

Mélanie Desrioux / The passengers of the Mississippi

The Frontier is a limit zone. Also, it's one of the historical myths of United States. In the 15th century, the word « Frontier » was borrowed from French by English, to mean the region of a country that faces another country. In the North America, « Frontier » means a region of a civilized borders territory. It's a pioneer front. This limit zone has held a strong role in the American imaginary and for its identity. Since the New Topographics exhibition, Robert Adams notified in *The New West: Landscape along the Colorado Front Range*, the necessity for an iconographic renewal of the Frontier. This limit zone was less a geographical division between East and West, that the meeting point between savagery and civilization. The photography's purpose was now to reconcile us with a wild nature. *The passengers of the Mississippi* is the following on from my photographic research. Indeed, it's the pursuit of *The Conquest*. I have gone along the Mississippi River from St. Louis to New Orleans. The sinuosity and the overflows of the Mississippi River reveals the illusion of a border and symbolizes migration. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain – symbol of this America imprint of freedom but also of conservatism – allowed me to made my itinerary, and to document the persistence of the border and the territory issues. Between fiction and autobiography, the adventures of Tom Sawyer reveals the identity quest of a young hero, grown up through the Mark Twain writing ; a writing that operates a shift from fiction to reality. For me, to see is to be able to imagine. So, I'll try to make links, to create analogies and to elaborate a storytelling between reality and fiction. Each project is for me as a ritual initiation to other worlds and otherness.