GÉRARD RANCINAN
THE DESTINY OF MEN
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 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
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The Accademia di Belle Arti, Florence, Italy, April 2016
Urban Spree, Berlin, Germany, May 2016
Base Sous-Marine, Bordeaux, France, September - December 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.

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
Base Sous-Marine, Bordeaux, France, September - December 2016
The Feast of Crumbs, 2014
Argentic 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)

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
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
Argentic 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 AR 180 x 250 cm - 70.9 x 98.4 in.

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

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 impenetrable 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
“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
“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 50th anniversary for diplomatic relations between France and China
“A Small Man in a Big World”, Snan Mansions, Shanghai, China, September - November 2014
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 Trilogy of the Moderns”, Curated by Claudio De Albertis, Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy, May 2012
“Metamorphosis”, The Louvre bookstore Paris, France, 2010
“Decadence Now”, collective exhibition with Damien Hirst, Andres Serrano, Cindy Sherman, Galerie Rudolfins, Musée des Arts Décoratifs of Praha, Czech Republic 2010
“150 artists for the 150 years of the Angelus of Millet”, collective exhibition with Robert Combias, Erro, Peter Kläen 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
Barcelona Art Contemporary Museum (MACBA), Spain, 2007

Gerard Rancinan, Shanghai
Galleries, festivals, art fairs

“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, 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, 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
“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 Mapplethorpe, Speedy Graphito, JonOne, Galerie Brugier Rigal, Paris, France, 2010
Galerie Nivet-Carzon, Paris, France, 2009
“Specimens 3”, Shanghai Contemporary Art, 2009
Galerie Albert Benamou (Paris), Shanghai, China, 2009
Art Moscow, 2009
Galerie Albert Benamou (Paris), France, Moscow, Russia, 2009
“Cardinaux”, Galerie Lillebonne, Nancy, France, 2009
“Hibakusha”, Festival of Perpignan, France, 2009
“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
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.
**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**“Un autre jour sur terre”**
Caroline Gaudriault et Gérard Rancinan, Paradox, France, 2015

**“Another day on earth”**

**“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 II : “Hypothesis”**
Caroline Gaudriault, Paradox, France, 2011

**The Trilogy of the Moderns I : “Meetamorphoses”**
Caroline Gaudriault, Biro Editeur, 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

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*Installation, Milan*