

Tribute to Charles Aznavour

“Viens voir les comédiens” is a visual reflection of the emotion I feel while listening to his popular songs.

I have tried to interpret the songs which have touched me most, by selecting 20 photographs for this exhibition.

“Viens voir les comédiens” is my homage to Charles Aznavour, which I have the pleasure to present from Tuesday, 28th September till Friday, 28th October in the gallery “Images de Marque” in Geneva.

“Viens voir les comédiens” , birth of an original project

The Genevan photographer Patrice Fileppi had many times the opportunity to present his works, and his exhibitions were always very successful.

His photographic approach fascinates the amateur public but also the well-informed collector. “Telling stories”, shaping the stage setting and putting together one or several characters in a very specific environment, is typical of his recognized style. “I am not influenced by any school or any current photographic trend, but I have created my own method to capture the subject. My photos “tell stories”. I know the code and it is then up to the public to interpret them. I am always amazed when hearing the variety of comments to my works, comments which I always appreciate”.

The exhibition “Viens voir les comédiens” represents for Patrice Fileppi a new approach to the photographic art. It is a project spread out over four years, although he had, at the same time, lots of other works going on. “I was on holiday under the sun; my companion was listening to Charles Aznavour’s song “Comme ils disent”. I also heard it and was deeply overwhelmed The song was not new to me but I really never paid any particularly attention to the words. However this time, in the serenity of the place I appreciated the intensity of the words, that tears came to my eyes”. This one moment triggered something in my mind to create an original project around Charles Aznavour’s songs”. The photographer wishes to hold with his camera the worlds described by Charles Aznavour. From his repertoire he chooses titles that could be transformed into photography. He singled out twenty songs and in 2012 started his work. The selected titles are “La Bohème”, “Les Comédiens”, “Hier encore”, “Mes emmerdes”, “Non, je n’ai rien oublié”, “Tu t’laisses aller”, “Emmenez-moi”, “For me formidable”, “Qui”, “L’amour c’est comme un jour”, “La Mamma”, “Je m’voyais déjà”, “Un Corps”, “Trousse Chemise”, “Désormais”, “Je bois”, “Comme ils disent”, “Les Plaisirs démodés”, “Les deux guitares” and “Par Gourmandise”.

Patrice Fileppi realized the enormous scope of his original idea as he started his project. Indeed the “paintings” to be photographed required him to travel through various countries, needs a lots of actors and required full attention to particular sceneries. He traveled through France, Italy and England for the shots. The result was two thousand photos of which only twenty negatives were selected, which makes 1%!

Beyond the exposed photographs, Patrice Fileppi realized a beautiful set, including his works in the form of a mirror describing the integrality of the songs’ words.

The twenty photographs entitled “Viens voir les Comédiens” are presented from the 28th September till the 28th October in the gallery “Images de Marque” in Geneva. Opened by two well-known photographers, Pierre Descombes and Laurent Egly, the gallery is particularly proud to expose these works, the result of an original approach and exhibited in an unusual way: together with the photographs a film will be shown illustrating the songs.

Patrice Fileppi, photographer

Born 1948 in Geneva, Patrice Fileppi managed during 25 years various enterprises particularly in the electronic field.

At the same time he became fascinated by photography. He spent a great part of his leisure time travelling to every corner of the world in order to gather impressions by pictures, emotions, faces or places. Slowly his passion took over and Patrice Fileppi made the decision to devote all his energy to photography. In 2009 he opened his own studio named "Gluqq" that means, phonetically, in German "luck".

A self-taught man, Patrice Fileppi dedicates his work to telling stories. Through his camera he is stimulated by the longing to relate and to "write" his pictures: "if one would describe my photographic style, I would say it consists in realizing settings with one or several persons within natural or created scenery. The message is both to incarnate and to produce a story" as he says.

Free from all influences, Patrice Fileppi, on the occasion of a photo-meeting, enjoys the contact with some great names of photographers: Chauvignat, Bouvet and many others meet at the Studio Harcourt. There are so many possibilities to discuss with these great artists who he so admires. For example, Paolo Roversi, whom he asked once: "what is a great photographer" who answered "it is somebody that has a little talent and lot of good luck!"

Patrice Fileppi exhibited many times in Geneva and in 2003 was awarded with a prize. In spite of various works for his clients, he has devoted all his energy since 2012 in order to realize an ambitious exhibition, inspired by twenty songs of "Monsieur Charles Aznavour" as he calls him with great respect.

During a stay in a foreign country, far away from the world's tumults, Patrice Fileppi hears the song "Comme ils disent".... he listens to it, then once more, savours with emotion the words, absorbs the story, quivers with the melody... At this very moment he decides to transform this master-piece into a picture and his creativity starts to fly. Four years later, and twenty more songs, which have inspired so many photographs. Part of the respective texts of Charles Aznavour underline the frame of each picture, the words which have carried Patrice Fileppi in his "photograph writing".

The exhibition "Viens voir les comédiens" will take place from 28th, September till 28th, October 2016 at the gallery "Images de Marque", 12, Grand-Rue in Geneva.