



## Martine Franck

*A photograph isn't necessarily a lie, but nor is it the truth. It's more of a fleeting, subjective impression. What I most like about photography is the moment that you can't anticipate: you have to be constantly watching for it, ready to welcome the unexpected.*

### Biography (1938-2012)

**April 2, 1938:** Martine Franck was born in Antwerp, Belgium. Since the early years of her childhood, she was accustomed to distant horizons and constant travel. Leaving her native town, without ever coming back, she grew up in the United States and completed her studies in Long Island and Arizona. Later she left for Great Britain where her father joined the Army.

**1956:** Began studying Art History studies at the *Madrid University*, before being accepted to the *Ecole du Louvre* in Paris in **1958**. She was 20 years old and learned to read French with notes from Robert Escarpit in *Le Monde* newspaper. Supporting her thesis on “*Sculpture and Cubism: 1907-1915*”, she met Ariane Mnouchkine, who became a major player in French Theater.

**1963:** During an initiatory journey in the Far East with Ariane Mnouchkine, Martine Franck began to photograph the charms and splendors of other civilizations such as China, Japan, India, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. She published her travel pieces in *Eastern Horizons* in Hong Kong. “*Photography appeared randomly in my life. I obtained a visa for China and my cousin lent me a Leica telling me I was lucky and that I had to bring back pictures*” confided Martine Franck in a 2007 interview to Roland Quilici.

**1964:** Returning to France, she worked in Paris for *Time-Life* where she « *truly meets Photography* » and became Eliot Elisofon and Gjon Mili's assistant before becoming an independent photographer. Working with famous American magazines, her photo coverages, her artists and writers' portraits were published in *Life*, *Fortune*, *Sports Illustrated*, *New-York Times* and *Vogue*. Pierre Alechinsky, Balthus, Pierre Boulez, Marc Chagall, Michel Foucault, Michel Leiris, Sam Szafran or Paul Strand, as many personalities who became her friends. At the same time, she became a founding member of the *Théâtre du Soleil* and was the official photographer for Ariane Mnouchkine's theater company. She will never leave it, revealing their shows, productions and the *Cartoucherie's* everyday life.

**1966:** Met Henri Cartier-Bresson, « *L'Oeil du Siècle* » (*The Eye of the Century*), thirty years older and married him in **1970**: “*My father told me I was taking a big risk. I have been very happy. Henri always encouraged me to work. (...) He never put me on the side. Because of him, I met a lot of people* ».

**1970:** Joined the *Vu Agency* created by Pierre de Fenoyl. In **1972**, she participated in the *Viva Agency*'s foundation with Hervé Gloaguen, Guy Le Querrec, François Hers, Jean Lattes and Richard Kalvar.

**1980:** She becomes a member of Magnum Agency in **1983**. She then started a large-scale work on women rights. More and more engaged in her Art, Martine Franck placed interest in social subjects with a will for reality evidence: "*My main desire is to present images creating reflection.*"

**1985:** Directed many photo coverages supporting humanitarian projects and worked with the *petits frères des Pauvres*' association, helping people suffering from loneliness, poverty, exclusion or profound illness. She published "*Le Temps de Vieillir*", in which she writes: « *Everything cannot be photographed. There are times when suffering or human decay touch you so much that you have to stop. Other situations, interesting in terms of sociology, will visually say nothing. Photography shows more than it demonstrates, it doesn't explain the reasons for things* ».

Between **1993** and **1997**, Martine Franck traveled numerous times to Tory Island (North-West of Ireland). There she captured the everyday life of a traditional Gaelic community living in marge of the continent. "*Tory, Ile aux confins de l'Europe*" was to be published in 1998.

**1995:** Directed with Robert Delpire a 26 minute film called "*Ariane et Compagnie*".

**1996:** Traveled to Asia where she photographed the Tulkus, Tibetan monk children living in Bodnath, Nepal and in Northern India. "*Tibetan Tulkus: Images of Continuity*" was published four years later.

**2000:** Participated in the making of the documentary "*Retour en Irlande avec Martine Franck, photographe*" directed by Fabienne Strouvé-Beckers. From her many traveling experiences, Martine Franck brought back unique images; some of them became icons.

**2002:** Exhibition at the *Musée de la Vie Romantique* and creation in Paris with Henri Cartier-Bresson and their daughter Mélanie of the *Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation*, where she becomes President in **2004**.

**Between 2003 and 2004**, Martine Franck follows Robert Wilson, Comédie Française's scenographer and photographed his « *Fables de La Fontaine* »'s direction.

"*Fables*" was published at this occasion (Actes Sud Editions).

**2005:** Appointed Knight in the *French Legion of Honor* by a Presidential Act dated March 25, 2005, Martine Franck received her Cross from François Voss, at the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation on January 24, 2006.

**2007:** Publication of "*Martine Franck*" in the Photo Poche collection – #111 (Actes Sud Editions) with a text by Annick Cojean. The same year is published "*Martine Franck*", Phaidon Editions, with a text by Louise Baring.

**2010:** *Chanel Nexus Hall* in Tokyo presented the « *Women* » exhibition. In October of 2011, the exhibition "*Venus d'ailleurs*" (« From other lands »), presented at the *Maison Européenne de la Photographie* in Paris a vision of 62 artists' portraits, taken between 1965 and 2010 in their Parisian studios (Michel Barcelo, Marc Chagall, Fernando Botero, Léonor Fini, Ousmane Sow, Zao Wou Ki).

Martine Franck was promoted Officer in the *French National Order of Merit* and is the laureate of the *Montblanc Cultural Prize*, rewarded for her work at the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation.

Nearly a hundred of artists' portraits taken by Martine Franck, are also showed at the *Claude Bernard Gallery* in Paris in **March/April 2012**. In **June 2012**, the "*Peregrinations*" exhibition was presented at the *Howard Greenberg Gallery* in New York.

Martine Franck passed away on August 16, 2012 leaving a singular mark of a great artist.

Her art is a reflection of a personal touch symbolized by geometry, curves and lines in search of human soul beauty and depth, all captured in an instant. This artistic expression made her an artist with an exceptional sensitive eye.

## **Bibliography**

**1970:** *Etienne Martin, Sculpteur*, Text by Michel Ragon. La Connaissance Editions, Brussels

**1971:** *La Sculpture de Cardenas*, Text by José Pierre, La Connaissance Editions, Brussels

*Le Théâtre du Soleil : 1789. Théâtre ouvert / Stock, Paris*

**1972:** *Le Théâtre du Soleil : 1793. Théâtre ouvert / Stock, Paris*

**1978:** Martine Franck. *Les Lubérons*. Text by Yves Berger. Chêne, Paris

**1980:** Martine Franck. *Le Temps de Vieillir*. Collection journal d'un voyage. Introduction by Robert Doisneau. Denoël-Filipacchi, Paris

**1982:** Martine Franck. Introduction by Jean Dieuzaide. Catalogue of the Galerie Municipale Château d'Eau, Toulouse

Martine Franck. Text by Vera Feyder et Attilio Colombo. Collection I Grandi Fotografi. Gruppo Editoriale Fabbri, Milan

**1983:** Martine Franck. *Des Femmes et la création (photographies)*. Introduction by Vera Feyder. Maison de la Culture du Havre

**1986:** *La BPI en toute liberté*. Centre Pompidou Editions / BPI, Paris

**1988:** *De temps en temps*. Preface by Claude Roy. Text by Michel Christolhomme. Les petits frères des Pauvres, Paris

Text by Yves Bonnefoy. Trois-Cailloux Editions, Amiens

**1995:** Collège de France. *Figures et travaux*. Imprimerie Nationale/Paris Audiovisuel, Paris

Jean Giono. "The Man Who Planted Trees". Limited Editions Club, New-York

**1998:** "Martine Franck : D'un jour, l'autre". Interview by John Berger. Maison Européenne de la Photo/Editions le Seuil, Paris.

*Ile aux confins de l'Europe*. Bentelli Editions, Berne

Martine Franck, Tory Island Images. Introduction by Elizabeth Healy. Wolfhound Press, Dublin

Henri Cartier-Bresson photographied par Martine Franck. Texte by Ferdinando Scianna. Franco Sciardelli Editions Milan/FNAC Paris

**2000:** Martine Franck, photographies. Texte by Ariane Mnouchkine. Claude Bernard Editions, Paris

*Tibetan Tulkus: Images of Continuity photographs by Martine Franck*. Preface by Anna Maria et Rossi Fabio Rossi, text by David Seyfor Ruegg. Anna Maria Rossi & Fabio Rossi Publications, London

**2002:** *Martine Franck, photographe*. Compiled by Daniel Marchesseau, text by Gérard Macé.

Éditions des Musées de la Ville de Paris/Éditions Adam Biro, Paris

**2004:** *Jean de La Fontaine; d'après le spectacle de Robert Wilson à la Comédie-Française*. Éditions Actes Sud, Arles

- 2005:** *I Grandi Fotografi Magnum Photos, Testimonianze e visioni del nostro tempo, Martine Franck.* Texte by Alessandra Mauro, Hachette Fascicoli, Milan
- 2006:** Augustin Cardenas photographié par Martine Franck. Text by Elena Cardenas-Malagodi. Éditions Franco Sciardelli, Milan
- 2007:** Martine Franck. Introduction by Annick Cojean. Collection Photo poche, N° 111. Editions Actes Sud, Arles
- Martine Franck. Text by Louise Baring. Phaidon Editions, London
- Les Grands Photographes de Magnum Photos – Martine Franck.* Hachette Editions, Paris
- 2008:** *Humanistic Eyes: Martine Franck.* Text by Yoshitomo Kajikawa. Kahitsukan, Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art
- 2010:** *Women, Femmes.* Text by Richard Collasse. Steidl/Chanel Editions, Gottingen
- 2011:** Martine Franck – Artistes venus d’ailleurs. Text by Germain Viatte. Painting and sculptures in Paris since 1945. Editions Imprimerie Nationale, Paris

## Exhibitions

### Personal Exhibitions

- 1971:** *Le Théâtre du Soleil*, Photogalerie Rencontre, Paris  
*La sculpture de Cardenas*, Galerie Loeb, Paris
- 1974:** *La Paroisse de Saint-Pierre de Chaillot*, Centre Galliera, Paris
- 1976:** *Marchés et Foires*, Les Amis des Arts, Reillanne
- 1977:** *Quartier Beaubourg*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
- 1978:** *Martine Franck, Photographs*, La Grange, Château d’Oex, Switzerland
- 1979:** *Martine Franck*, Pentax Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Essai sur le Nord de l’Angleterre*, Side Gallery, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England  
*Martine Franck*, Photogalerie Portfolio, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 1980:** *Martine Franck, Photographies*, Galerie AMC, Mulhouse  
*Martine Franck, Photographe*, Galerie Agathe Gaillard, Paris
- 1981:** *Le temps de vieillir*, Musée Nicéphore Niepce, Chalon sur Saône
- 1983:** *Martine Franck, Photographies*, Les amis des arts Reillanne, Reillanne  
*Des femmes et la création*, Maison de la culture du Havre, Le Havre
- 1984:** *Martine Franck*, Maison Descartes, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Vingt Contemporains vus par Martine Franck*, Espace photo de la BPI, Centre Pompidou
- 1987:** *Martine Franck, 80 photographies*, Centre d’Art contemporain, Forcalquier  
*Martine Franck*, Centre Culturel Pier Paolo Pasolini, Agrigento, Sicile  
*Portraits*, La Chambre Claire, Paris  
*Le Théâtre du Soleil*, Tip-Galerie, Centre Culturel Français, Berlin, Germany  
Fnac Galerie, Paris. «C’était 68». With Raymond Depardon.
- 1989:** *De temps en temps*, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris  
*Portraits de spectacles révolutionnaires*, Alliance Française, New York
- 1991:** *Des métiers et des femmes*, Fnac, Forum, Paris  
*Martine Franck, Photos de la Suisse et du pays de Saanen*, Saanen Galerie, Switzerland  
*Martine Franck, Photographe*, Mannheimer Kunstverein, Mannheim, Germany  
*Henri Cartier-Bresson, Martine Franck*, Musée d’art moderne de Taïpei, Taiwan

**1992:** *Martine Franck, Retrospective*, Museo d'Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago, Chili  
**1993:** *Le Théâtre du Soleil*, Bradford, England  
**1995:** *Collège de France*, Fnac Montparnasse, Paris  
*La Photographie de Théâtre. Le Théâtre du Soleil d'Ariane Mnouchkine par Martine Franck*, Le Crac, scène nationale, Valence  
**1997:** « Paris Photo » Eric Franck Fine Art.  
**1998:** *D'un jour, l'autre*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris  
*Tory Island*, Photographers Gallery, Dublin.  
*Henri Cartier-Bresson photographié par Martine Franck*, Fnac Etoile, Paris.  
**2000:** *One day to the next*, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York  
*Tory une île sans trésor*, Galerie Fait et Cause, Paris  
*Martine Franck*, SK Josefsberg Studio, Portland, Oregon  
*Martine Franck*, Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris  
*Tambours sur la digue, Théâtre du Soleil*, Université de Rennes  
*Tibetan Tulkus: Images of Continuity*, Gallery Rossi & Rossi, Londres  
**2001:** *Martine Franck*, Hackel Bury Gallery, London  
**2002:** *Martine Franck, photographe*, Musée de la Vie Romantique, Paris  
**2004:** *Fables*, Le Capitole, Arles  
*Martine Franck, Photographe-Film*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris  
**2005:** *Martine Franck, Fotografa*, Fondation BBK, Bilbao  
*I tulkus del Tibet*, Sala Santa Rita, Rome.  
**2006:** *Regard sur l'insertion*, Siège du Groupe Vinci, Rueil-Malmaison  
*Martine Franck, portraits*, Galleria dell'Incisione, Brescia, Italy  
**2008:** *Martine Franck*, Kahitsukan Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art, Kyoto  
**2010:** *In celebration of Women*, Chanel Nexus Hall, Tokyo  
**2011:** *Venus d'ailleurs, Peintres et sculpteurs à Paris depuis 1945*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris  
**2012:** *Martine Franck, Portraits d'artistes*, Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris  
*Martine Franck, Pérégrinations*, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York

### **Posthumous Exhibitions**

**2013:** *Martine Franck, Photographe*, Musée de l'hôtel Dieu, Mantes la Jolie

## **Filmography**

### **Films by Martine Franck**

**1970:** *What has happened to the American Indians*. 17 minutes  
**1972:** *Music at Aspen*. Produced by Viva Films. 17 minutes.  
**1982:** *En compagnie du Soleil*. Produced by Paris AudioVisuel AFFA. 17 minutes  
**1991:** *Ecrire Contre l'oubli : Mamadou Bâ, Mauritanie*. Directed by Martine Franck and Henri Cartier-Bresson for Amnesty International. 3 minutes  
**1995:** *Ariane et Compagnie*. Directed by Robert Delpire and Martine Franck, Produced by La Sept-Arte/P.R.V. Béatrice Soulé. 25 minutes  
**1996:** *Tory Island, No treasure Island*. Produced by Les petits frères des Pauvres. 3 minutes  
**1997:** *Mille enfants vers l'an 2000*. Produced by Marion Aldighieri. 2 minutes

**2005:** *Famille Farova, 3 générations de femmes de la République Tchèque*. Directed by Olivier Koechlin et Martine Franck. Produced by Alcatel, for the Eurovisions exhibition. 18 minutes

**Films about Martine Franck**

**1984:** *Le quotidien a deux regards*. Directed by Fabienne Strouvé. Produced by FR3 Paris – Ile de France

**1990:** *Martine Franck, entretiens avec Franck Horvat*. Directed by Bruno Trompier. Produced by Paris Audiovisuel, Jean Luc Monterosso

*Regards de femme – Ailleurs Photo*. (13 photographs by Martine Franck commented by the photographer). Produced by FR3 Lorraine

**2000:** *Retour en Irlande avec Martine Franck, photographe*. Directed by Fabienne Strouvé-Beckers. Produced by Ariane Le Couteur and Olivier Morel/ L'Envol with the participation of France 3 and of Planète

**2004:** *Martine Franck, photographe*. Directed by Alain-Charles Beau and Elisabeth Azoulay

**2005:** *I tulkus del Tibet*. Directed by Enrico Datti. Produced by Magnum/Contrasto. 7 minutes