

Is photography art? Yes it is ...

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Abstract

As a photographer myself I think photography is very important, it learns you to see things differently.

- To see how people live differently
- How cities are different from continent to continent.
- How light can be different from region to region.
- How colors can be so typical for some parts in the world.

One must learn to see, one must try to find images which most of the people don't see.

Keywords: Exlibris, photography, art



When photography becomes art

Since Bauhaus, in the twenties, photography has become much more than a caption of reality.

You could say that photography is always a reflection of reality, but if you take this reality as a starting point, it can be developed into an interpretation of reality. In that case it can be defined as art.

Take Henri Cartier-Bresson for example.

He used the term 'Le moment décisif', in English: "the decisive moment".

These two pictures are a perfect example for this 'decisive moment'.

Both images elevate the simple recording of reality.

The location of the movement compared to the context forms a tension. It creates a feeling of discomfort.

A sudden dynamic is been created out of a still image. The correct framing of the moving biker in between the curved pavement and stairs underlines this dynamic.



I used this interpretation of reality as a source of inspiration.

It was Cartier Bresson who inspired me in making the following set 'Movement'.

Movement

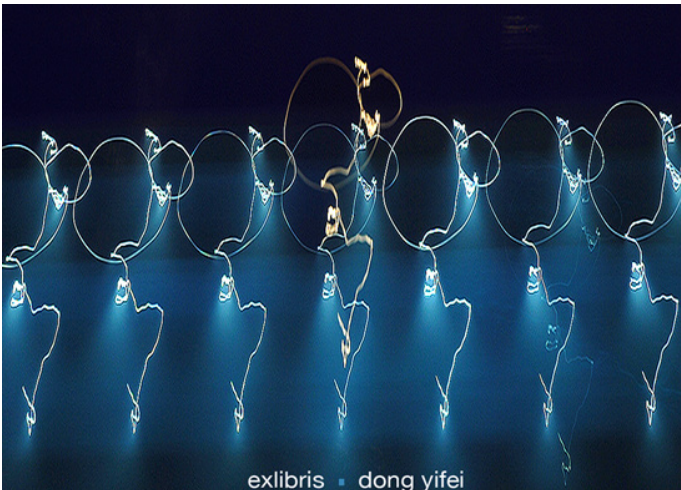
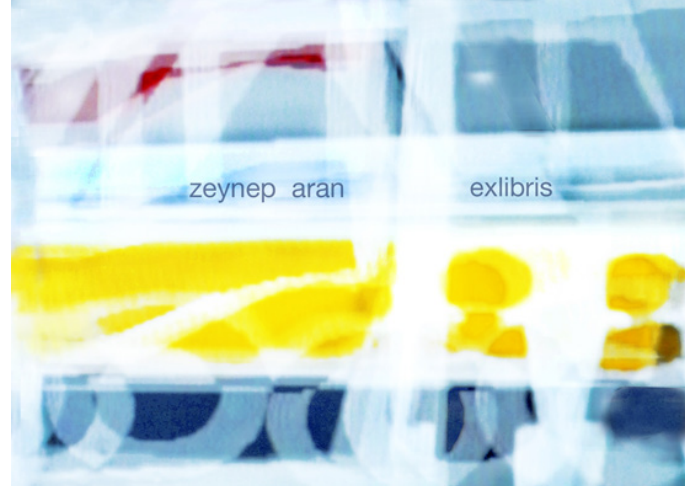
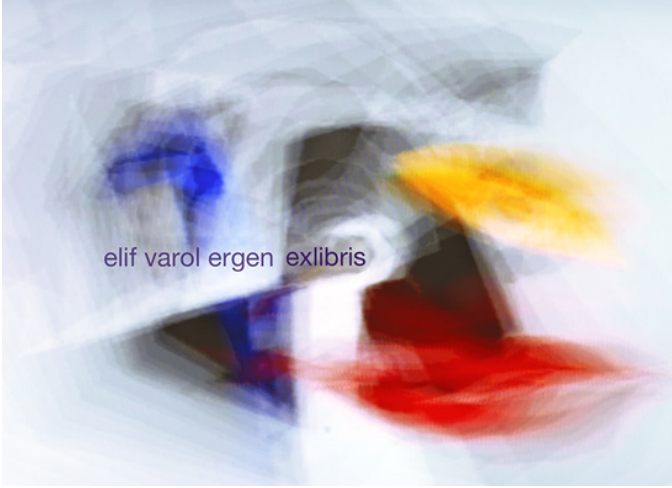
Besides movement, the color pallet plays a significant role.

I feel like a painting photographer. I paint images with light and colors.

Dream and reality come together as a unity.



I invite the observer to look at these images and release his own imagination.



Every shot has its story.

Here, you see the result of a view I had one evening from my hotel window.

I saw a beautiful alighted pool, wherein a vacuum cleaner moved up and down.

I took my camera and shot this picture with a very slow shutter speed.



This image was taken along the banks of Niagara Falls, on the border of The United States and Canada.



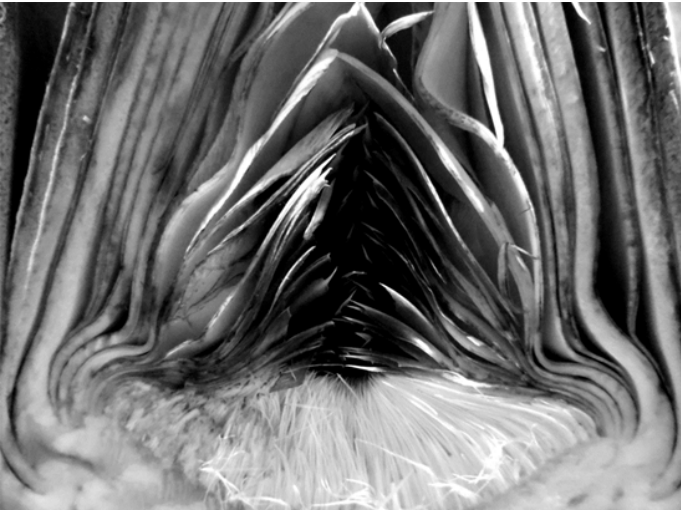
Abstraction

For the set 'Abstraction', the American photographer Edward Weston has influenced my work. Weston was born in 1886 and passed away in 1956.

Artichoke 1930

Seeing this image of an artichoke, one would lose the illusion of looking at a vegetable.

Weston spoke a new language, the language of imagination.



Peperone 1929

Weston sees in this image of a paprika, a subtle sometimes-erotic image.

Leaf 1931

About his picture of a cabbage he wrote:
I feel the whole mystery of the spirit of life running through this cabbage.

In the set of ex-libris 'Abstraction', reality gets transformed into abstraction.

I try to fascinate and to surprise the viewer, I try to compose my images in such a way you cannot see their origin anymore.

They are images on their own and they get a new meaning given by the imagination of the viewer.





As an artist, starting from a blank page using his pencil or brush to create a composition, I work in a similar way. I start with a blank image, filling it with a composition from my own. By taking the image out of its original context, the image gets a new meaning.



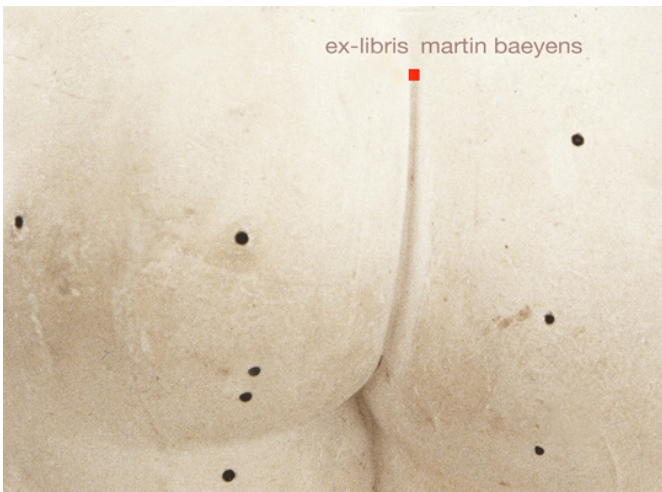
This picture is a fragment of a parliaments building in Chandigarh in India, designed by Le Corbusier.

It is a detail of the building. The new composition forms an estranged image created by color and light.

53

These are detailed pictures taken from an airplane in the film studio's in Ouarzazate, Morocco.

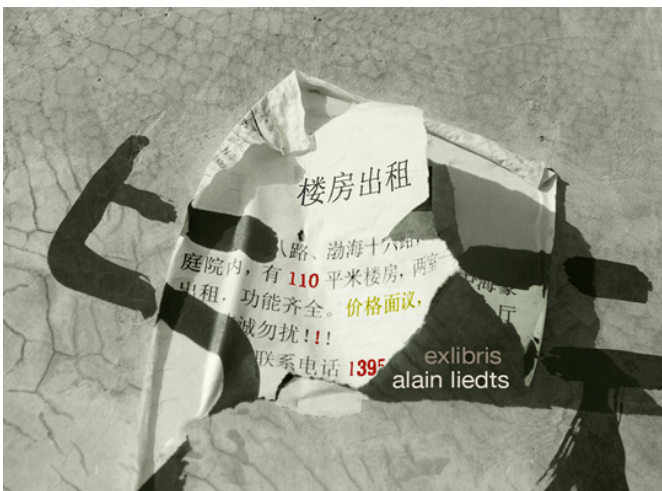




This picture from Martin Baeyens ex-libris is a capture of a Plastered sculpture of Canova in Posagno Italy

To end this series, the ex-libris from Alain Liedts and Jiri Brazda.

Fragments of torn posters. I took this shot on the fence of a construction site in Chengdu, China.



54 —

self composed images

In this series I go a step further.

Here, photography is the start for the creation of a poetic image.

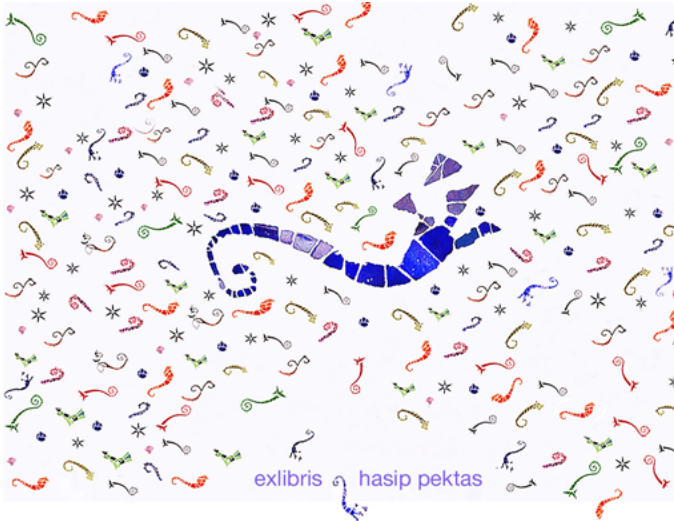
The main goal for the viewer is to take its time to read my image and to discover new details.





On a first observation the image can be seen as a setting, a décor.

Looking more closely, you will see that tiny details give these images a deeper meaning



Before leaving for Barcelona I already had this ex -libris for Hasip in mind.

I would revisit Park Guell. I took many pictures of the ceramics on the benches in the park.

I photographed these many little ornaments, glittering in the sun, and then I created a new composition with each element.

It became a poetic story, a story that never ends and restarts again and again..

55 —



So, is photography art ?

.....Yes it is!

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