

Jean Michel Berts

Despite a promising scientific career, Jean-Michel Berts chose a different path—to become a photographer. With his first Rolleiflex, he became sensitive to the effects of light. Since the eighties he has worked as a still life photographer for several well-known cosmetics and perfume brands. While involved in this field, he pursued a body of work with a more personal focus : to portray the essence of cities, reminding one of the grandeur of civilizations.

For more than 20 years, Jean Michel Berts has been working on very different themes. A decade ago in Vienna, Berts began a project focussed upon cities ; drawing inspiration from photographers such as Norman Parkinson and Hugo Schmölz. As Berts explains, « Architecture is the cultural and economic reflection of a society ». Berts' artistic imperative is to reveal to the viewer the whole subtlety and richness of the places he photographs. His choice of black and white only is very important to him and seemed inevitable to express his sensitivity. The photographs are taken early in the morning or at night, and the absence of human figures on his photographs allows Berts to focus on manmade constructions, giving them a life of their own.

The power of Jean-Michel Berts photographs also comes from his technique : using the Zone System of Ansel Adams, and with an exposure time between nine seconds and ten minutes, this method of overexposing negatives and under-developing them allows a stronger density, enhancing the contrast in black and white. From Paris to New York, and Venice to Tokyo, these sublimated cities take on a poetic, ethereal and dreamlike value through his eyes.

BIOGRAPHY

Jean Michel Berts has been a photographer since the age of 16, and has since gone on to gain international fame. Berts has been exposing at numerous art fairs : in Brussels, New York, Milan and Hong Kong. He has also worked on publicity campaigns for luxury brands including Lancôme and Dior, and has published an array of books for his city series, with the publisher Assouline.

EXHIBITIONS

2017
Dreaming New York, Solo show, K+Y Gallery, Paris
AAF Singapore

2015 - 2016
Envie d'Art Gallery, Paris / Londres,
AAF Singapore and New York

2014
AAF Hong Kong with Envie d'Art Galleries
"Jérusalem" exhibition , Envie d'Art Gallery, Paris 16e

2013
AAF Hong Kong with Envie d'Art Galleries
AAF New York
"Tokiyolith" exhibition, Envie d'Art Gallery, Paris 7e

2012
Gallery Istanbul Irem Kiney Light of Istanbul
London Art Fair
AAF Milan
Envie d'Art Gallery, Paris 8e

2011
AAF New York
AAF London
Group show Envie d'Art, London

2009-2010
Sous les Etoiles Gallery, New York

2008
Form Art Fair, London
Glasgow Art Fair
Linéart, Gent
Envie d'Art Gallery, Paris 16e

2007
Historical Library of the City of Paris
Las Vegas, Phoenix Editions
AAF New-York
Sous les Etoiles Gallery, New York

2006

French Embassy, Berlin
Exhibition of French art and crafts, Moscow
French Embassy, Liban
Wanted, Paris

2005
Camerawork, Hamburg
Artbrussel
Eric Frank Gallery
London Photo
Erick Frank Gallery, St Tropez
Contemporary Fine Art, Berlin
Q206 (Camerawork)

PUBLICATIONS

2012
"The Light of London", Assouline éditions
"The Light of Venice", Assouline éditions

2011
"The Light of Tokyo", Assouline éditions
"The Light of Istanbul", Assouline éditions

2007
"The Light of New York" Assouline éditions

2006
"The Light of Paris", Assouline éditions