



Karim Kal

Mons Ferratus

—

Marjaana Kella

L'envers du portrait

Press opening of the exhibitions

**Monday, January 27, 2025
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

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Monday to Sunday : 11 a.m – 7 p.m.
Full fare 10 € / Reduced fare 6 €

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In the collective imaginary, High Kabylia, the mountainous region of northern Algeria, is the symbol of a certain kind of resistance to imperialism, colonization, domination and terror of all ages. It's as if the ferruginous nature of its soil had forged the steely character of its inhabitants.

Born in Geneva in 1977, Karim Kal, the grandson of Kabyle parents, is not embarking on an autobiographical or personal journey. The project he developed for the Prix HCB is rather rooted in the research he begun two decades ago in places shaped by political power – prisons, hospitals, suburbs –.

Deeply influenced by the abstract painting vocabulary of the second half of the 20th century, Kal has developed an immediately recognizable style. Mainly photographing at night, using a powerful flashlight, he reveals certain details and lets others disappear into the darkness. He sculpts reality with light.

Far from the informational overload to which we've become accustomed by mainstream media, he slows things down, selects what's important, and thus proposes a critical but equally poetic form of asceticism. In so doing, he redefines the documentary contract that is inherent to photographic language.

Curator of the exhibition

Clément Chéroux

Directeur, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson

Patron

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



EXHIBITION

Karim Kal is the 13th recipient of the Prix HCB, which he was given in 2023 by a jury of 6 cultural and photographic professionals.

Awarded every two years by the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, the HCB Award is a creative grant of 35,000 euros enabling a photographer to carry out or pursue an ambitious project. It results in an exhibition at the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson and a publication.

PUBLICATION



Karim Kal - *Mons Ferratus*

Atelier EXB

Text by Emilie Goudal, conversation between Karim Kal and Clément Chéroux

11 x 24 cm

January 2025

ISBN : 978-2-36511-428-8

45 €

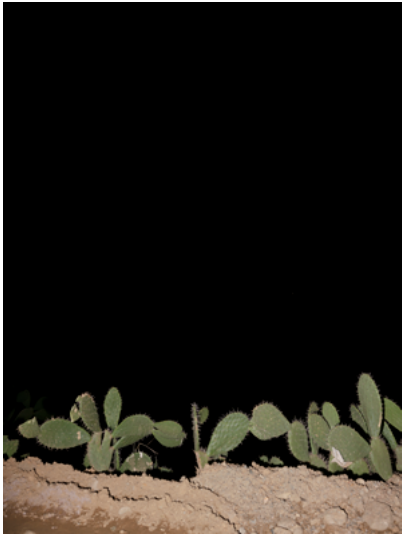
BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1977 in Switzerland, French-Algerian photographer Karim Kal lives in Samoëns in Haute-Savoie. Karim Kal studied at the Grenoble School of Fine Arts and the Vevey School of Photography (Switzerland). He first developed an interest in the portrait genre, before photographing public spaces, primarily at night. However, his work always revolves around the human presence, focusing on the traces left by culture and history.

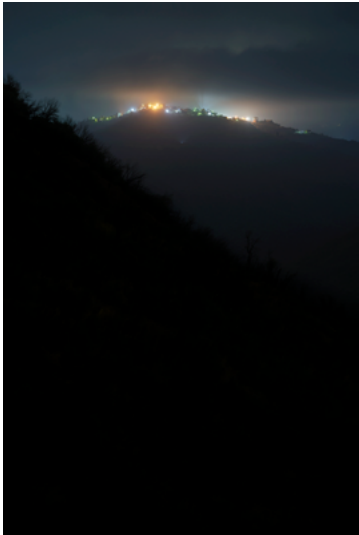
His work has recently been exhibited at the Ikon Gallery (Birmingham, England), La Galerie (Noisy-le-Sec), Les Magasins Généraux (Pantin), the Biennale d'art contemporain de Lyon and the Musée d'Art Moderne d'Alger (MAMA). His work has been included in the collections of the Fonds national d'art contemporain, the Musée d'art moderne et contemporain of Saint-Etienne Métropole (MAMC+), the FRAC Auvergne and the Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration.



01
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



02
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



03
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



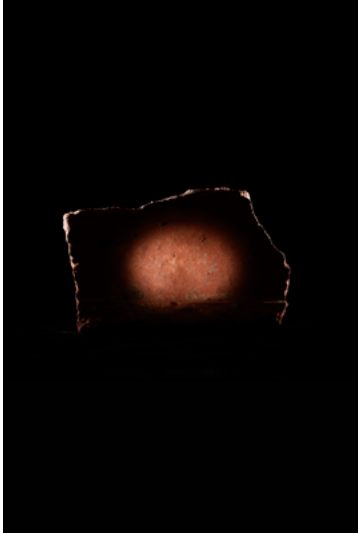
04
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



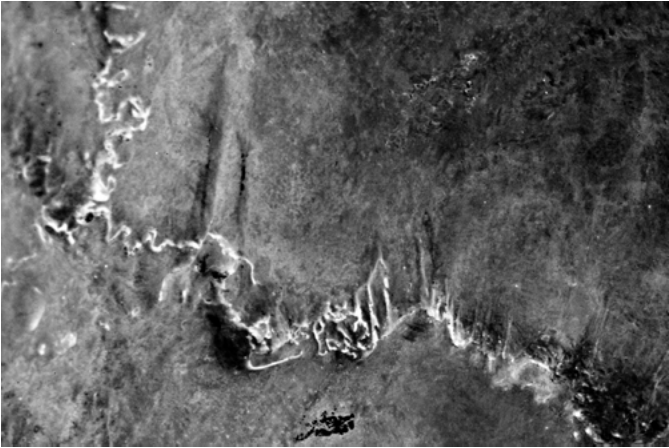
05
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



06
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



07
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



08
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



09
Mons Ferratus © Karim Kal



From the series *Hypnosis: Marja 1*, 2000 (C-type print)
© Marjaana Kella

"I chose the portrait as my subject..."

For almost thirty years now, the presence of the other in the image, its subtle and mysterious emanation, has been at the heart of Finnish photographer Marjaana Kella's work. What does it mean to make a portrait? Between 1997 and 2001, she produced portraits of people under hypnosis. Her aim was to explore the discrepancy between inner state and outer appearance. In the same period, she also photographed subjects facing away from the camera. She knows that in traditional portraiture, the face, the eyes and expression are the focus of attention. "The face of the Other calls me to respond", wrote Emmanuel Levinas. By obliterating this mark of presence in the world, Kella seeks to draw attention to the image itself. What is a photograph? Experimental methods involve changing parameters of the experiment in order to identify how those affect the outcome. This is precisely what Kella does with the process of representation. She questions the way portraits are done, but also the way we look at them.

Curator of the exhibition

Clément Chéroux

Directeur, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson

EXHIBITION

Though this Finnish photographer's portraits have had a major impact on the history of photography, they have however been exhibited very rarely.

L'envers du portrait [Reversing the Portrait] is the first French solo exhibition of this rare artist's work.

PUBLICATION



In 2002, renowned Dutch publishing house Van Zoetendaal published a book featuring the series exhibited at the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson.

This now cult volume was featured in the famous volume *The Photobook: A History* (vol.2) by Martin Parr and Gerry Badger.

Marjaana Kella

Van Zoetendaal

Texts by Pia Sivenius and Jan Kaila

22 x 28 cm

2002 (1st edition)

ISBN : 1231247123

80 euros

BIOGRAPHY

Marjaana Kella is a Finnish visual artist, researcher and educator who has worked in the field of photographic practice for the last three decades and is currently teaching photography and contemporary art at the Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Helsinki. Most often her work intertwines with the ontological character of photography and its ability to make visible the pictorial nature of the world. Kella's photographic works have been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally including venues in e.g. Centre Photographique d'Île de France, Fundación BBK Bilbao, Tate Modern London, Museum Folkwang, Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma and Helsinki City Art Museum.



01
Woman in a dotted shirt, 1996 (C-type print) © Marjaana Kella



02
From the series *Hypnosis: Jarmo 4*, 2000 (C-type print) © Marjaana Kella



03
Woman having her hair in a knot, 1997 (C-type print)
© Marjaana Kella



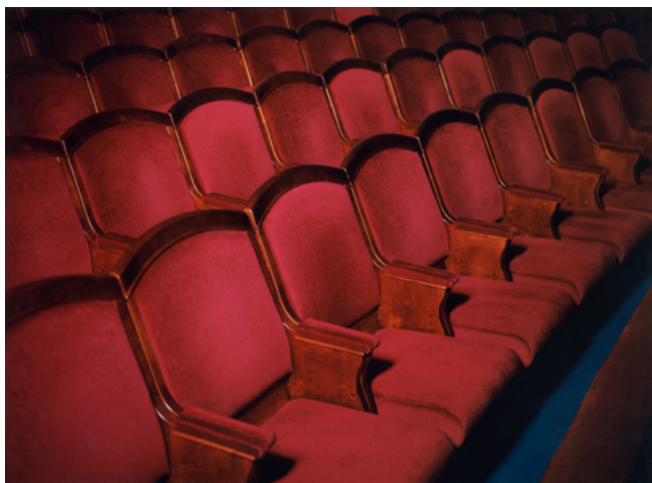
04
From the series *Hypnosis: Marja 1*, 2000 (C-type print)
© Marjaana Kella



05
From the series *Hypnosis: Ritva 3*, 2000 (C-type print)
© Marjaana Kella



06
From the series *Hypnosis: Niclas 1*, 2001 (C-type print)
© Marjaana Kella



07
Auditorium, 1998 (C-type print)
© Marjaana Kella

Special display to celebrate the new edition of Henri Cartier-Bresson's *The Decisive Moment* on show until April 13, 2025

Press visuals

To celebrate the publication of the new edition of Henri Cartier-Bresson's famous book *The Decisive Moment* (Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, June 2023), the Fondation has designed a special display featuring a dozen of the book's most striking images, several cover copies of the original book and an exceptional document. The display remains on view until April 13, 2025.

Visuals must be accompanied by their captions and copyrights. No cropping permitted. Visuals are limited to two per publication.



01
Images à la Sauvette © Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson



02
Henri Cartier-Bresson, *Dimanche sur les bords de Seine*, France, 1938
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson / Magnum Photos.



03
Henri Cartier-Bresson, *Valence*, Espagne, 1933
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson / Magnum Photos.

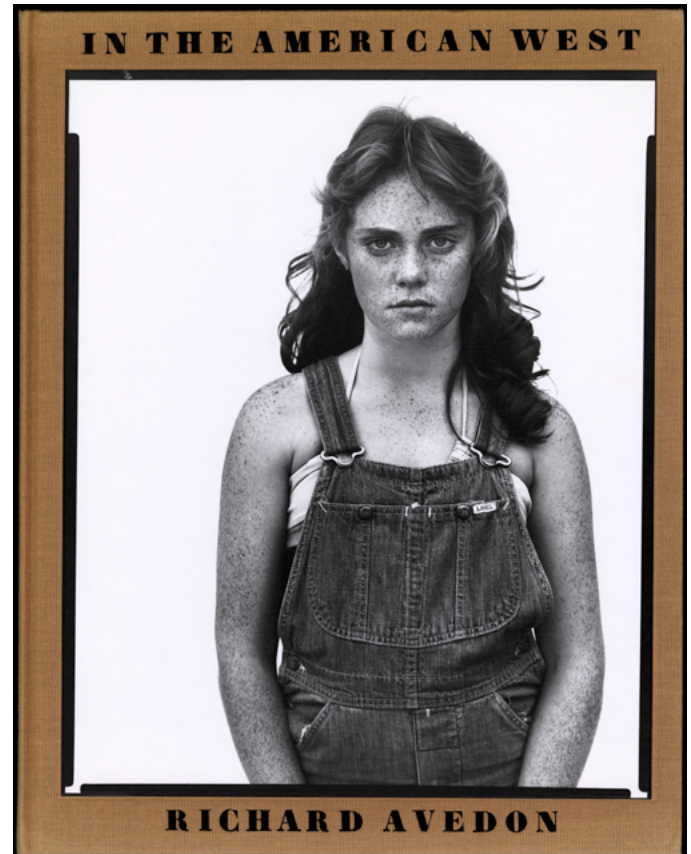
Upcoming exhibition: Richard Avedon — *In the American West*

April 30 — October 12, 2025

CUBE

TUBE

2025 will mark the 40 years anniversary of Avedon's iconic *In the American West*, originally published by Abrams in 1985. To commemorate this special event, the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson worked in collaboration with the Richard Avedon Foundation (États-Unis) on an exciting exhibition: for the very first time in Europe, the series will be exhibited in its entirety. The 103 master prints that were used to print the original book will be shown alongside unique archival materials documenting the production and reception of the series (preliminary polaroids, test prints with Avedon's handwriting, correspondence between the artist and his models, etc.). Abrams will also be reissuing the long-out-of-print publication, which will be available for purchase at the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson's bookshop.



Abram's 1985 first edition of Richard Avedon's *In the American West*.
Cover image: *Sandra Bennett, twelve year old, Rocky Ford, Colorado, August 23, 1980*. Photograph by Richard Avedon © The Richard Avedon Foundation



01

Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, Paris, November 2018
© Cyrille Weiner.



02

Front desk and bookstore
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, Paris, June 2024
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson



03

Exhibition Carolyn Drake - *Men Untitled*
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, Paris, September 2023
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson.



04

Exhibition Vasantha Yoganathan - *Mystery Street*
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, Paris, May 2023
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson.



05

Exhibition Mame-Diarra Niang - *Remember to Forget*
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, Paris, October 2024
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson.



06

Exhibition Ruth Orkin - *Bike Trip, USA, 1939*
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, 79 rue des Archives, Paris, September 2023
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson.

