

About me :

I come from a place where people dream of going on vacation. There, we have everything to be happy. Nature and civilization live together in perfect harmony and the singing of the birds replaces that of the alarm clocks.

When I was little, this is where my father taught me the names of plants and fish.

Yet, on this bucolic island, I felt out of place. I was isolated from the rest of the world and dreamed of discovering something else.

I found my first means of escape in my mother's magazines by cutting and pasting pictures that made me travel to a world different from my own. And these photos, one day I would take them myself!

For my eighth birthday, I finally managed to get a 35 mm camera. I didn't yet know that this moment would be decisive of the rest of my existence. From then on I could create my own world.

Thanks to this catalyst object, I understood the importance of capturing the present moment and discovered the emotional impact of memories through imagery. My box then became an extension of myself.

Today I practice photography in Paris. I have traded my 35mm for many other cameras but my line of conduct has always stayed the same: to help people feel at home in my world when they feel out of place in the real world.

About my work

Quand on se quitte // Parting Ways

Have you ever felt so bad that you wished you could have just disappeared?

This state has a name: Absence to oneself* and many of us go through it without knowing its meaning. In reality, it is a self-defense mechanism that we put in place to become invisible on the interior and escape the realities of life. To protect ourselves from a situation, we disappear from ourselves.

In order to render in image this fascinating process and thus make the invisible visible, I have long observed flowers. They and we are complementary. When we release carbon dioxide, they ingest it and offer us oxygen in return, which allows us to breathe. They absorb light and we reject it. Flowers obey their own needs and represent pure alterity.

In making this analogy between Man and flowers, I am emphasizing our vulnerability to life's events. They too protect themselves from danger by secreting chemical substances.

In order to transcribe this state, I was inspired by Leonardo da Vinci and his mastery of Sfumato*. This method is used to soften the contours in order to obtain a vaporous atmosphere. By creating a confusion of forms, I offer the possibility to each person to interpret the image according to his own imagination.

With this technique, the use of the two processes (colour towards black and white) enables to take the audience progressively towards the Absence to oneself. Colour, whose function is more realistic, creates a feeling of closeness with the spectator, while black and white creates distance and opens the image to a more abstract dimension. It goes straight to the essential.

*The absence to oneself: term used in psychology and theorised by Geneviève Abrial (psychanalyst) <https://www.genevieveabrial.com/labsence-a-soi/>