

Press release

Before The Night is Over

Julien Mignot

From 10 February 2023 to 04 March 2023

Opening date 09 February 2023



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Before The Night is Over" is in the vein of the series "96 Months", in which Julien Mignot makes a diary by retaining an image and a song from his playlist over 8 years between 2009 and 2016. Seeing in images and music remains a way of life for the artist who continues to collect these moments as he moves. As for "96 Months", the artist entrusts the selected excerpts of this intimate puzzle to the Fresson workshop, custodian of the charcoal printing technique developed by Theodore-Henri Fresson in 1899. The chemical emulsion of the "Charbon-Satin" paper has retained all its mystery since that date. What seduces Julien Mignot, besides the inimitable beauty of these prints, is to let the Fresson family reinterpret their work. The photographer cannot control the print, the development process is kept secret, he cannot attend all the stages of its realization. The artist lets go, he entrusts his memory and rediscovers it, far from the decisive moment. The sharpness of the photograph has disappeared, crushed under the superimposition of the layers of pigments. The charcoal print takes us back to the era of pictorialist photography (1890-1914), inscribing this intimate work in memory. Julien Mignot, himself a collector and keen observer of the contemporary scene, thus pays tribute to the early days of photography.

Text on the exhibition by Joseph Ghosn : "Trains across the plain." Julien Mignot's images evoke something of these words sung by Alain Bashung, in the manner of a point of view: as if the world were seized by something moving and which lets pass a light of the moment already crossed, already left, and of which the memory remains. Remember to forget me? These photos seem to whisper, as someone else would say. They are in fact the fruit of moments of oblivion, which exist between the shots of the works or commissions. They are interstices, untied that let filter a fragment of life at the moment when there is nothing to do but to take a crossing, to walk a plain, to remember to forget, but to keep in mind the matter of the glow, through the trees, the bodies, the crossed desires.

Exhibition View



Legend : exhibition view
Photo : Alexandre Wallon

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