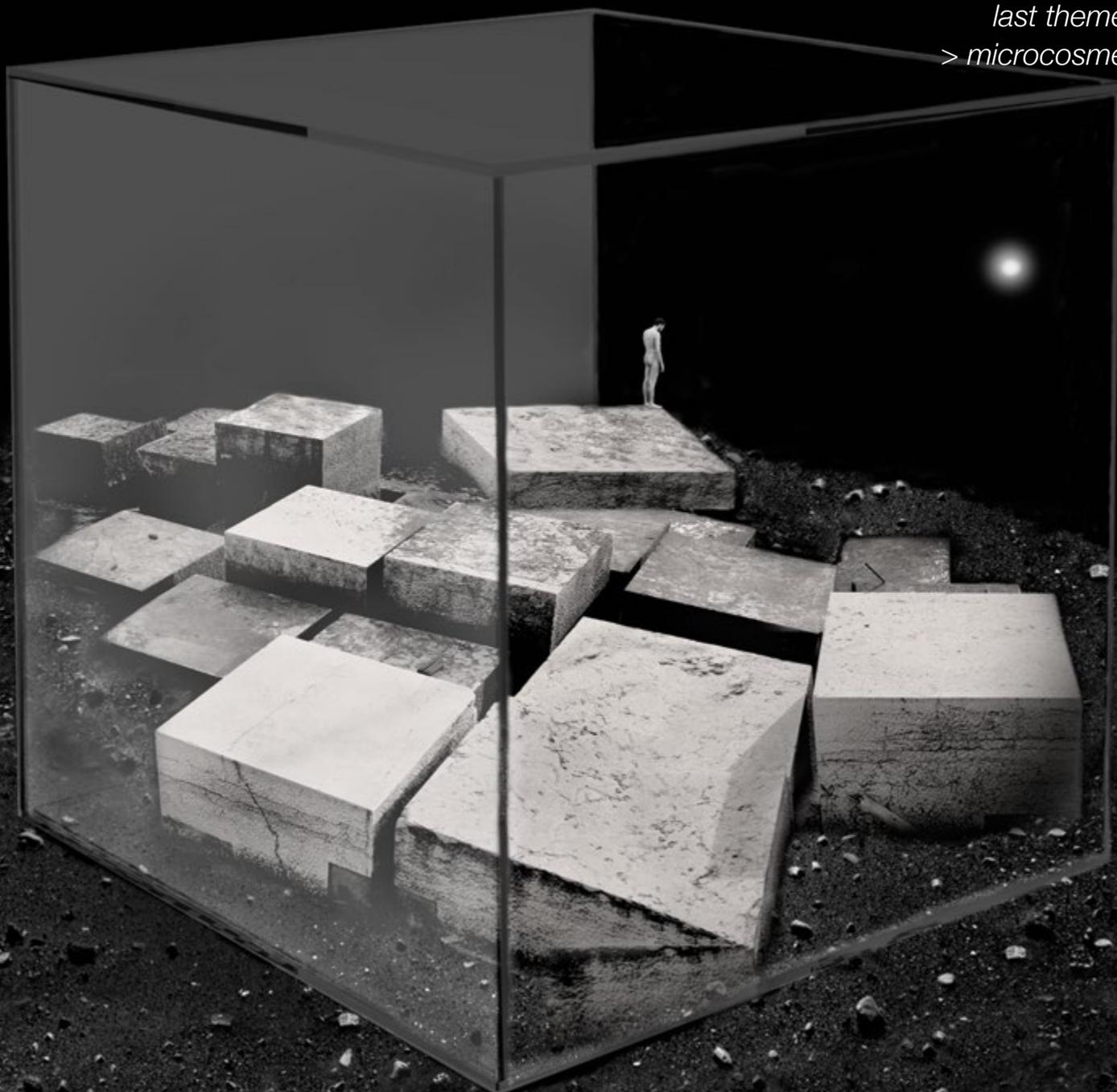
I have chosen Japan for my demonstration, like a symbolic laboratory of the universal challenges facing humanity. It is a country that encapsulates nearly every potential risk, and is known for its geologically vulnerable terrain. Although volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis have always shaped Japan's topography and culture, recent history (Hiroshima), the economy (high tech), urban density, ecology (the civil nuclear industry) and politics (in granting a private operator the right to set up nuclear reactors at the ocean's edge, for example) add their impact to the mix...

Fault lines and subduction zones have always posed a threat to Japan's survival, but in the event of a major incident, it may be man who will outsmart geology and enable a complete evacuation of the archipelago.

Homo Sapiens, who always adapts, now faces brutal and deeply disruptive change. Unconsciously, he becomes Homo Fukushima: he who draws strength from the very nature of this new challenge.

Beyond the struggle for survival, which stimulates man's intelligence and ingenuity, a gnawing impression of fragility and an acute awareness of instability endure. This is where intelligence—but also spiritual strength—will rise to the occasion...

"Homo Fukushima" can be summarized as an artistic rendering of postmodern man. *MK*



*l'homme nu*

Limits are the fundamental issue in our relationship with the world. No organism, no structure, can take on embodied form without them. Limits restrict us as much as they protect and characterise us.

I am defined not only by what I do, but by what I cannot do.

From Babel to Philae, the history of mankind has been one long quest to reach beyond our limits. Transgression is tempting but hardly viable when it fails to respect the integrity of the structures and entities around us. This observation led our ancestors to invent religions and laws.

Most limits are a necessity of life; reaching beyond them is a necessity of dreams.

This latest series, *Microcosmes*, offers a metaphor for the seeming contradiction between the need to preserve limits while pushing beyond them. The forms it takes – spheres, cubes, pyramids, and various containers – are the territory of a restrained, yet active emotion. The play of interactions guides us through the maze of fundamental desires.

The harmonies that arise are a source of peace – and of questions. A fourth dimension can break through unexpectedly.

It is as much a game as a lab experiment. The production of closed worlds teeters between asphyxia and the dizzying multitude of potentialities. *MK*



*to the blue*

The beach is a contemporary place. It differs from the port, the shore of a wild coast or estuary, by its ludic, human and sensual sides. The beach has grown along with urbanization, which it seems vital outlet. More the city becomes oppressive, stressed, laborious, swarming and concrete, and more the beach looks like an obliged shadow, a double saving. The one and the other are two sides of a world that becomes focused, uniformed, interconnected while emptying its traditional values.

The beach is the dream which support the urban pressure. By its nudity, by forgetting schedules, with a newfound sense of freedom, with its horizontal lines and its imposing nature, the beach contradicts the city while perpetuating.

In this project I settled in the dreams of my characters. With them I watched the wide, invented games, and especially let thoughts wander. Because rid of clothes, tensions, obligations, schedules, identities, we allow free rein to the images, desires and to the unexpected surprise ...The beach is therefore a pretext, a way of approaching the self shores.

For this, the real has here just the importance of going beyond. *MK*



*Life is a game*

The sphere is the geometrical figure which constitutes the physical and aesthetic bond of this work. But also the symbolic link: representing our planet, but also the cycle of life, in its finitude and its infinitude. The intervention of man is harmonious or accidental, creative or destructive. The man paces his land in an illusion of infinity, while he turns in circles without knowing it.

Borders are at the heart of the process : preserving them or transgressing them according to circumstances. Climate warming, wars, impoverishment, overpopulation, globalization and its perverse effects, access to drinking water, fascination for consumption, everything is in place for a time of instability where migration will take place at an exponential rate. Exiles from the peasants to the cities, from the poor countries to the haves, from desertified lands to those still preserved ... And not the least, the internal exile due to the drying up of centuries-old customs and traditions, and, for the richest , the brutal confrontation with peoples and realities that one would have wished to conceal.

Disasters will call to order and there will be no choice but to adapt. *MK*