





© Yves Ullens - Traqueur de Lumières - November 2017

Yves ULLENS



Photography is and has always been for me the ideal medium to express emotions. The particular energy brought by light and colour is vital both in my private and professional life. Light, as the only form of energy we can see, presents itself as colour. My photographs allow the viewer and the creator to explore feelings through abstraction. I see photography very much like a painter and I use my camera like a brush.

My world of photography has developed into three major themes: pictorial, kinetic and optic. Each body of work takes on its own rhythms.

Progressively since 2011, I have become a more global artist; by extending - with the help of my team - the possibilities of photography and associating it to other media and design applications:

- In 2011, realization of my first monumental installation, *Metamorphosis*.
- In 2013, creation of my first sculptures, *Crescend'O* and *Délivrance*.
- In 2015, launch of my first functional design creation: *Destination*.
- At present, I am working on larger architectural projects.

Photography will always be at the very heart of my work. And, with the spirit of a scientist, I enjoy pushing its boundaries ever farther and further !

MM Gallery a le plaisir de dévoiler pour la première fois au public la série de photographies *Urban Traces Project* de l'artiste belge Yves Ullens. Cet ensemble de tirages s'inscrit dans la continuité d'une réflexion esthétique sur l'abstraction en focalisant tout particulièrement sur des effets de structures, de textures et de couleurs puisés dans l'environnement urbain. L'artiste arrête son regard sur des détails insignifiants et pourtant très présents dans notre vie quotidienne. *Urban Traces Project* constitue un ensemble d'images détaillées de passages pour piétons ou de marquages au sol des mégapoles du monde entier (New York, Paris, Bruxelles, Londres, Barcelone, Shanghai...).

À première vue, ces traces au sol peuvent paraître très similaires et pourtant en regardant de plus près ces empreintes citadines, l'artiste dévoile une grande variété de couleurs et de formes liée à leur usure, leur abrasion ou leur lacune, disparaissant peu à peu dans le mouvement de la densité urbaine. Ces couches successives dans l'asphalte apparaissent alors comme un miroir archéologique de nos vies citadines. Un lien spirituel avec le parcours de la grand-mère de l'artiste, Marie-Thérèse Ullens, qui était une voyageuse, photographe, cinéaste et archéologue.

Yves Ullens travaille sur la série *Urban Traces Project* depuis 2005 en parallèle à son travail photographique abstrait. Dans cette série, l'abstraction n'est plus obtenue grâce au mouvement de l'appareil mais par le sujet lui-même. Toujours à la recherche de la lumière et de la couleur, l'artiste compose ses images en référence à la peinture. Cette série des traces rappelle tout particulièrement l'art brut et notamment les expérimentations poétiques de Jean Dubuffet intitulées *Topographie*, *Texturologies* ou *Matériologies* des années 50. Une poésie puisée dans les textures éphémères de notre quotidien.

L'artiste invite ainsi le spectateur à rêver et à laisser vagabonder son imagination et ses émotions dans les formes abstraites urbaines dévoilées à grande échelle.

Né en 1960, Yves Ullens vit et travaille à Bruxelles. Il a commencé sa carrière d'artiste à 40 ans après une carrière dans le marketing et les télécommunications. Depuis les années 2000, il a participé à de nombreuses expositions collectives et personnelles, ainsi qu'à des foires internationales. Ses œuvres sont présentes dans de prestigieuses collections privées et publiques en Belgique et à l'étranger. À partir de 2011, il a étendu son travail vers d'autres médias tels que les installations monumentales, le design et la sculpture toujours en lien avec la photographie abstraite.

Pour information, le travail d'Yves Ullens vient d'être exposé au Mark Rothko Art Centre à Daugavpils en Lettonie du 22 septembre au 5 novembre 2017.

MM Gallery is pleased to unveil to the public for the first time the series of photographs *Urban Traces Project* by the Belgian artist Yves Ullens. This set of prints is a continuation of an aesthetic reflection on abstraction, focusing in particular on the effects of structures, textures and colors taken from the urban environment. The artist stops his gaze on insignificant details and yet very present in our daily life. *Urban Traces Project* consists of a set of detailed images of pedestrian crossings or ground markings of megacities around the world (New York, Paris, Brussels, London, Barcelona, Shanghai ...).

At first glance, these traces on the ground may seem very similar and yet, by taking a closer look at these city footprints, the artist reveals a great variety of colors and shapes linked to their wear, abrasion or gap, disappearing little by little in the movement of urban density. These successive layers in asphalt then appear as an archaeological mirror of our urban lives. A spiritual bond with the journey of the artist's grandmother, Marie-Thérèse Ullens, who was a traveler, photographer, filmmaker and archaeologist.

Yves Ullens has been working on the *Urban Traces Project* series since 2005 in parallel to his abstract photographic work. In this series, abstraction is no longer obtained by the movement of the camera but by the subject itself. Always in search of light and color, the artist composes his images in reference to painting. This series of traces is particularly reminiscent of the art brut and especially the poetic experiments of Jean Dubuffet entitled *Topography*, *Texturology* or *Materials* in the 1950s. A poetry drawn from the ephemeral textures of our everyday life.

The artist invites the viewer to dream and let his imagination and emotions wander through the abstract urban forms unveiled on a large scale.

Born in 1960, Yves Ullens lives and works in Brussels. He began his career as an artist at age 40 after a career in marketing and telecommunications. Since the 2000s, he has participated in numerous collective and personal exhibitions, as well as in international fairs. His works are present in prestigious private and public collections in Belgium and abroad. As of 2011, he has extended his work to other media such as monumental installations, design and sculpture always in connection with abstract photography.

For information, Yves Ullens' work has just been exhibited at the Mark Rothko Art Centre in Daugavpils, Latvia from 22 September to 5 November 2017.

RESUME

Born in 1960 in Brussels (Belgium). Lives and works in Brussels.
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Solo Exhibitions (selection)

2017	<i>Urban Traces Project</i> , MM Gallery (Brussels) <i>Tribute</i> , Mark Rothko Art Centre (Daugavpils, Latvia) <i>Cosmic Illusions</i> , Le 13 (Brussels), curated by ALVARI
2016	Cercle Royal Gaulois Artistique & Littéraire (Brussels)
2015	Uptown Design, curated by Kuntz Moureau, Natan (Brussels) <i>Inside Treasures</i> , Espace Casina-Dominique Rigo (Brussels), curated by K. Moureau
2014	<i>Scent of Abstract</i> , Rossi Contemporary gallery (Brussels) - catalogue
2013	<i>Inside Outside</i> , Pascal Janssens Gallery (Ghent), with Marta Pan <i>The Rhythm of Lights</i> , in “La Vitrine” of Jean Brolly Gallery (Paris)
2012	<i>Fascinating light</i> (retrospective), Galerie L'Indépendance, BIL (Luxembourg), curated by Caroline Bouchard - catalogue <i>Yves Ullens</i> , Ponyhof artclub gallery (Munich)
2011	<i>Beautiful Lights</i> , Galerie Loft (Paris), with Chen Man <i>10.50 Uccle</i> (retrospective), Centre Culturel d’Uccle (Brussels)
2010	<i>Coloured Dreams</i> , Liaigre Benelux (Brussels) <i>Colours & Seas</i> , Young Gallery (Knokke, Belgium)
2009	<i>Further Enchanted</i> , Smets Ellipse (Kirchberg, Luxemburg) - catalogue <i>Enchantment and Mystery</i> , Pascal Janssens Gallery (Ghent)
2008	<i>Together</i> , Yves Ullens & Pascal Courcelles, Porsche Life House (Brussels)
2007	<i>No Limits</i> , Young Gallery (Brussels)
2006	<i>Full Colours</i> , Alexia Goethe Gallery (London) - catalogue
2004	<i>Color Changes</i> , Galerie Guy Ledune (Brussels)
2003	<i>Water & Light Vibrations</i> , Ethnic Design Gallery (Miami) - catalogue <i>Photo-graphiques</i> , Loft 9 (Brussels) <i>Etats de Lumières</i> , Young Gallery (Brussels) - catalogue
2002	Bl@Bla & Gallery (Brussels)
2001	Belgacom Towers (Brussels) <i>Entrez dans la Lumière du IIIe Millénaire</i> , Gallery (Brussels)

Group Exhibitions (selection)

2017	Abstraction Group Show, MM Galery, (Brussels)
2016	<i>Matières</i> – SpotUArt Gallery (Tervuren, Belgium) Hong Kong Belgium Week, organized by the Belgian Embassy (Hong Kong, China) <i>Autour de l’Art</i> - Rasson Art Gallery (Tournai, Belgium)
2015	<i>294</i> , Avenue Louise 294 (Brussels), curated by Alex Alvari <i>Color Your Life</i> , Quincaillerie van AA (Brussels) curated by SpotUArt
2014	Up Site (Brussels) curated by SpotUArt
2013	<i>Mythiq 27</i> , Espace Cardin (Paris) - catalogue
2010	Pascal Janssens Gallery (Ghent) <i>Architects-artists encounters</i> , Galerie Horta (Brussels) <i>En corps et encore</i> , Suty Gallery (Coye-la-Forêt, France) <i>Ché Guevara</i> , Espace Art 22 (Brussels)
2009	<i>Ché</i> , Galerie Suty (Rennes) et Triptyque (Angers, France) - catalogue <i>Ché: du héros au culte de la marque</i> , Galerie Suty (Coye-la-Forêt, France) - catalogue

2008	<i>Quel avenir pour le futur ?</i> , Le Foyer (Leudelange, Luxemburg) - catalogue
2006	<i>Story</i> , Alexia Goethe Gallery (London) <i>Color Summer</i> , Young Gallery (Brussels) <i>Festival International de la Photo de mer</i> (Vannes, France)
2005	<i>Light Expressions</i> , ARTespace Gallery (Brussels)
2004	Deurlica Gallery (Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium)
2001	Vivendi Gallery (Paris) Bortier Gallery (Brussels)
2013 to 2015	L’Accueil, Châtelain 18 (Brussels)
2009 to 2012	L’Accueil, Pierre Bergé auction house (Brussels)
2003 to 2008	L’Accueil, Xavier Hufkens Gallery (Brussels)

Art Fairs (selection)

2017	Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary, Los Angeles, Mark Hachem Gallery Palm Beach Jewelry, Los Angeles, Mark Hachem Gallery Scope New York, New York, Mark Hachem Gallery
2016	Art Miami (Miami, USA), Mark Hachem Gallery Photo Shanghai (Shanghai, China), Samuel Maenhoudt Gallery
2014	Art Paris (France), Pascal Janssens Gallery Art 14 (London, UK), Pascal Janssens Gallery
2013	Art Paris (France), Pascal Janssens Gallery
2009	Lineart (Ghent, Belgium), Pascal Janssens Gallery
2007	Liste Köln (Germany), Young Gallery
2006	Art London (UK), Alexia Goethe Gallery
2004	Geneva Palexpo (Switzerland), special guest

Awards

2011	Winner of the BKCP Bank competition leading to the realisation of <i>Metamorphosis</i> , monumental photographic installation, BKCP Headquarters, Brussels.
2008	Hasselblad Masters, semi-finalist.

Major orders and events

2015	<i>Triple Harmony</i> , multimedia installation for the board of directors room in RTL Group (Brussels).
2014	W.Z.C. Mariahuis (Gavere), first association of photographs and Comic Strip technics.
2013	<i>Crescend’O</i> , monumental photo-sculpture installation in ChromaLuxe, Beobank Headquarters (Brussels).
2011	<i>Metamorphosis</i> , monumental photo-installation, BKCP Headquarters (Brussels)

Collections

Belgium :	Auday, Beobank, BKCP, Brederode, Degand, Formar (Garmin), Immocobel, McKinsey & Company, Pernod-Ricard Belux, Degroof-Petercam, Puilaetco Dewaay and RTL.
Abroad :	Mark Rothko Art Centre (Daugavpils, Latvia), Belgian Embassy in Tokyo (Japan) and in Kigali (Rwanda), Banque du Luxembourg,Foire de Genève, Le Foyer Assurances and Color Center.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Exhibitions catalogues and monographs

2015 *Yves Ullens. Scent of Abstract*, artist's book published on the occasion of the exhibition at Rossi Contemporary, limited to 100 copies, Brussels, 2015 (texts of Bernard Drion)

2012 *Yves Ullens. Fascinating Lights*, BIL editions (Banque Internationale à Luxembourg), Luxemburg. (texts by François Pauly, Caroline Bouchard)

2009 Exhibitions *Haute Couture* collection and *Just Ready to Wear* collection by Yves Ullens, Smets Ellipse et Smets Concept Store, Kirchberg & Strassen, Luxemburg. (text by Christine De Naeyer)

2006 Yves Ullens. *Full Colours*, Alexia Goethe Gallery, London. (text by Christine De Naeyer)
Yves Ullens de Schooten, Rond-point des Arts editions, coll. Monographie d'artiste, Brussels. (texts by Sophie Dauwe & Jean-Jacques Serol, Christine De Naeyer).

2003 *Water & Light Vibrations*, Ethnic Design editions, Miami. (Text by Bernard Drion du Chapois)
Yves Ullens de Schooten. Etats de Lumières, Young Gallery, Brussels. (Text by Bernard Drion du Chapois)

Group exhibitions catalogues

2013 *Mythiq 27*, Gotham Lab – Ysam Suty editions, France, p. 66-67 (text by Yann Suty).

2011 *ART, INC.*, Collections d'entreprises au Luxembourg, art contemporain.lu editions, p. 277, 280 and 335.

2009 *The border 09*, Contemporary art zone, Lineart, Ghent, p. 50-51.
Triptyque, Art contemporain, Angers, p. 216.
@he du héros culte au culte de marque, Suty editions, France, p. 33.
Paul Zelanski and Mary Pat Fisher, Colour, 6th edition, Prentice Hall, London, p. 2 and 89.

2008 *Quel avenir pour le futur ?*, Foyer Patrimonium editions, Luxemburg, p. 114-131.

2006 *Festival International de la Photo de Mer*, Vannes, p.36-37.

2004 Geneva Fair Palexpo, Geneva, p. 40.

Press (selection)

2015 Paris-Match Belgique, n° 175, December 17th - 26th.
Juliette & Victor Magazine, n° 48, April – May, Belgium, p. 37.
“Inside Treasures” by Kuntz Moureau in Villas, n° 90, Belgium.
Gaël Belgium, September, p. 189.
Extra Maxx (Sud Presse), August.
“Uptown Design 2015, a limited edition” in Gentleman, June.

2012 “Let there be light !” by Frédéric Jarry in BigBook Brussels, Summer, p. 68-71.

2011 “Les étranges images d’Yves Ullens” in Wolvendael, n° 568, Belgium, p. 8.

2010 “Yves Ullens colorie les rêves” in La Libre Essentielle Focus, 27th - 28th November, p. 28.
“Art and the City” by Raoul Buyle in Elle Déco Belgique, June, p. 80.

2009 “Yves Ullens. Enchantment and Mystery” by Christine De Naeyer in ISEL Levenkunst/l'Art de Vivre, n° 29, mars – avril, p. 24 and 111.
“Yves Ullens. Enchantment and Mystery” in Arte News, April, p. 7.

2007 “Yves Ullens de Schooten. Le plasticien des lumières” by Sophie Dauwe and Jean-Jacques Serol in Places to be, September, p. 68-69.
“No Limits à la Young Gallery” by Magali Eylenbosch in Guest Magazine, n°1, April, p. 154-155.
“Le passeur de lumières ” in Weekend, Le Vif, L'Express, March 2, p. 70.
“Traqueur de lumières. Yves Ullens à la Young Gallery ” in La Libre Match, March 15 - 21, p. 114.
“No Limits” in Elle Deco, n°162, April, p. 18.
“Yves Ullens de Schooten. No Limits ” in L'Eventail, n°4, April, p. 99.

2006 “Yves Ullens à la Young Gallery” in Arte News, March, p. 10.
“No Limits” in Steps Magazine, February 26-March 11, p. 30.
“Mers en Lumières” in Vannes Mag, March-April, p. 14.
“Festival de la Photo de Mer : le jour des clichés ” in Le Télégramme, April 15, p. 17.

2005 “The Light Fantastic” in Canon Professional Services, online magazine, n° 13.
“Yves Ullens de Schooten : Light Expressions ” in Arte News, December, p. 10.

2004 “Yves Ullens de Schooten Traqueur de Lumières” by Geoffroy d’Ursel in L’Eventail, April, p. 57-59.
“Yves Ullens de Schooten : Color Changes” in Arte News, June, p. 81.
“Côté création contemporaine” in Evènement Art 2005, December, p. 30-33.
“Peintre ou Photographe ?” by Sophie Dauwe et Jean-Jacques Serol in Arte News, December, p. 40-43.
“Yves Ullens de Schooten et Thomas Defays” by Geoffroy d’Ursel in Les Tribunes du Prestige, n° 3, January-February, p. 85-86.

Audiovisual medias (TV, video, DVD, radio)

2015 RCF Liège radio, “C’est l’heure du goûter” hosted by Philippe Cochinaux, December 15, from 16:30 to 17:30.
Bx FM radio, hosted by Philippe Sala and Barbara Delleur, Monday October 5, from 12:00 to 13:00.
Le Centre FM radio, “Décibelge”, hosted by Harmonie Rouffiange, Friday October 9, at 18:00.

2014 *Yves Ullens. Crescend’O*, documentary on DVD, produced and directed by Studio 77, Brussels, 7min. (conception, production and installation of the monumental photo-sculpture at BeoBank in Brussels).

2012 *Yves Ullens. Wonders of Light*, documentary on DVD, produced and directed by Emove (Gauthier Demaret & Lofti Bendimered), Brussels, 17min.

2011 *Murmures de Lumières. Yves Ullens*, documentary on DVD, produced and directed by Emove (Gauthier Demaret & Lofti Bendimered), Brussels, 12min41s (Installation of the monumental work *Metamorphosis* at BKCP in Brussels).

2010 RTL info, New Belgium Embassy in Pékin

2007 Move-on TV, reportage, 4min15s

2006 L’Hebdo (France 3 Ouest, French regional TV), interview, 4min15

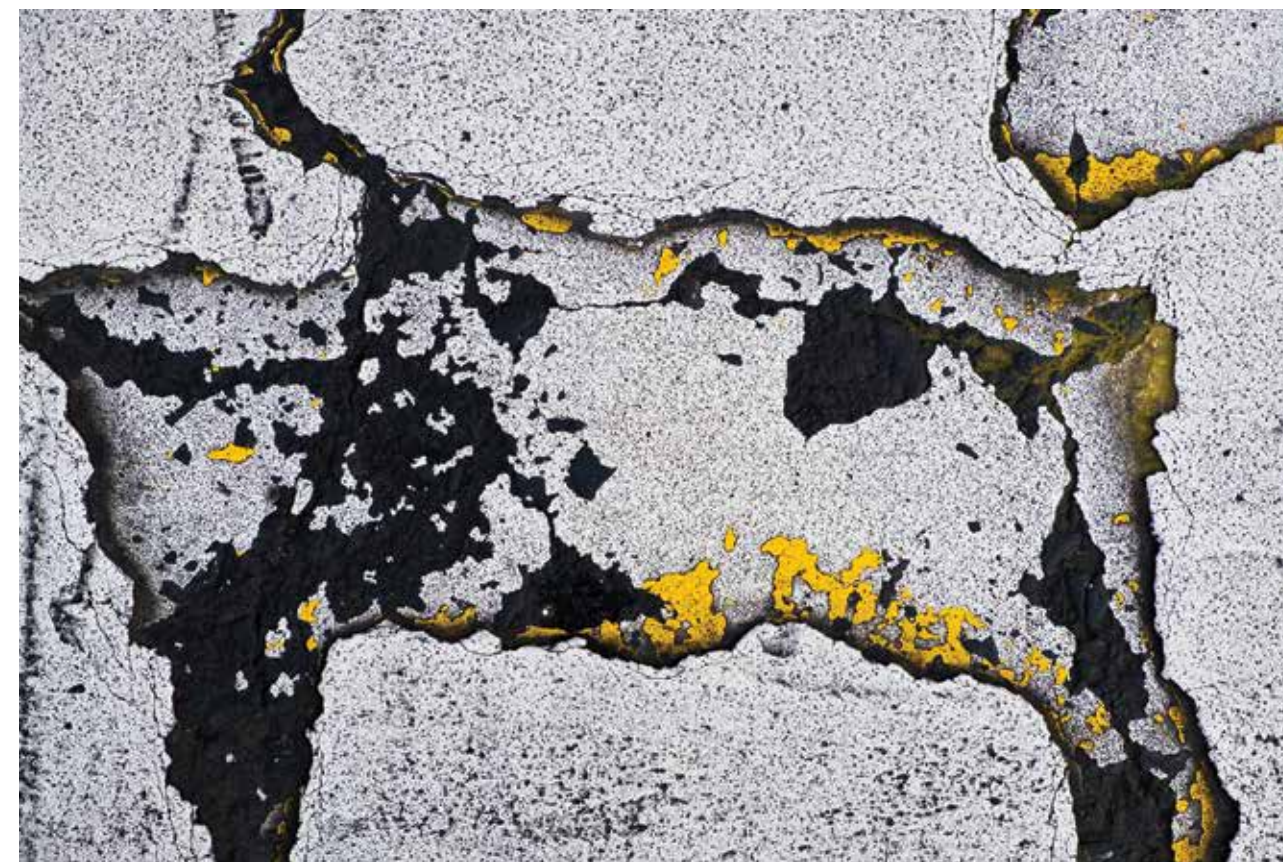
2003 Ethnic Design Gallery Miami, video, 1min



Exhibition View : *Yves Ullens, Fascinating Lights*, Galerie l'Indépendance, Banque Internationale à Luxembourg (BIL), Luxembourg, October 2012-January 2013



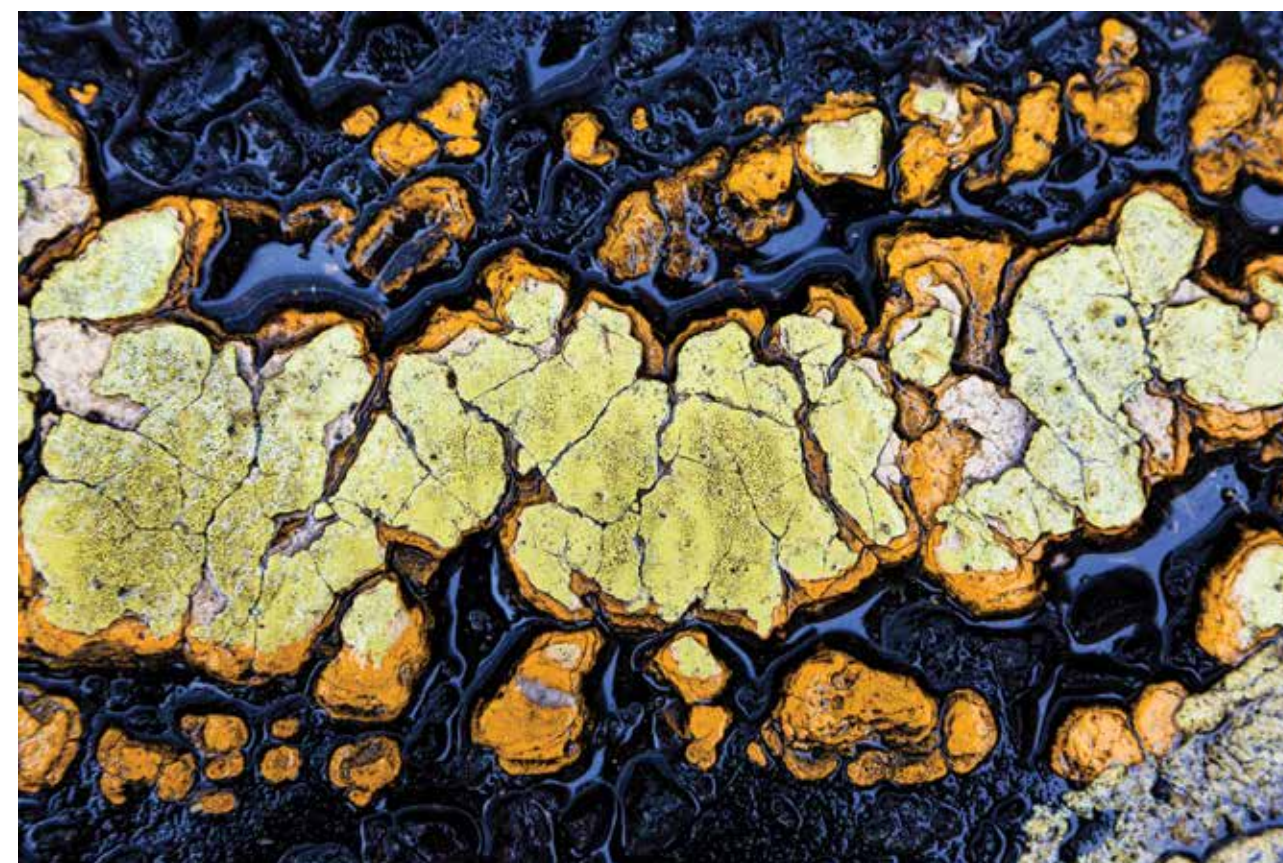
Urban Trace #55, Sion (Switzerland), 2015
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/1, 100 x 150 cm
 edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



Urban Trace #61, Las Palmas (Grand Canaria, Spain), 2017
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/1, 100 x 150 cm
 edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



Urban Trace #50, Saint-Tropez (France), 2014
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 120 x 80 cm
 edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 90 x 60 cm

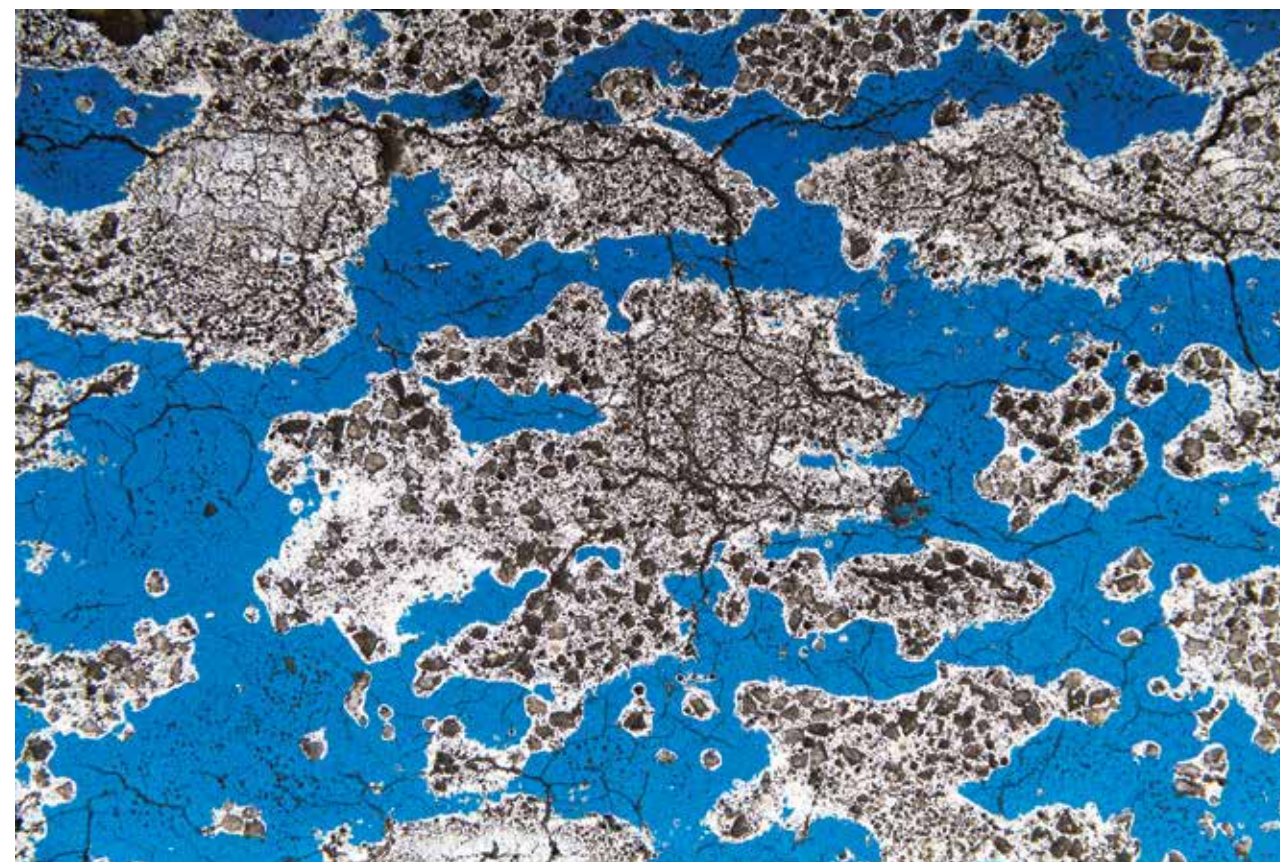


Urban Trace #16, London (United Kingdom), 2009
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
 edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



Urban Trace #31, New York (USA), 2012

Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
 edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



Urban Trace #35, Milan (Italy), 2013

Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
 edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



Urban Trace #19, Saint Tropez (France), 2011
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
 edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



Urban Trace #52, Shanghai (China), 2014
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 90 x 60 cm
 edition of 3 (+ 2 A.P.), 120 x 80 cm



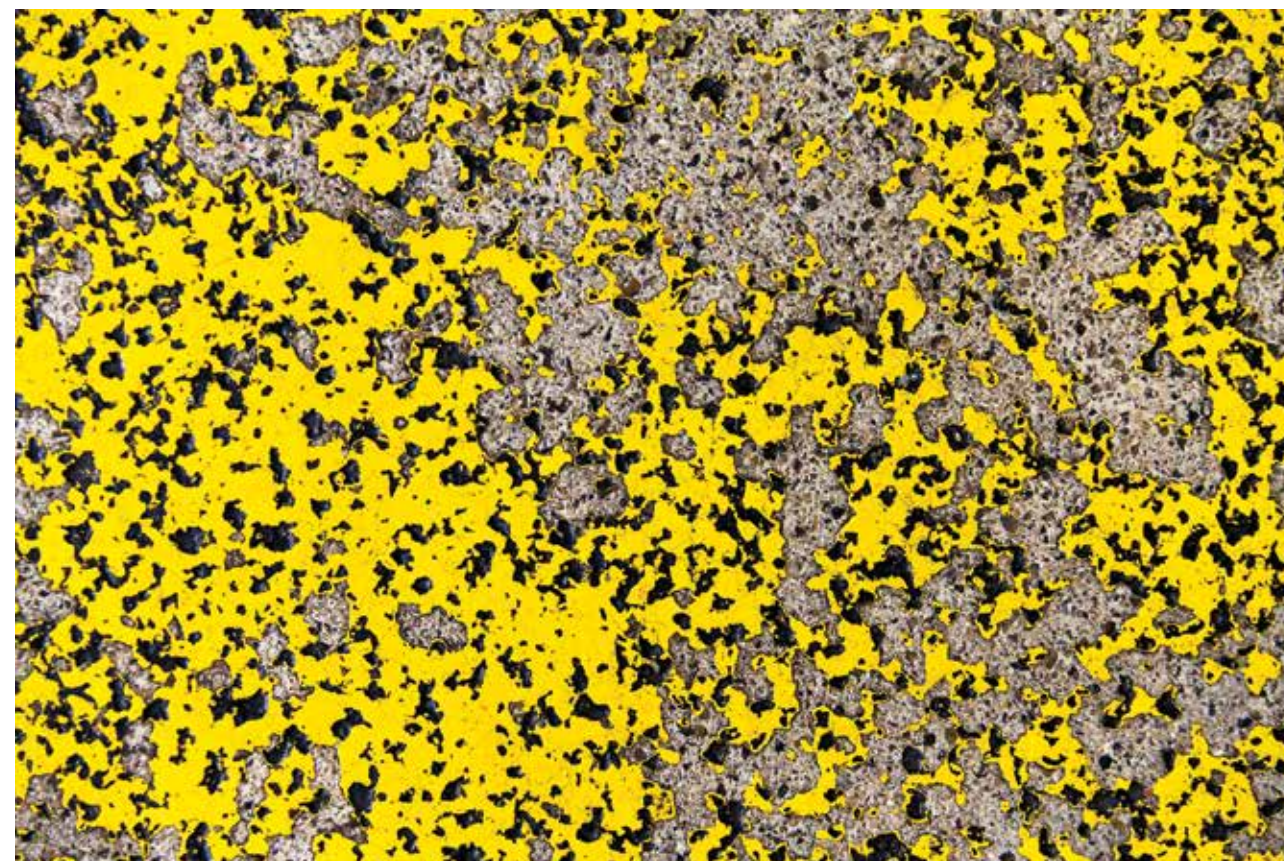
Urban Trace #20, Beijing (China), 2012
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm
 edition of 3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm



Urban Trace #15, London (United Kingdom), 2009
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm
 edition of 3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm



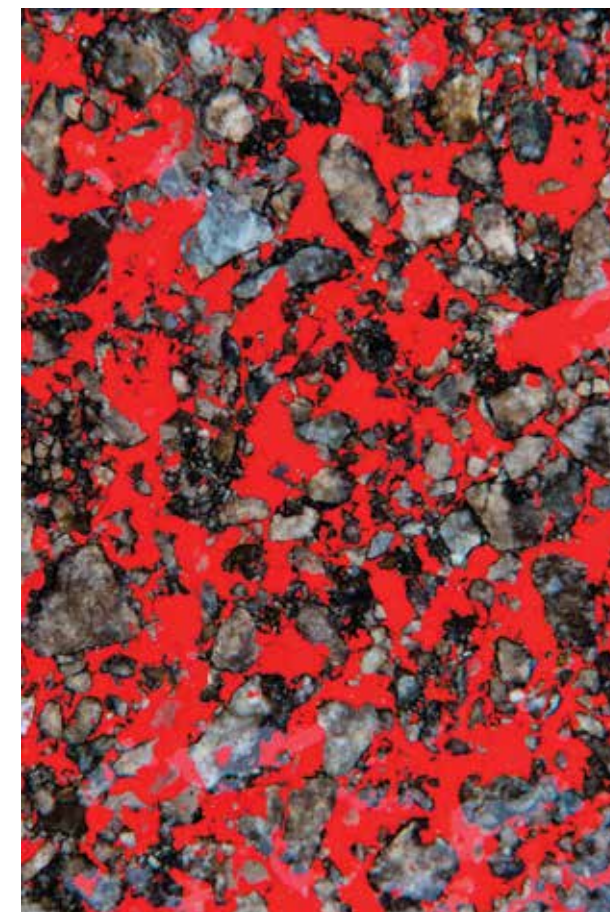
Urban Trace #60, Luxemburg (Luxemburg), 2016
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm
 edition of 3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm



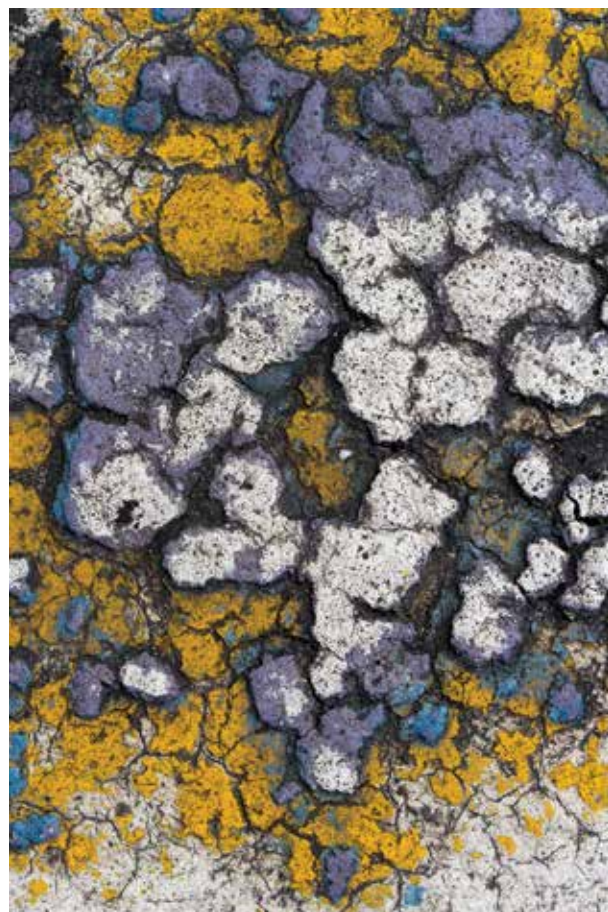
Urban Trace #28, Paris (France), 2012
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
 edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



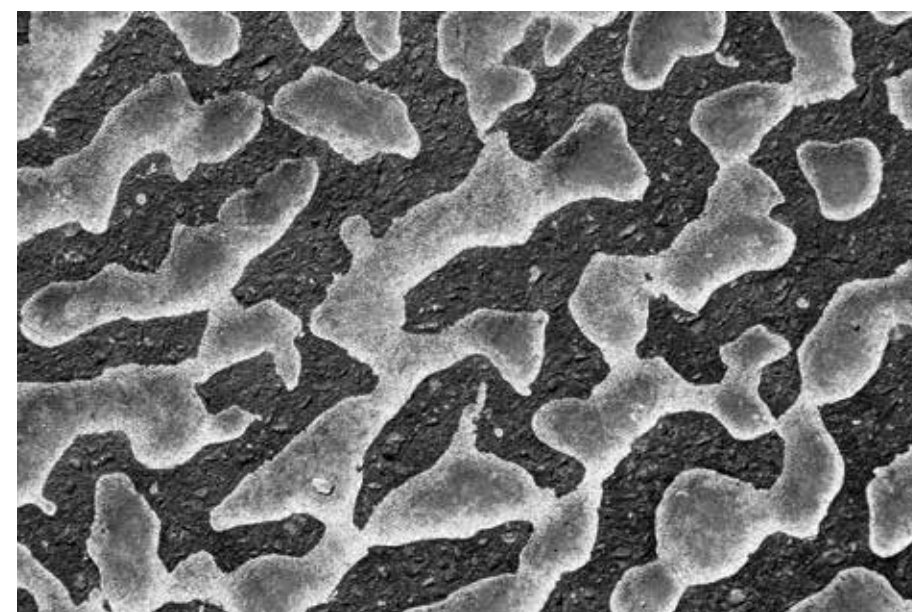
Urban Trace #11, Saint Tropez (France), 2008
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 40 x 60 cm



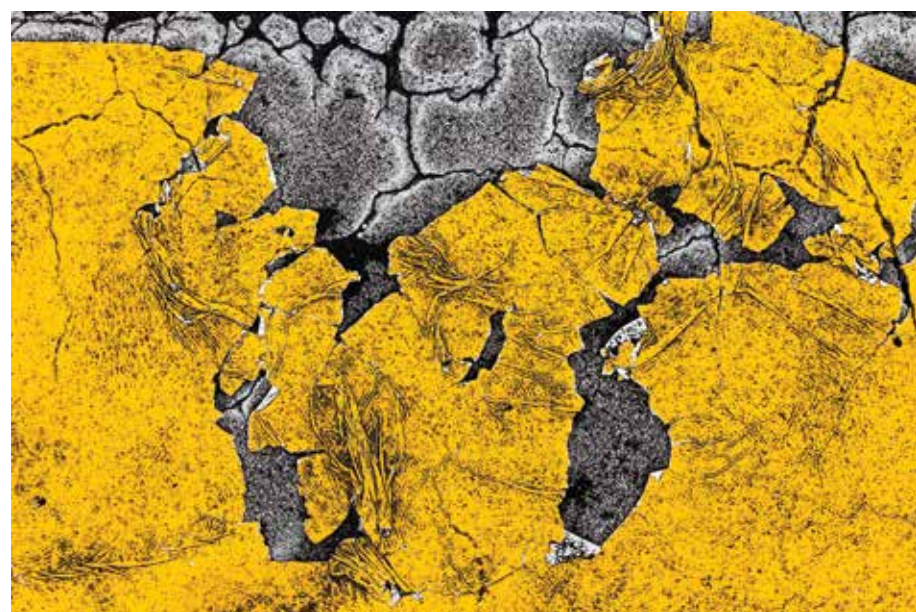
Urban Trace #56, Sion (Switzerland), 2015
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 40 cm



Urban Trace #45, Brussels (Belgium), 2013
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 40 cm



Urban Trace #2, Paris (France), 2005
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 40 x 60 cm



Urban Trace #33, Paris (France), 2012
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 40 x 60 cm



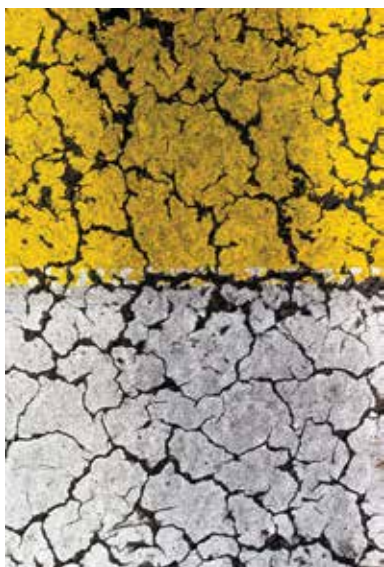
Urban Trace #32, Geneva (Switzerland), 2012
 Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame,
 1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 40 cm



Urban Trace #6, Brussels (Belgium), 2008



Urban Trace #39, Jerez de la Frontera (Spain) 2013



Urban Trace #47, Basel (Switzerland), 2014



Urban Trace #14, London (UK), 2009



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