

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

April 2, 1938: Martine Franck was born in Antwerp, Belgium. Since the early years of her childhood, she was accustomed to distant horizons. Her family lived in London. In 1939, Martine's father, Louis Franck, joined the British army. With her mother and brother, Martine left England for the United States during the war, before returning in 1944. Martine accomplished part of her studies there, as well as in Switzerland where she met Ariane Mnouchkine, who was to become an iconic figure of French theatre.

1956: Began studying Art History 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 from Robert Escarpit's humorous column in the newspaper *Le Monde*. She submitted her thesis on "*Sculpture and Cubism: 1907-1915*,".

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 Horizon* 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 and her portraits of artists and writers were published in *Life*, *Fortune*, *Sports Illustrated*, *The New York Times* and *Vogue*. Pierre Alechinsky, Balthus, Pierre Boulez, Marc Chagall, Michel Foucault, Michel Leiris, Sam Szafran and Paul Strand are some of the many figures 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, who she would never leave, capturing the shows, productions and the *Cartoucherie*'s everyday life.

1966: Met Henri Cartier-Bresson, "*L'Oeil du Siècle*" (*The Eye of the Century*), who was thirty years older than her, 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 *Vu Agency* created by Pierre de Fenoÿl. In 1972, she participated in creating *Viva Agency* with Hervé Gloaguen, Guy Le Querrec, François Hers, Jean Lattes and Richard Kalvar.

1980: After being an associate, she became a member of the agency *Magnum Photos* in 1983. She then started a large-scale work on women's rights. Increasingly committed to her art, Martine Franck showed an interest in socially-concerned subjects, seeking to provide evidence of reality: "*My main desire is to present images creating reflection.*" 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.*"

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 serious illness.

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 on the margin 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 which became icons.

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

Between 2003 and 2004, Martine Franck followed Robert Wilson, the Comédie Française's scenographer, and photographed his production of *Fables de La Fontaine*. "*Fables*" was published on 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 the book *Martine Franck* in the Photo Poche collection – #111 (Actes Sud Editions) – with a text by Annick Cojean. The same year *Martine Franck*, with a text by Louise Baring, was published by Phaidon Editions.

2010: Chanel Nexus Hall in Tokyo presented the "*Women*" exhibition. In October 2011, the exhibition "*Venus d'ailleurs*" ("*From other lands*"), at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, presented a vision of 62 portraits of artists, 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 to Officer in the French National Order of Merit and was the laureate of the Montblanc Cultural Prize, awarded for her work at the Henri Cartier-Bresson Foundation.

Nearly one hundred portraits of artists taken by Martine Franck were also exhibited 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 the unique mark of a great artist.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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

1976 : *Martine Franck*. Preface by Ariane Mnouchkine. Contrejour, 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 and 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 / BPI, Paris

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

Portraits. Text by Yves Bonnefoy. Trois-Cailloux, 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 / Seuil, Paris

Tory, Ile aux confins de l’Europe. Benteli, Berne

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

Henri Cartier-Bresson photographié par Martine Franck. Text by Ferdinando Scianna. Franco Sciardelli Milan/FNAC, Paris

2000: *Martine Franck, photographs*. Text by Ariane Mnouchkine. Claude Bernard, Paris

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

2002: *Martine Franck, photographe*. Compiled by Daniel Marchesseau, text by Gérard Macé. Musées de la Ville de Paris / Adam Biro, Paris

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

2005: *I Grandi Fotografi Magnum Photos, Testimonianze e visioni del nostro tempo, Martine Franck*. Text by Alessandra Mauro, Hachette Fascicoli, Milan

2006: *Agustin Cardenas photographié par Martine Franck*. Text by Elena Cardenas-Malagodi. Franco Sciardelli, Milan

2007: *Martine Franck*. Introduction by Annick Cojean. Collection Photo poche, N° 111. Actes Sud, Arles

Martine Franck. Text by Louise Baring. Phaidon, London

2008: *Humanistic Eyes: Martine Franck*. Text by Yoshitomo Kajikawa. Kahitsukan, Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art

2010: *Women, Femmes*. Preface by Richard Collasse. Steidl / Chanel, Göttingen

2011: *Martine Franck – Artistes venus d'ailleurs (From Other Lands: Artists in Paris since 1945)*. Text by Germain Viatte. Imprimerie Nationale, Paris

2018: *Martine Franck*. Text by Dominique Eddé, Anne Lacoste and Agnès Sire. Editions Xavier Barral, 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

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, Galerie Agathe Gaillard, Paris

1981: *Le temps de vieillir*, Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon-sur-Saône

1983: *Martine Franck, Photographies*, Les amis des Arts de Reillanne, Reillanne

Six Femmes et la Création, Maison de la culture du Havre, Le Havre

1984: *Martine Franck*, Maison Descartes, Amsterdam

Vingt Contemporains vus par Martine Franck, Espace photo de la BPI, Centre Pompidou, Paris

1987: *Martine Franck, 80 photographies*, Centre d'Art contemporain, Forcalquier

Martine Franck, Centre Culturel Pier Paolo Pasolini, Agrigento, Sicily

1988: *Portraits, Photographies de Martine Franck*, La Chambre Claire, Paris

Le Théâtre du Soleil, Tip-Galerie, Centre Culturel Français, Berlin

1989: *De temps en temps*, Centre National de la Photographie, Palais de Tokyo, 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, Saanen, Switzerland

Martine Franck Photographe, Mannheimer Kunstverein, Mannheim, Germany

1992: *Martine Franck, Retrospective*, Museo d'Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago

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

1998: *D'un jour, l'autre*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris

Tory Island Images, Gallery of Photography, Temple Bar, 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 & Cause, Paris

Martine Franck, SK Josefsberg Studio, Portland, Oregon, United States

Martine Franck, Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris

Tambours sur la digue, Théâtre du Soleil, Université de Rennes

Tibetan Tulkus, Images of Continuity, Gallery Rossi & Rossi, London

2001: *Martine Franck*, HackelBury 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*, Aula de Cultura BBK-Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa, Bilbao, Spain

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, A Rich Meaningful Eye*, Kahitsukan Kyoto Museum of Contemporary Art, Kyoto, Japan

2010: *In Celebration of Women*, Chanel Nexus Hall, Tokyo

2011: *Martine Franck, Venus d'ailleurs, Peintres et sculpteurs à Paris depuis 1945*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris

2012: *Martine Franck*, 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

2018 : *Martine Franck*, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Paris ; Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne ; FOMU, Anvers.

FILMOGRAPHY

Films by Martine Franck

1970: *What has happened to the American Indians*. Produced by Martine Franck. 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. 26 minutes

1996: *Tory Island, No treasure Island*. Produced by Les petits frères des Pauvres. 4 minutes

1997: *Mille enfants vers l'an 2000*. Produced by Marion Aldighieri. 2 minutes

2005: *Famille Farova, Trois générations de femmes de la République Tchèque*. Directed by Olivier Koechlin and Martine Franck. Produced by Alcatel, for the Eurovisions exhibition. 17 minutes

Films about Martine Franck

1984: *Le quotidien a deux regards*. Directed by Fabienne Strouvé. Produced by FR3 Paris – Ile de France. 14 minutes

1990: *Martine Franck, entretien avec Franck Horvat*. Directed by Bruno Trompier and Franck Horvat. Produced by Paris Audiovisuel, Jean Luc Monterosso. 13 minutes

Regards de femme – Ailleurs Photo. (13 photographs by Martine Franck with commentary by the photographer). Produced by FR3 Lorraine-Champagne-Ardenne. 19 minutes

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. 56 minutes

2003: *Alzheimer – Penser, accompagner, agir – Martine Franck, photographe*. Interview of Martine Franck. Directed by Alain-Charles Beau. Conception by Elisabeth Azoulay. Produced by Contrasto. 23 minutes

2005: *I Tulkus del Tibet, la reincarnazione dei grandi Lama*. Directed by Enrico Datti. Produced by Contrasto. 6 minutes