

SURFACES ET PROFONDEURS...

Posted by [AFBombay](#) on Thursday, February 13, 2014 · [Leave a Comment](#)



surfaces et profondeurs @ Pascal Bernard

L'Alliance Française de Trivandrum a eu le plaisir d'accueillir l'exposition « Surfaces et profondeurs », un projet franco-indien d'Anupama Raju et Pascal Bernard. Cette création a pu voir le jour grâce au soutien de l'Alliance française de Trivandrum, de l'ICCR (Inde) et du Centre Intermondes de La Rochelle, qui ont permis à Anupama Raju d'être invitée en résidence artistique à La Rochelle.

La rencontre entre les deux artistes se poursuit entre l'Inde et la France : ce duo, qui a déjà collaboré dans le cadre du projet [Pondichéry : une ville, un lieu, une personne](#), confirme son talent en nous offrant à nouveau une vision artistique « plurielle et métissée ». Les deux artistes ont voulu « marcher sur la surface des choses et creuser dans les profondeurs » pour créer le mystère qui se diffuse dans les oeuvres du photographe français et les écrits de la poétesse indienne.

Entre poésie et photographie, entre culture française et indienne, entre surfaces et profondeurs, la ville de la Rochelle apparaît à travers l'objectif de Pascal Bernard et dans la poésie d'Anupama Raju. A la Rochelle, ce sont les textes de la journaliste poétesse qui ont inspiré le photographe rochelais : le dhoti indien typique du Kerala, du sud de

l'Inde, sert de fil rouge à la série réalisée.

Cette exposition est présentée au cours de l'année dans différentes villes indiennes : Cochin, Goa, Hyderabad et Pondichéry. Visitez les sites de vos Alliances françaises.

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Rédaction

Directeur de publication :
DGAF, délégué général de la
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Rédacteur en chef : David
Cordina

Rédacteurs, contributeurs :
Abhirami, Alexandre, Chintan,
Cléa, David, Eleonore, Elie,
Kanika, Karine, Nita, Malvika,
Marie-Joëlle, Meera, Mayuri,
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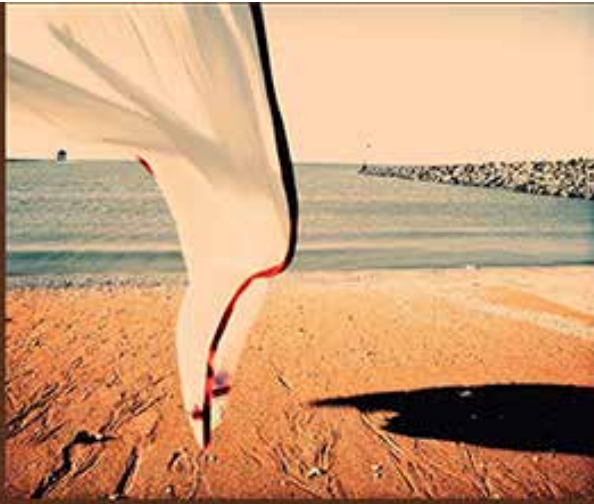
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Reach us @ 0471 2320666, 6578808 info.trivandrum@afindia.org

Alliance Française, Cochin annexe
Cordially invites you to

Surfaces et Profondeurs

An exhibition of
photographs and poems by
Pascal Bernard & Anupama Raju
Reading of poetry by Anupama Raju

Inauguration
on 14 May,
6.30pm

14- 23 May, 2015, 10am – 6pm
@ Orthic Creative Centre,

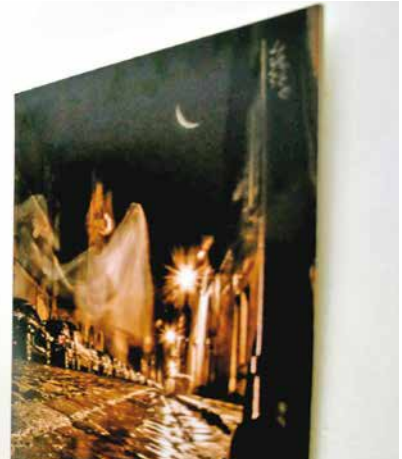
Karkkamuri Cross Road, Kochi. Tel: 8547576489

Poet Anupama Raju and photographer
Pascal Bernard fuse cultures and art forms

A red streak in the moonlight



Rochelle.Dsouza@timesgroup.com



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The serene beach. The rise and fall of the tide has left its scars on the soft shore. The water seems calm and in the midst of it all is a fluttering fabric, white with red borders, like the traditional kaithari (handloom) sarees of Kerala blown by the soft sea breeze. Besides it are the words: *Shells will not do/ Make me a beach of your tanned skin / I will not recede.*

Although one may quickly assume this to be a beach somewhere along the shores of God's Own Country, this in fact is Le Minimes beach in the French city of La Rochelle, one of the works at the exhibition titled 'Surfaces et Profondeurs' ('Surfaces and Depths'). It's a collaborative Indo-French poetry and photography project by Le Centre Intermondes and Alliance Francaise de Pondichery featuring the works of Thiruvananthapuram-based poet Anupama Raju and French photographer Pascal Bernard, currently underway at the Nanappa Art Gallery.

Anchored to the Atlantic coast, near the Islands of Ré and Oléron in south west France, is the city of La Rochelle, known better La Ville Blanche (the White City), which served as the muse to the two artists whose multi-disciplinary work has come together as an aesthetic whole.

The collaboration between Pascal and Anupama began in 2011 when Anupama was invited for a residency programme, as part of a cultural partnership between Pondicherry and La Rochelle. "Hugo von Hofmannsthal once said that 'Depths must be hidden. Where? On the surface' and this was the heart and soul of our concept," says Anupama who has penned 12 poems as part of the project.

"Landing on the surface of things and delving into its depths holds great mystery, and it is this mystery that has influenced me. The depth of a city lies in its people, its heritage and its culture. The work seeks to explore the untold stories of the city steeped in his-

tory and culture. La Rochelle has had the reputation of being a sort of rebellious city that always sort of challenged whatever was seen as the norm in the rest of the country, and that fascinated me," she says.

Pascal's pictures speak of his native city, of its limestone facades that glow in the bright coastal moonlight and its arcaded walkways alongside the Bay of Biscay and the ghoulish gargoyles that adorn its buildings, rich reminders of its seafaring past. "I had to immerse myself into her writing and in her creative sensibilities to illustrate her poems photographically and to make sure at the same time that I don't limit myself in any way," says Pascal.

But every picture shares a common element. Draped across a fair-skinned French maiden in the midst of a grand jeté (ballet jump) on the beach, fluttering in the breeze in front of a lonely lighthouse or a blur of white and red above snarling golden gargoyles is the kaithari dothi.

"I had at heart the concept of the twin perspective of surface and depth but I also wished to mark my images with an Indian print or the idea of a red thread – suggesting the city where Anupama lives, therefore I chose a white dhoti with a red border," says Pascal who admits to having taken back more than a dozen such dhotis to France during his last visit.

THE HINDU

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Published: May 15, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: May 15, 2015 07:11 IST Kochi, May 15, 2015

La Rochelle comes to Kochi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Poet Anupama Raju at Orthic Creative centre in Kochi on Thursday. Photo : Thulasi Kakkat

: A travelling exhibition of photographs and poems resulting from a collaboration between ace French photographer Pascal Bernard and poet Anupama Raju got under way at the Nanappa Art Gallery at Karikkamuri Crossroads here on Thursday.

Titled 'Surfaces and Depths' the exhibition, jointly organised by Alliance Francaise and Orthic Creative Centre, will be on till May 23.

After their joint project on Pondicherry in 2012, Ms. Raju went on a month-long residency to the city of La Rochelle (Mr. Bernard's native town) in France where the new project was born.

Ms. Raju said while the collaboration on Pondicherry had Mr. Bernard taking photographs first, with the poems written afterwards, the order was reversed for the current project. During her stay at the historical port city, she explored its uniqueness and rebellious nature. "La Rochelle, located on the Atlantic, is a city of relics and monuments like any other European city, but has the reputation of being different from the rest of France. It was the only protestant town in Catholic France in the 16th century and remained kind of independent of France until it was invaded by Louis XIII who laid a siege to the city. It was fascinating to explore it and I wrote 12 poems during and soon after my stay and the poems were interpreted by Pascal [Bernard] through his pictures," she told The Hindu.

The exhibition was inaugurated in Thiruvananthapuram last year. It has gone around Pondicherry, Goa, Hyderabad and Bangalore before arriving in Kochi. "It might now go to the North of India as well," she said.

Printable version | May 15, 2015 12:45:56 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/la-rochelle-comes-to-kochi/article7208417.ece>

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



Friday, May 15, 2015



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Exhibition of Photos, Poems at Orthic

By Express News Service | Published: 13th May 2015 06:00 AM Last Updated: 13th May 2015 04:27 AM

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KOCHI: Alliance Francaise Cochin annexe in association with Orthic Creative Centre, Kochi, will present 'Surfaces et Profondeurs', an exhibition of photographs and poems by Pascal Bernard and Anupama Raju at Orthic Creative Centre from May 14 to 23.

The inauguration will be followed by reading of poetry by Anupama Raju.

An Indo-French project, the show explores La Rochelle through the poetry of Anupama Raju, a writer based in Thiruvananthapuram and the photography of Pascal Bernard, a photographer from La Rochelle, France. This collaboration is supported by the Centre Intermondes, La Rochelle and Alliance Francaise de Trivandrum.

Though the project is an exploration of depths of the city, La Rochelle, through its people, its traditions, heritage and culture, surfaces and depths can be representative of any city.

Pascal and Anupama had earlier collaborated on a project called, 'Une Ville, Un Lieu, Une Personne', a photo-poetic exploration of Pondicherry and its people.

The exhibition had toured France and the Alliance Francaise network in India in 2012.

The poems of 'Surfaces and Depths' were written during a writing residency that Anupama Raju was part of at the Centre Intermondes in La Rochelle in 2012. The poems are accompanied by the photographs of Pascal Bernard residing in La Rochelle.

The exhibition has touched Thiruvananthapuram, Goa, Hyderabad and Bangalore before reaching Kochi.



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Exhibition
Surface et profondeur
by Anupama Raju
and Pascal Bernard
From July 11th to July 20th

**An artistic exploration
from La Rochelle
through pictures and poems**



*« Depth must be hidden.
Where ? Onto the surface. »
Hugo von Hofmannsthal*

Opening July 11th at 6.30 pm at
Alliance Française Panjim
Wine&Cheese evening
And live music with Trio Orlando
to celebrate French National Day
Contact: 0832 2420049



Artistic Exploration

Herald Features
cafe@herald-goa.com

The Interworlds Centre and the Alliance Française of Pondicherry encouraged a collaborative project between two artists; Anupama Raju and Pascal Bernard in July 2011. Both artists had done an art residency in Pondicherry. While Anupama was working on her writing, Pascal was working on his photography. Together they created the project: 'Pondicherry: a city, a place, a person'. This was the beginning of a real artistic exchange. The benefits of their work resulted in several exhibitions in France and in India. In May 2012, thanks to ICCR (India) and the Interworlds Centre of La Rochelle, Anupama Raju was invited to do an artist residency at La Rochelle and once again met Pascal Bernard. They shared their knowledge and their sensibilities which led them to a new artistic performance 'Surfaces and Depths' (Surfaces et Profondeurs).

The French National Day which falls on July 14, 2014 is being celebrated on July 11 in Goa to coincide with the opening of this exhibition at the Alliance Française. Vallonne wine and French finger food with live music with 'Trio Orlando' will be the specialties for the evening.

Anupama Raju

Born in Chennai into a family of musicians, Anupama invariably became a singer. But her true calling was in poetry. Beginning to seriously write in 2002, her work has been published in diverse publications, magazines and literary journals. In 2006 and 2008 she won awards in poetry competitions organised by the British Council-Unisun and by Prakriti Foundation respectively.

As a journalist, Anupama writes on literature. She also works as a translator and she likes translating short stories from Malayalam into English. Her first book 'Nine' – a collection of her poems – will be published by Daastaan Books.

Pascal Bernard

Pascal Bernard was born in the French city Sables d'Olonne in 1960. His parents gifted him his first camera at the age of 12. Enamoured with the magic of photography, he slowly built up his own lab. In



1977, he made his first trip to Asia by road setting off a series of travels to Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, collaborating with different magazines in these countries as he went along. In the 1990s, he settled down in Paris where he worked alternately for reportage photography and advertising. In 1996, he encountered La Rochelle. He held various exhibitions (the IFAD of Nîmes, Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Seville, Barcelona, Milan), but he invariably kept returning to India. Between 2004 and 2010 he visited Rajasthan and Shimla, Ladakh, Omkareswar, Hampi, Varanasi and South India. In the summer of 2011 and 2012, he did his art residency in East, Pondicherry.

Exhibition: Surfaces et Profondeurs & Celebration of French National Day

Date: July 11, 2014 at 6.30pm

Location: Alliance Française Panjim, Near Menezes Polyclinic, Altinho

Exhibition will remain open from Monday to Friday (up to July 20) 9.30am to 1pm and 2.30pm to 5.30pm



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A city of splendour

Vijay Vishveshwar Rao, Bengaluru, Dec 9, 2014, DHNS

Surfaces et profondeurs' (Surfaces and depths), a first of its kind collaborative event between the Indian poet, Anupama Raju and the French photographer, Bernard Pascal was recently held at Alliance Francaise de Bengaluru.

The exhibition unearthed the depths and the mysteries of the French city of La Rochelle through the words and lens of the two artistes.

The unique element in the exhibition is the relation between photography and poetry as the visual representation gives a deeper insight into La Rochelle. The poems have been translated from French to English in order to benefit the mass audience.

The poems were about the fate of the Jews after the World War II and was based on an unofficial museum which displayed the belongings of a Jew.

The exhibition touches upon the mystical and the surreal, and the past of the city, all in the format of poems. Sudhansu Panigrahi, a visitor, was mesmerized by the displays.

"What I love about this particular exhibition is that the duo have captured the architecture and structures of the old buildings in La Rochelle really well." Kapil, a businessman, added, "I was astounded by what the Indo-French mix can actually bring to the world."

Dilip, an architect opined, "This exhibition is a fresh one in Bengaluru; I actually stumbled upon it because of my curiosity. I just love the environment and the genuine art that is displayed here." Siddarth S Ganesh, a student, was more inclined towards the poetry. "I attended this exhibition for the French poetry rather than the photography.

The exhibit is innovative but I feel it doesn't help the viewer for many reasons. The photographs were taken on the basis of the poems and how the viewer connects the two art forms is subjective and depends entirely on his imagination as both are different media."

The exhibition attracted quite a number of youngsters, most of them who were fans of all things French, and budding photographers who wanted to learn more about their trade. The exhibition will be on till December 21.

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Alliance Française Pondicherry

EXHIBITION

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SURFACES ET PROFONDEURS

Photographs and Poems,
by Pascal Bernard and Anupama Raju

6th to 17th May 2014

9:00 AM to 7:00 PM at Maison Colombani

Inauguration of the Exhibition on May 6th at 7:00 PM
at Maison Colombani. Only for invited guests and members.

Contact:

culture@alliancefrancaisepondichery.com

communication@alliancefrancaisepondichery.com

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L'alliance française de Trivandrum présente « Surfaces et profondeurs », un Projet franco-indien d'Anupama Raju et Pascal Bernard

Le mercredi 08 janvier 2014 01:36:52



Le Centre Intermondes et l'Alliance Française de Pondichéry sont les initiateurs de cette belle rencontre entre Anupama Raju et Pascal Bernard en Juillet 2011. Tous deux en résidence à Pondichéry, elle avec son carnet et son verbe, lui avec son regard et son appareil photo, ils ont réalisé le projet : «Pondichéry : une ville, un lieu, une personne ». Ce fut pendant cette résidence croisée un réel échange artistique. Le fruit de leur travail a donné lieu à plusieurs expositions en France et en Inde.

En mai 2012 grâce à l'ICCR (Inde) et au Centre Intermondes de La Rochelle, Anupama Raju est invitée en résidence artistique à La Rochelle afin de rencontrer une nouvelle fois Pascal Bernard. Sur un projet cher à Anupama Raju. Ils ont mêlé leur savoir

faire et leur sensibilité pour donner naissance à une nouvelle performance « les surfaces et les profondeurs »

« On doit cacher la profondeur. Où ? Sur la surface. » Hugo von Hofmannsthal



© Pascal Bernard

Pour Anupama :

INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

Pascal Bernard
Anupama Raju

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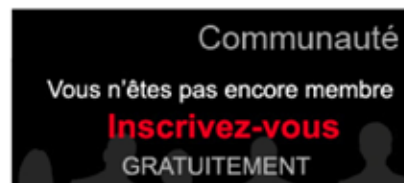
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Man Ray

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« Marcher sur la surface des choses et creuser dans les profondeurs servent à créer le mystère. C'est ce mystère qui a influencé les artistes dans leurs aventures depuis des années. La profondeur d'une ville se retrouve au travers de ses habitants, ses traditions, son héritage et sa culture. A La Rochelle, la surface qui me fascine le plus est celle de la mer, autant que son histoire et son patrimoine.

La résidence au Centre Intermondes à la Maison Henri II (un monument historique) ainsi que l'hospitalité de la ville me donnèrent l'occasion d'écrire une série de poèmes autour des surfaces et des profondeurs propres à La Rochelle. Ces poèmes sont accompagnés des photographies de Pascal Bernard résidant dans cette ville. Pascal apporte un regard particulier, souligné par sa vie à La Rochelle, par ses expériences et le plus important, sa vision artistique. »



© Pascal Bernard

Pour Pascal :

« Lors de notre première collaboration sur le projet « Pondichéry : une ville, un lieu, une personne », l'idée était que je réalise les photographies et qu'Anupama s'en inspire pour écrire ses poèmes. Sur ce nouveau projet « surfaces et profondeurs » nos rôles ont été inversés. J'ai dû m'immerger dans ses écrits et me plonger dans sa sensibilité verbale afin d'illustrer photographiquement, et sans à priori ses poèmes. J'ai choisi de travailler sur support numérique, oubliant ma culture photographique argentique, afin de voir La Rochelle sous un regard neuf. J'avais à l'esprit le concept de la double lecture : la surface et la profondeur. Mais j'avais aussi l'envie de marquer mes images d'une empreinte indienne d'où l'idée d'un fil rouge rappelant la ville où vit Anupama: un dhoti* indien typique du Kerala.

La fusion de nos cultures fut pour moi un challenge fructueux: réussir à harmoniser deux formes d'expression libre pour nous offrir une vision artistique plurielle métissée. »



© Pascal Bernard

Vos réactions

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SURFACES et PROFONDEURS An exhibition of photographs and poems by Pascal Bernard & Anupama Raju 7 - 22 January, 2014

Alliance Française de Trivandrum is pleased to present '**SURFACES et PROFONDEURS**': An exhibition of photographs and poems by Pascal Bernard & Anupama Raju from 7 to 22 January, 2014 at Art Gallery, Alliance Française de Trivandrum.

The exhibition will be inaugurated in the presence of Paul Zacharia and K. Jayakumar IAS at 6.00pm, 7 January @ Art gallery, Alliance Française de Trivandrum.

The inauguration will be followed by reading of poetry by Anupama Raju.

An Indo-French project, '**Surfaces et Profondeurs**' explores La Rochelle through the poetry of Anupama Raju, a writer based in Thiruvananthapuram and the photography of Pascal Bernard, a photographer from La Rochelle, France. This collaboration is supported by the Centre Intermondes, La Rochelle and Alliance Francaise de Trivandrum.

Though the project is an exploration of depths of the city, La Rochelle, through its people, its traditions, heritage and culture, these surfaces and depths can be representative of any city.

Pascal and Anupama had earlier collaborated on a project called, 'Une Ville, Un Lieu, Une Personne', a photo-poetic exploration of Pondicherry and its people. This exhibition had toured France and the Alliance Francaise network in India in 2012.

The poems of 'Surfaces and Depths' were written during a writing residency that Anupama Raju had spent at the Centre Intermondes in La Rochelle in 2012. The poems are accompanied by the photographs of Pascal Bernard residing in La Rochelle.

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Poetic images

Liza George



Pascal Bernard and Anupama Raju

Special Arrangement

Anupama Raju talks about her collaboration with photographer Pascal Bernard and about their work 'Surfaces and Depths'

Anupama Raju was never short of muse during her stay at La Rochelle, a port city in France. The crystal blue sea, Maison Henri II, the historical building she stayed in, which is rumoured to be haunted, the twin forts that remind her of two brothers, standing guard protecting the city...

And the result is 'Surfaces and Depths', a series of poems on the city that are part of an exhibition of photographs and poems by French photographer Pascal Bernard and Anupama. While Anupama has penned the poems that can be called odes to La Rochelle, Pascal has visualised them through his camera.

"'Surfaces and Depths' explores the depth of the city of La Rochelle – its heritage and culture. It is a result of my discovery of the city during my stay there," says Anupama.

Apart from exploring the "surface of the city, I also went into its depths where the stories lie." And from these surfaces and depths come lines that bring forth myriad images of the city. The sea, says Anupama, is a recurring metaphor in the poems. "The sea has been a unifying link in the cities I have lived in, Chennai and Thiruvananthapuram. And be it Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Pondicherry or La Rochelle, the sea has been a cumulative experience. I have a poem in this series based on Maison Henri II, a building that dates back to the Renaissance. Not only is it rich in history, the architecture is fascinating too. And no, I did not meet the rumoured ghost during my stay there. What struck me when I first arrived at La Rochelle was the light all around me; the sky and the sea emanated a special brightness. It was such a relief from the dreary and depressing rainy Paris."

The collaboration between Pascal and Anupama began in 2011 when Anupama was invited for a residency programme, as part of a cultural partnership between Pondicherry and La Rochelle.

'One City, One Place, One Person', the project they worked on explored Pondicherry through verse and images. However, while in 'One City...' she wrote the poems after Pascal clicked the photos, in 'Surfaces and Depths' she penned the verses first and Pascal visualised them later. She is quick to add that though they are inspired by each other's perspective, their visions are independent.

"Although each poem accompanies a picture, it also makes sense on its own. Just as the picture works on its own," says Anupama, who was invited by Le Centre Intermondes on the residency programme in La Rochelle.

The journalist-cum-corporate trainer is currently awaiting the release of a book of poems she has written. "I have finalised on the publishers; hopefully it will be out soon," she says. She is also currently working on a series of poems based on the city. She will be reading a few of these poems during the inauguration of 'Surfaces and Depths' at Alliance Francaise de Trivandrum on January 7. After the conclusion of the exhibition on January 22, the exhibition will move to other Alliance Francaise centres in the country before travelling to La Rochelle in May.

Keywords: [Anupama Raju](#), [photographer Pascal Bernard](#), [Surfaces and Depths](#), [Pascal Bernard](#)