

PRESS RELEASE

November 2018

ART CINEMA IN COLLABORATION WITH

JIMEI X ARLES INTERNATIONAL PHOTO FESTIVAL PRESENT:

“THE UNFINISHED: LEE MCQUEEN”¹
BY ANN RAY

Curator Sam Stourdze
Co-producer Myriam Blundell Phillips

NOVEMBER 23RD 2018 – JANUARY 2ND 2019
Opening weekend: November 23rd 2018 – November 25th 2018

Jimei Citizen Square
Main Exhibition Hall
Jimei District, Xiamen,
China

“I want to tell the truth about Lee, the truth of Lee: He was a man of art, of great beauty. He asked me to photograph everything, anything, without boundaries, with an open heart. Lee was not really a fashion designer, nor an artist: he was truly and simply a poet. Far beyond the fashion world, I want to demystify the overly reductive view the public has of him, and bring to light the intricate facets of a wonderful and complex man. It is impossible to understand the œuvre without understanding the man. This is the man as I knew: this is the truth of the legend”

Ann Ray

“The Unfinished: Lee McQueen”, an exhibition of photography, moving image and mixed media featuring for the first time ever a selection of works by French artist Ann Ray, selected from her extensive photographic archives documenting her close friendship and creative collaboration with the late icon of British Fashion, Lee Alexander McQueen, between 1997, when they first met at Givenchy Ateliers in Paris, until his tragic passing in 2010 in London.

Curated by Sam Stourdze², the show explores, on the one hand, Lee’s incommensurable legacy through the study of his artistic inclinations and inspirations; and, on the other hand, the friendship and creative collaboration between Lee and Ray. Thirteen chapters portray the genius and graceful spirit that animated the two artists, leading to some of the most iconic pictures of our time.

¹ English translation from the original title in French: *Les Inachevés, Lee McQueen*

² Artistic director of the Festival des Rencontres Photographiques de Arles

The deeply moving portraiture Ray makes of Lee is depicted in a selection of 169 artworks including photographic silver prints, collages, montages and other photographic processes inspired by the 19th century -Pictorialism movement.

The show features a black-box screening room showcasing a 12 minutes moving image work made of still photography, with a score by British composer Michael Nyman. The viewer is invited to embark on a journey of celebration on Lee's life, hopes and fears.

A 192-page publication/exhibition catalogue, entitled "LES INACHEVES", is available to accompany the show and is printed in an edition of 2000 copies. (Published by Art Cinema)

Art Cinema wishes to thank 23 Capital, La Mode en Image, and the Florence & Damien Bachelot Collection for their generous support.

About Ann Ray

Born in Brest, Ray studied photography and film at Central Saint Martin in the early nineties and graduated with a Master degree. From 1995 to 1997 she worked for clients such as Cartier, Givenchy, Elle, Marie Claire and La Seine. In 1997 she started taking portraits for The Times, a collaboration which lasted for over 10 years. During this time she entered into a creative collaboration with Lee Alexander McQueen, a collaboration which resulted in the creation of a photographic archives of 40 000 silver photos taken over 13 years. She is currently engaged with the Opera de Paris and the Metropolitan Opera. Her work has been acquired by a number of private and public art collection including the Victoria and Albert Museum, The Bachelot Collection, Art Pradier and Carmagniac Foundation. She lives in Paris.

Selected Works

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| 2018 | «Les Inachevés» - The Unfinished, Lee McQueen, a publication of photography to accompany the exhibition, Les Rencontres d'Arles |
| 2017 | «Conversations» – 2 short films about William Forsythe & Merce Cunningham, Opéra de Paris |
| 2016 | «I love Writing for People I love» – Film about renowned composer Nico Muhly, Opéra de Paris |
| 2014 | «Metamorphosis» - short film - with Aurélie Dupont & Jeremie Belingard, FIT, NY |
| 2012 | «Love looks not with the eyes: 13 years with Alexander McQueen: Publication of Photography, Abrams Publishing |
| 2012 | «La Source» with Christian Lacroix. Publication, Actes Sud. |
| 2011 | «24 hours in a Man's Life» Art Film premiere at the Opera de la Bastille |
| 2008 | «Nicholas Le Riche» - 6 years with the celebrated dancer from Paris Opera: Publication of Photography |

The Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival

The fourth Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival will take place in Xiamen from 23 November 2018 to 2 January 2019. Co-created in 2015 by pioneer Chinese photographer RongRong (founder of China's first ever photography museum Three Shadows Photography Art Centre) and Sam Stourdzé, the director of the world's most important international photo festival, Rencontres d'Arles (France), Jimei x Arles has grown to become an unmissable event for photo lovers in China in just three years, attracting more than 160,000 visitors (60,000 in 2017). During his first official visit to China in January 2018, French President Emmanuel Macron recognized Jimei x Arles festival as a unique example of Sino-French cultural cooperation.

Co-produced by Three Shadows Photography Art Centre and Xiamen's Jimei District - Tianxia Jimei Media, the festival's art direction is ensured by Bérénice Angremy and Victoria Jonathan, co-founders of cross-border art agency Doors. This year, the festival will boast 30 exhibitions and feature the work of 70 artists from the United States, France, Switzerland, Poland, Turkey, South Korea, Slovenia, and of course China.

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