

## CAROLYN DRAKE WINNER OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> HCB AWARD

Following deliberations held on June 21 and 22 at the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson in Paris, the jury of the HCB Award 2021 unanimously nominated photographer **Carolyn Drake** for the project *Centaur* (working title). This work will be exhibited at the Fondation HCB in Spring 2023 and a book will be published.

Carolyn Drake's nomination was presented by Clément Chéroux, Joel and Anne Ehrenkranz Chief Photography Curator at MoMA, New York.

### HCB AWARD

Presented by the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, the HCB Award is a 35 000 euros grant that supports the creation of a long-term photography project. It is intended for a photographer who has already created a significant body of work with a documentary-style approach. Presented once every two years, the HCB Award results in an exhibition at the Fondation HCB and the publication of a book.

### MEMBERS OF THE JURY OF THE HCB AWARD 2021

**Christine Barthe**, Head of photographic collections, musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Paris

**Béatrice Didier**, Co-director of art center Le Point du Jour, Cherbourg-en-Cotentin

**Pierre-Alexis Dumas**, Artistic Director of maison Hermès, member of the administration board of the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, Paris

**Julie Jones**, Curator at the Cabinet de la Photographie, Musée national d'art moderne - Centre Pompidou, Paris

**Luce Lebart**, Historian of Photography and Curator

**François Hébel**, Director, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Paris

**Agnès Sire**, Artistic Director, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Paris

### PARTNER

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is the patron of the HCB Award.



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From the project *Knit Club*, 2020  
© Carolyn Drake / Magnum Photos

## PROJECT

After traveling Europe and Asia for nearly ten years, Carolyn Drake returned to the United States in 2013. She moved to Water Valley, a small, rural town in Mississippi known for its conservatism, and produced the series *Knit Club*, on an enigmatic community of women into which she integrated. These women, children and mothers are united by manual labor (knitting) and mysterious beliefs, in a community which manages to exist outside the gaze or control of men. Loosely inspired by the literary style of William Faulkner, Drake mixes still life and domestic portrait in a captivating tale that lies somewhere between the real and supernatural.

With *Centaur* (working title), 2021 HCB Award winner Carolyn Drake furthers her series *Knit Club* by returning to the community that received her for several months in the Mississippi hills. Here she continues to experiment with documentary fiction by focusing on the only male figures of *Knit Club*, two artists and craftsmen who preferred the status of outsider to the one imposed on them by the conservative establishment. Through these two characters, Drake seeks to undermine the ideals of masculinity made mythical by American culture, and “explore the same reality/place from another angle, looking for truth as strong as fiction” (C. Drake).

*Carolyn Drake's project is the perfect combination of a well-defined project and something mysterious that arouses curiosity.*

CHRISTINE BARTHE

*Her project is both experimental photography and a very classical form of documentary. Carolyn Drake succeeds in incorporating other artistic fields, like surrealism, for example, to create a singular style.*

BÉATRICE DIDIER

*Carolyn Drake's exploration of documentary photography is far-reaching. Her particular style—a sort of investigative approach—is at once poetic, insightful and mysterious.*

PIERRE-ALEXIS DUMAS

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## BIOGRAPHY

Carolyn Drake works on long term photo-based projects seeking to interrogate dominant historical narratives and creatively reimagine them. Her practice embraces collaboration and combines photography with sewing, collage, and sculpture. She is interested in collapsing the traditional divide between author and subject, the real and the imaginary, challenging entrenched binaries.

Drake was born in California and studied Media/Culture and History in the early 1990s at Brown University. Following her graduation from Brown, in 1994, Drake moved to New York and worked as an interactive designer for many years before departing to engage with the physical world through photography.

Between 2007 and 2013, Drake traveled frequently to Central Asia from her base in Istanbul to work on two long term projects: *Two Rivers* (2013) and *Wild Pigeon* (2014). The latter work was acquired by the SFMOMA in San Francisco and presented at a six-month solo exhibition in 2018.

In *Internat* (2014-2017), Drake worked with young women in an ex-Soviet orphanage to create photographs and paintings that point beyond the walls of the institution and its gender expectations. This work was followed by *Knit Club* (TBW Books, 2020), which emerged from her collaboration with an enigmatic group of women in Mississippi loosely calling themselves “Knit Club” and was shortlisted for the Paris Photo Aperture Book of the Year and Lucie Photo Book Awards.

Carolyn Drake’s work has been supported by a Guggenheim fellowship, the Anamorphosis Prize book prize, Peter S Reed Foundation, Lightwork, the Do Good Fund, the Lange Taylor prize, Magnum Foundation, Pulitzer Center, and a Fulbright fellowship. She is a member of Magnum Photos.

*Carolyn Drake really moved us because she has a very particular and sensitive approach to reality. Her project is open to many interpretations—it makes the eye and the imagination wander. The strength of this work lies in its dialogue with other cultural fields, such as art history and literature.*

## JULIE JONES

*I was moved by her literary and surrealist inspiration and by the fact that she considers photography in all its materiality. She works with pre-existing images and mixes materials, without neglecting painful contemporary issues.*

## LUCE LEBART

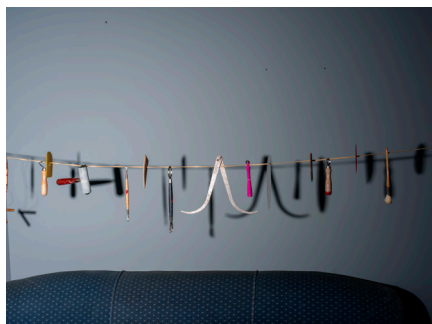


Carolyn Drake © Andres Gonzalez



# PRESS IMAGES CAROLYN DRAKE HCB AWARD 2021

The use of press images is exempt from royalties if strictly for the purposes of promoting the HCB Award. These visuals correspond to the series *Knit Club*, of which the project supported by the HCB Award 2021 will be the continuation. All visuals must be accompanied by their captions and copyrights. No cropping is permitted and only three images per medium can be published.



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From the project *Knit Club*, 2020  
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# JURY - GUEST MEMBERS

## HCB AWARD 2021



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### CHRISTINE BARTHE

Head of photographic collections, musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac

Christine Barthe has curated many exhibitions, such as recently *A toi appartient le regard et (...) la liaison infinie entre les choses*, musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac (2020), and *Photographs, An Early Album of the World* at the Louvre Abu Dhabi (2019). With Xavier Barral, she co-curated the exhibition *Martin Gusinde, L'esprit des hommes de la Terre de Feu* (Kyoto, Arles, Ushuaïa, 2015, Santiago 2016). At the musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, she curated *Nocturnes de Colombie, images contemporaines* (2013), *Patagonie, images du bout du monde* (2012) and co-curated *Photoquai* (2007- 2011), researching on Latin America.

She is a member of the selection comity for the Résidences photographiques du musée du quai Branly, dedicated to contemporary photography.



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### BÉATRICE DIDIER

Co-director, Art center Le Point du Jour

Since its inauguration in Cherbourg-en-Cotentin in 2008, the Point du Jour has been co-directed by Béatrice Didier, David Barriet and David Benassayag. The art center is also a publishing house specialised in monographs of artists that use photography and in theoretical works on the history of still and animated images. Béatrice Didier is also a member of the educational team at the professional master program Métiers et art de l'exposition at the University Rennes 2.



© Agnès Geoffray

### JULIE JONES

Curator at the Cabinet de la Photographie, Musée national d'art moderne — Centre Pompidou

Art historian, Julie Jones has curated many exhibitions at the Musée national d'art moderne — Centre Pompidou, such as: *Louis Stettner* (2016), *Il y a de l'autre* (2016), *Brancusi. Sculptures, dessins, photographies, films* (2017), *Photographisme* (2017) and *Shunk-Kender* (2019). She has published many articles, exhibition texts and critiques of photography and contemporary art.





© Delphine Schacher

## LUCE LEBART

Historian of Photography and Curator

Luce Lebart is also a researcher for the collection *Archive of Modern Conflict*, her research focuses on images and forgotten practices. She's particularly interested in photographs produced without an artistic intention, from the archive, the history of techniques and collections and documentary and scientific photography. Among her latest books are *Une histoire Mondiale des femmes photographes* which she co-researched with Marie Robert (Textuel, 2020) ; *Inventions 1915-1938* (RVB-Books-CNRS), *Gold and Silver* (RVB BOOKS, 2018), *Les grands Photographes du XXe siècle* (Larousse, 2017), *Lady Liberty* (Le Seuil, 2016) and *Les Silences d'Atget* (Textuel, 2015).

She has also published photo books such as *Mold is Beautiful* (Poursuite, 2015) and *Tâches et traces* (Diaphane, 2015). Her next book, on Albert Kahn, will be published by Gallimard in 2021 for the opening of the new museum.

## JURY - PERMANENT MEMBERS HCB AWARD 2021



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### PIERRE-ALEXIS DUMAS

Artistic Director  
Hermès



© Claudia Huidobro

### FRANÇOIS HÉBEL

Director  
Fondation HCB



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### AGNÈS SIRE

Artistic Director  
Fondation HCB