

**GÉRARD RANCINAN**  
**THE DESTINY OF MEN**

OPERA GALLERY

# THE DESTINY OF MEN



Installation, Réfectoire des Cordeliers, Paris, 2016

No one can escape their nature, but everyone can transcend it. How can we challenge human destiny? It is this question that humanity has tirelessly attempted to answer over the course of its evolution. Today, for artists, the question is more pressing than ever.

If we had to represent the immaterial part of the Man – his thought, his desire for elevation and self-transcendence, his great curiosity, the intangible essence handed down from one person to another, from a parent to a child, or from a teacher to a pupil – we would perhaps look to an ancient iconographical tradition from the Byzantine era: the symbolism of the angel. Dating back to the mosaics of St. Sophia in Constantinople, the “heaven bound” angels of Giotto and those that Michelangelo freed from a block of marble, the anthropomorphic representation of the angel has always exerted a great fascination on artists.

As always with Gérard Rancinan, this series is about a symbolic Man and his fantasies, about his transcendence and his transgressions. There is no angelic moralizing. The Man is no choirboy; he has written his history through the force of his ambition and curiosity. He has invented botany, built libraries, seen the Earth from afar, landed a spacecraft on a comet 510 million kilometers from home. All this is true, yet people continue to ask themselves the eternal question – how should we raise a child?

Fourteen monumental photographs by Gérard Rancinan (seven to eight photographs made for the Accademia delle Arti e del Disegno in Florence) and a calligraphic installation by Caroline Gaudriault propose a modern interpretation of the symbology of the angel. The post-apocalyptic angel combines several different principles: good and evil, ethics and progress, spiritual and intellectual. He questions, now more than ever, the meaning that we should give to human history.





**The Annunciation, 2015**  
Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame, edition of 3, 180 x 272 cm - 70.9 x 107.1 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015  
The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016  
Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016



**Bird of Life, 2014**

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame,  
edition of 3 + 3 AP, 180 x 180 cm - 70.9 x 70.9 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015  
The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016  
Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016  
Base Sous-Marine, Bordeaux, France, September - December 2016



**Angel Birth, 2015**

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's  
frame, edition of 3, 180 x 180 cm - 70.9 x 70.9 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015  
The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016  
Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016





**The Feast of Crumbs, 2014**

Argentique print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame, edition of 3, 180 x 297 cm - 70.9 x 116.9 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015

The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016

Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016

Base Sous-Marine, Bordeaux, France, September-December 2016





**The Messenger I - II - III (triptych), 2014**

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame,  
edition of 6, 200 x 150 cm - 78.7 x 59.1 in (x3)

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**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015  
The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016  
Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016





**Market Scene, 2014**

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame  
edition of 3 + 3 AP, 180 x 235 cm - 70.9 x 92.5 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015

The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016

Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016

Base Sous-Marine, Bordeaux, France, September-December 2016



**Land of Men, 2014**

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame  
edition of 3 + 3 AP, 239 x 180 cm - 94.1 x 70.9 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015

The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016

Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016





**The Guide, 2014**

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame, edition of 3 + 3 AP,  
180 x 180 cm - 70.9 x 70.9 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015  
The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016  
Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016  
Base Sous-Marine, Bordeaux, France, September - December 2016



**The Warrior, 2014**

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame, edition of 3 + 3 AP,  
180 x 180 cm - 70.9 x 70.9 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015  
The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016  
Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016  
Base Sous-Marine, Bordeaux, France, September - December 2016





**The Struggle, 2014**

Argentinc print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame, edition of 3 + 3 AP, 180 x 279 cm - 70.9 x 109.8 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015  
The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016  
Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016





**The Party is over, 2014**

Argentic print mounted on plexiglas in artist's frame, edition of 3 + 3 AP, 180 x 250 cm - 70.9 x 98.4 in.

**Exhibitions**

Couvent des Cordeliers Art Centre, Paris, June 2015

The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016

Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016





**// DETAILS**  
**FINE ART PRINTS**





**The angry Angel and Mary - detail, 2015**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.



**Tattooed Angel - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.





**Love 10935 - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.



**Kiss 10835 - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.





**Lazarus - detail, 2015**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.



**The Decapitated Angel - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.





**The Messenger I - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.



**The Messenger II - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.



**The Messenger III - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.





**Market Scene - detail, 2014**

Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass

Unique piece

30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.





**The Warrior - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.



**The Struggle - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.



**The Guide - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, black wood frame with glass  
Unique piece  
30 x 30 cm - 11.8 x 11.8 in.





**Land of Men - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, gold molding wood frame  
Unique piece  
59 x 69 cm - 23.2 x 27.2 in.  
With frame 75 x 85 cm - 29.5 x 33.5 in.



**The Party is Over - detail, 2014**  
Fine Art Print, gold molding wood frame  
Unique piece  
27 x 36 cm - 10.6 x 14.2 in.  
With frame 62 x 75 cm - 24.4 x 29.5 in.

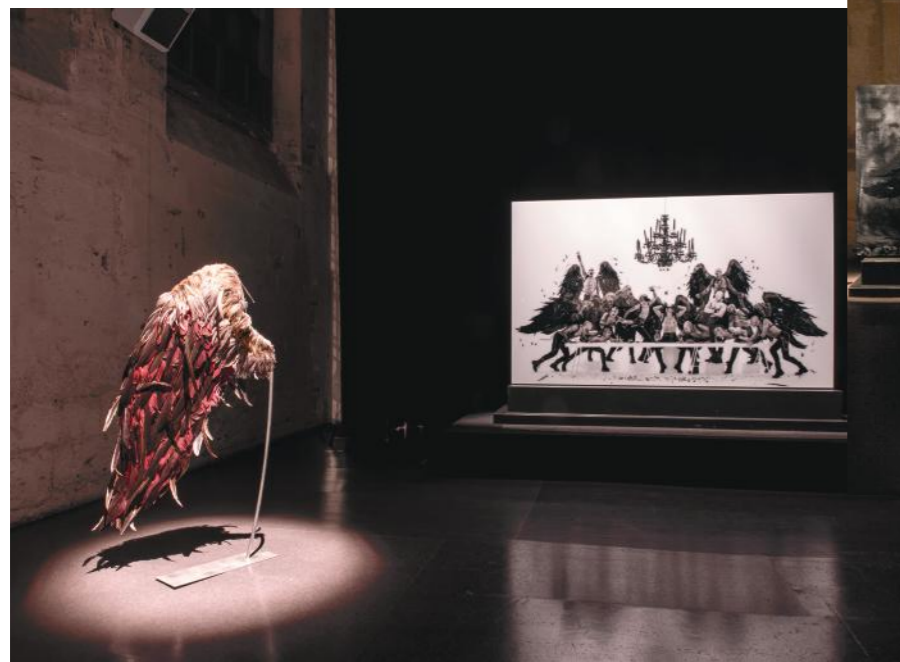


# EXHIBITION PORTFOLIO

// EUROPE



**// REFECTOIRE DES  
CORDELIERS, PARIS 2016**



**// ACADEMIA  
DI BELLE ARTI,  
FLORENCE 2016**





# // URBAN SPREE, BERLIN 2016





# Gérard RANCINAN

Photographer



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## BIOGRAPHY

Born in the Bordeaux region, Gérard Rancinan travels the globe, bearing first hand witness to events of historical importance. Natural catastrophes, civil and ethnic wars, urban riots... he comes face to face with the complexity of the human condition and the random events by which it is fashioned. His imperious need for self-expression leads him to focus on crucial issues around the world, with startling images filtered through an ever-evolving aesthetic prism.

Constantly breaking down barriers, he is, by turns, an investigator deconstructing the great sagas of contemporary life and a portraitist. His photographs of athletes, artists, ecclesiastics and politicians have become iconic. His images have earned him a number of prizes, including four prestigious World Press Awards.

Following his domain of predilection, in the "Trilogy of the Moderns" he becomes the wakeful observer of his contemporaries. This marginal perspective involves real mises en scène, veritable simulacra of the world in which we live.

Gérard Rancinan is an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters.

Gérard Rancinan's work can be compared to no other. Regarded as fine-art photography, the artist's profession is also his means of expression and commitment. Rancinan's photographs are not merely conditioned reflexes. They are the very instruments of his thought-process, sensitive views of the world we live in and recognised forms of contemporary art. Rancinan breaks with the conventional world of photography in order to follow a road that, although not solitary, remains unique.

While his photographs are always inspired by the reality of our world nowadays, they are so much more than the mere face-value representation of such at face-value. Rancinan's works are poetic propositions, fragments of an enlightened vision of our times. The artist likes to start with a more classic inspiration - from Velázquez to Géricault - combining it with the influence of his encounters with Robert Rauschenberg or Paul McCarthy; the result is the production of pre-meditated creations for which Rancinan alone holds the secret.

Entering this surprising universe amounts to accepting the risk of discovering something new, to look elsewhere while the world's gaze continues in more orthodox directions. Every photograph of the artist's creation is a punch to the gut, void of any stylish effect. Each of the artist's exhibitions is an exploration of destabilisation, from which one never emerges unscathed, but always stronger.



## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

"Scarcity of Miracle", Base Sous-Marine, Bordeaux, France, 2016

"The Destiny of Men" Parts I & II, Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, 2016

"Rancinan in Morocco" – inaugural exhibition, Montresso Art Foundation, Jardin Rouge, Marrakech, Morocco, 2016

"Divine Decadence", an exhibition in collaboration with Mechelen-based theatre group Abattoir Fermé, inspired by the book A Rebours by Joris-Karl Huysmans, Kasteel van Gaasbeek, Brussels, Belgium, 2016

"The Destiny of Men", in collaboration with the author Caroline Gaudriault, Accademia delle Arti del Disegno, Firenze, Italy, 2016

"Joie de Vivre", curated by Bruno Girveau, Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille, Lille, France, September 2015 to January 2016

"Barry McGuigan", curated by Paul Ardenne, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK, 2015

"The Destiny of Men", curated by Paul Ardenne, Couvent des Cordeliers, Paris, France, happening 11-14 June, 2015

"Another Day on Earth", Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, Monaco, april – June 2015

"The Trilogy of the Moderns", Museum of Huelva, Spain, 2015

"The Trilogy of the Moderns", Himalayas Art Contemporary Museum, Shanghai, China, September-November 2014 on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for diplomatic relations between France and China

"A Small Man in a Big World", Sinan Mansions, Shanghai, China, September-November 2014

"The Liberty Unveiled", The Louvre Lens Museum, Lens, France, 2013 - 2018

"Batman Family Boys", Quai d'Orsay, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Paris, France, 2013 - 2015

Collective exhibition with Jeff Koons, Andres Serrano, Subodh Gupta, Joel-Peter Witkin  
Presentation of "The Big Supper" curated by Jean-Jacques Aillagon, Pinault Foundation and the city of Dinard, France, June - September 2014

"A Wonderful World", Museo Oscar Niemeyer, Curitiba, Brazil, June 2014

"Moto Poétique", curated by Paul Ardenne, Art Contemporary Museum (MAC) of Lyon, France, February - April 2014

"The feast of Barbarians", Arts et Métiers Museum, Paris, France, October - November 2013

"The Trilogy of the Moderns", curated by Vincent Polakovic, Danubiana Contemporary Art Museum of Bratislava, Slovakia, May - September 2013

"L'Histoire est à moi !" Curated by Paul Ardenne, collective exhibition with Anselm Kiefer, Pierre & Gilles, Mounir Fatmi, Contemporary Art Museum Les Abattoirs of Toulouse, France, September - October 2012

"Wonderful World", Londonewcastle Project Space, Shoreditch, London, Great Britain, June 2012

"The Trilogy of the Moderns", Curated by Claudio De Albertis, Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy, May 2012

"Reflex Miniature Museum", collective exhibition with Damien Hirst, George Baselitz, Yayoi Kusama and Roy Lichtenstein Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, The Hague, Holland, 2011

"Hypothèses", Chapelle Saint-Sauveur, Paris/Issy les Moulineaux, France, 2011

"Metamorphosis", The Louvre bookstore Paris, France, 2010

"Decadence Now", collective exhibition with Damien Hirst, Andres Serrano, Cindy Sherman, Galerie Rudolfinum, Musée des Arts Décoratifs of Praha, Czech Republic 2010

"150 artists for the 150 years of the Angelus of Millet", collective exhibition with Robert Combas, Erro, Peter Klasen and René Monory, Barbizon, France, 2010

"Métamorphosis", curated by Marc-Olivier Wahler, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France, November - December 2009

"Le Photographe", Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Roma, Italy, May - July 2009

"The Photographer", Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2008

"La Trilogie du Sacré Sauvage", Triennale Bovisa, Milano, Italy, July - September 2008

Barcelona Art Contemporary Museum (MACBA), Spain, 2007

"Urban Jungle", Espace Pierre Cardin, Paris, France, 2000



Gérard Rancinan, Shanghai



## Galleries, festivals, artfairs

"Rancinan in Dubai", Opera Gallery Dubai, 2016  
"Triptyque Still Lives Flower", Domaine de Chaumont sur Loire, April - November 2015  
"Extract from Wonderful World", Art Palm Beach Miami, January 2015  
"A Small Man in a Big World", Galerie Dumonteil - Shanghai, 2014  
"Of Blood and Water - Triptych", Dürrenmatt Center of Neuchâtel and GalerieC, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 2014  
"A Small Man in a Big World", Galerie Valérie Bach, Brussels, Belgium, 2014  
"The Trilogy of The Moderns" - Selected works, Les Inattendus de Sainte-Savine, Sainte-Savine, France, 2014  
Art Basel Hong Kong 2014  
Opera Gallery, Hong Kong, 2014  
Art Brussels 2014  
Galerie Valérie Bach, Brussels, Belgium, 2014  
"Rancinan XXL", Opera Gallery London, United Kingdom, 2014  
  
"Rancinan in Amsterdam", Nieuw Dakota / Fontana Fortuna Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2013  
"Rancinan World Tour", Opera Gallery Geneva, New York, Singapour, Hong Kong, Londres, Paris, 2010-2013  
  
"Wonderful World", 2012  
"Metamorphoses & Artists Portraits" 2010  
Galerie Valérie Bach, Brussels, Belgium  
Hong Kong Art Fair 2010, Galerie Paris-Beijing (Paris), Hong Kong, 2010  
"Proyecto Genero 3", Espace Cultural Ample / Foundation for Contemporary Art Development, Barcelona, Spain, 2010

Art Paris 2010, Galerie Valérie Bach (Brussels), Paris, France, 2010  
"Love or sex" - Collective exhibition with Robert Mappelthorpe, Speedy Graphito, JonOne, Galerie Brugier Rigail, Paris, France, 2010, Galerie Nivet-Carzon, Paris, France, 2009  
  
"Specimens #", Shanghai Contemporary Art 2009  
Galerie Albert Benamou (Paris), Shanghai, China, 2009  
Art Moscow 2009, Galerie Albert Benamou (Paris), France, Moscow, Russia, 2009  
Art Paris 2009, Galerie Christophe Gaillard, Paris, France, 2009  
"Cardinaux", Galerie Lillebonne, Nancy, France, 2009  
"Hibakusha", Festival of Perpignan, France, 2009  
  
"China, Le Défi", Galerie 208, Paris, France, 2008  
"Portraits de Nathalie", Galerie Léo Scheer, Paris, France, 2008  
Art Paris 2008, Galerie Rabouan Moussion, Paris, France, 2008  
  
FIAC 2007, Galerie Rabouan Moussion, Paris, France, 2007  
"Trans fashion lab", Espace Cultural Ample, Barcelona, Spain, 2007  
  
"Faits divers" Galerie Rabouan Moussion, Paris, France, 2006  
  
"Grands personnages : portraits", Festival of Perpignan, France, 2005



Gérard Rancinan, Shanghai



# Caroline GAUDRIAULT

Writer and calligrapher



## BIOGRAPHY

Born in the Paris region, Caroline Gaudriault is a writer, an author of a dozen literary books and essays in French, most of which have been translated into English and Chinese.

An independent journalist, Caroline Gaudriault contributes to prestigious international publications including *Paris-Match*, *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *Stern* and *Time*, working on major projects around the world.

At the same time, she produces literary portraits of the leading figures of our times, displaying a particular interest in contemporary artists: Yan Pei Ming, Zhang Huan, Subodh Gupta, Pierre & Gilles.

She has always been in dialogue with photography. As a set-designer, her perspective both supports and is supported by the images with which she works. The experience she has accrued over the course of her career has provided her with a universalist perspective. When she focuses on human commitment and impactful historical events she does so with a view to leaving traces of memory in her writing.

To develop her thought and aid her analyses of the state of humanity, she conducts interviews with leading contemporary thinkers. Major figures from the intellectual world thereby participate in her personal inquiry into the world.

She has written a number of well received books and her texts feature in the backdrops of major exhibitions she designs with the photographer Gérard Rancinan.

Today, Caroline Gaudriault is editor of *Zigzag-blog.com*, an opinion-based website which, with its team of journalist-contributors, is dedicated to building bridges between art and a political vision of Mankind.





Installation, Milan

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **“Un autre jour sur terre”**

Caroline Gaudriault et Gérard Rancinan, Paradox, France, 2015

### **“Another day on earth”**

Caroline Gaudriault et Gérard Rancinan, English Edition, Paradox, France, 2015

### **“Un petit homme dans un vaste monde”**

French edition. Caroline Gaudriault with Francis Fukuyama, Paradox, France, 2014

### **“A small Man in a big World”**

English edition Caroline Gaudriault with Francis Fukuyama, Paradox, France, 2014

### **“A small Man in a big World”**

Chinese edition Caroline Gaudriault with Francis Fukuyama, Guangxi Normal University Press, China, 2014

### **The Trilogy of the Moderns III :**

**“Wonderful World”**, Caroline Gaudriault, French and English editions. Paradox, France, 2012

### **The Trilogy of the Moderns II :**

#### **“Hypothesis”**

Caroline Gaudriault, Paradox, France, 2011

### **The Trilogy of the Moderns I :**

#### **“Meetamorphoses”**

Caroline Gaudriault, Biro Éditeur, France, 2009

### **“Le Photographe”**

Caroline Gaudriault and Gérard Rancinan, Éditions de la Martinière, France, 2008

### **“The Photographer”**

Caroline Gaudriault and Gérard Rancinan, Abrams, USA, 2008

### **“La Trilogia del Sacro Selvaggio”**

Gérard Rancinan and Virginie Luc, Federico Motta Editore, Italy, 2007

### **“Exploit”**

Gérard Rancinan, Federico Motta Editore, Italy, 2005

### **“Art à mort”**

Gérard Rancinan and Virginie Luc, Éditions Léo Scheer, France, 2003

### **“Urban Jungle”**

Gérard Rancinan and Caroline Gaudriault, Édition de La Martinière, France, 2000



# OPERA GALLERY

134 New Bond Street, London W1S 2TF, UK T. +44 (0)207 491 2999 [london@operagallery.com](mailto:london@operagallery.com)  
[operagallery.com](http://operagallery.com)