



**MATHIEU PERNOT** WINNER OF THE HCB AWARD 2019  
**LA RUINE DE SA DEMEURE**

FONDATION HCB  
MARCH 8 - JUNE 19 2022

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### PRESS OPENING

#### MONDAY, MARCH 7 FROM 2PM TO 4PM

79 rue des Archives – 75003 Paris

01 40 61 50 50

[henricartierbresson.org](http://henricartierbresson.org)

### OPENING HOURS

Tuesday - Sunday : 11am - 7pm

### RATES

Full rate 9€ / Concessions 5€

### SOCIAL NETWORKS



### PRESS CONTACT

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The Fondation HCB will be closed to the public between January 17 and March 7, 2022 while building an extension.

Cover:  
Mathieu Pernot, Beirut, 2020



PRESS KIT – MATHIEU PERNOT – MARCH 8 / JUNE 19, 2022

# REBOUNDING FROM A YEAR OUTSIDE OF TIME

Fondation Henri-Cartier-Bresson was open for just five months of 2021. We have barely stirred from the slumber that fell upon cultural venues all over the world since the beginning of 2020. The Eugène Atget exhibition was a great success, with a fairly young audience, the same for Immersion laureate Gregory Halpern, and Sergio Larrain, whose exhibitions were extended several times, and by their very natures attracted diverse audiences. The John Coplans exhibition, which demonstrates the diversity of the artists presented, has inspired a more limited audience in this period before the end-of-year holidays.

Beyond the Fondation HCB, despite our fears from successive postponements, the exhibition Henri Cartier-Bresson - *Paris Revisited* (126,000 guests), at the Musée Carnavalet - Histoire de Paris, opened in parallel with the exhibition Eugène Atget - *Voir Paris* at the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson. While its guests were mainly Parisians, as movement during this period was still restricted, the exhibitions were highly successful in terms of esteem and attendance. Overlap with the exhibition *Le Grand Jeu* (33,000 guests), a collection of HCB's photographs by François Pinault, who took on the curation along with four other curators (Annie Leibovitz, Wim Wenders, Javier Cercas, Sylvie Aubenas) at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, didn't seem to hinder the success of either event.

At the pedagogical level, interviews, which had limited audiences due to Covid, are now available on a new YouTube channel.

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès pursued its partnership with the Fondation HCB by supporting its Award, the 2021 winner of which was Carolyn Drake, chosen by a French jury of professionals at the lifting of lockdown (her show will be exhibited in 2023), as well as the Immersion programme, which we will now be hosting every two years. Thus the Fondation HCB will be able to support two production projects.

Many international projects have been postponed, but fortunately the Martine Franck exhibition at FOMU in Antwerp was able to take place, with intermittent openings, as well as the Henri Cartier-Bresson retrospective, recently opened in Rabat, Morocco, running until February 21, 2022 - it's the first time an exhibition of Henri Cartier-Bresson's work has been shown in Africa. The exhibition *China, 1948-49 / 1958* will be shown at MUDEC in Milano from February 19 to July 3, 2022.

## 2022 at 79 rue des Archives

From March 8 to June 19, 2019 HCB Award winner Mathieu Pernot will unveil the results of his fellowship with photographs of the Middle East that are as personal as they are documentary, thanks to the support from the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. The Jan Groover retrospective, many-times rescheduled, will be shown at the beginning of the school year in September, in collaboration with the Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne.

Finally, 2022 will see an enlargement of the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson. To the present "White Cube" (300m<sup>2</sup>) for exhibitions and conferences will be added a new "Tube" (100m<sup>2</sup>), amounting to 30% more public space in the heart of the Marais, and an educational space slated for autumn.

Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson continues to promote the work of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Martine Franck by welcoming researchers and circulating their work internationally, but also by showing the work of other photographers at 79 rue des Archives. The board, overseen by president Serge Toubiana, supports the Fondation's team at work.

François Hébel  
Director  
Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson



# MATHIEU PERNOT

## LA RUINE DE SA DEMEURE

### MARCH 8 JUNE 19 2022

#### EXHIBITION

Mathieu Pernot, winner of the 2019 HCB Award, is presenting *La ruine de sa demeure* at the Fondation HCB, a photographic journey through Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. The point of departure is a travel album by the artist's grandfather, made in 1926, which delineates an itinerary from Beirut to Mosul, between the ruins of thousand-year-old civilizations in the Middle East and those of tragedies from recent history. With a near-documentary approach, Pernot offers a dialectical work interested in juxtaposing great historical narratives with those of his family's history.



Mathieu Pernot, Beirut, 2020

Pernot began the project in September 2019 in Beirut, where his grandparents and father had lived starting in 1925 and until the latter left for France in 1958. Through his research, on his first trip he discovered his family apartment. Returning to the capital after the portside explosion on August 4, 2020, the building had become inaccessible and risked collapse. The artist thus found himself confronted with, and intimately linked to the fragile history of Lebanon.

From Lebanon to Iraq, the artist is continual witness to scenes of desolation, a far cry from family or travel photos taken by his grandfather almost a century before him. One finds the splendor of archeological sites like Lebanon's Baalbek, "irrevocable trace of civilization" (Hala Kodmani), and the Nineveh Plains in Iraq, beside cities devastated by disasters and recent wars: in Homs, Aleppo or Mosul.

Out of this permanent double contrast between the innocence of photos from family albums and the violence of present-day landscapes, between ruins of a 3,000-year history and those of recent armed conflicts, comes a nonlinear reflection on the region—this cradle of civilization that now seems to represent its tragic end. Pernot's journey forms a part of a set of crossed histories with different temporalities, and “plunges us into the mixed-up stories of photography” (Etienne Hatt).

Despite many obstacles related to the pandemic and difficult access to certain conflict zones, Pernot succeeded in extending the bounds of his grandfather's travels by forging his own path to Aleppo and Mosul, in what the artist called “a journey into the ruins of history”.

The exhibition *La ruine de sa demeure* presents around forty prints by Mathieu Pernot, his grandfather's photo album, photographs from his family archives, as well as photos found in the destroyed houses of Mosul.

#### CURATOR

Agnès Sire, Artistic director, Fondation HCB

#### PARTNER

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



"Une âme, sur le point de rompre avec son corps  
S'en va pleurer la ruine de sa demeure,  
Elle qui jouissait jadis de sa vigueur."  
Poem by Abul-Alâ Al Maari from the book *Les Impératifs : poèmes de l'ascèse*, Actes Sud, 2009

## BIOGRAPHY

Mathieu Pernot, born in 1970 in Fréjus, France, lives and works in Paris. During his time at the École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie, Pernot met with Tsigane families in Arles, among whom the Gorgans, a family he's worked with continuously thereafter. In the 2000s, he began various series on the topics of con nement, urbanism and migration. His work with Philippe Artières on the archives of the psychiatric hospital Bon Saveur in Picauville (Manche) won him the Prix Nadar in 2013. In 2014, he received the Prix Niépce, and that same year the Jeu de Paume devoted an exhibition to him entitled *La Traversée*, showing 20 years of his photography. In 2020, Pernot published *Ce qu'il se passe: Lesbos 2020*, Éditions GwinZegal.

## PUBLICATION

The exhibition *La ruine de sa demeure* is accompanied by a book published by Atelier EXB.

Text by Hala Kodmani, journalist specialized in the Middle East, and interview between Mathieu Pernot and Étienne Hatt, journalist at Artpress.

Bound

29 x 24 cm

210 colour photographs

16 pages of documents

216 pages

45 euros

ISBN : 978-2-36511-322-9

Only available in French.



Mathieu Pernot, Mosul, 2019

## THE 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.

The jury of the HCB Award 2019 selected the French photographer Mathieu Pernot for his project *La ruine de sa demeure*. His application was presented by Jérôme Sother, Centre d'art GwinZegal (Guingamp).

More information on the HCB Award:

[www.henricartierbresson.org/en/hcb-prize/prize/](http://www.henricartierbresson.org/en/hcb-prize/prize/)

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



# PRESS IMAGES

## MATHIEU PERNOT

### LA RUINE DE SA DEMEURE

#### PRESS IMAGES

All visuals must be used with their captions and copyrights. No cropping is permitted and only two images per medium can be published.



01 | René Pernot's album, Syria, 1926  
© Mathieu Pernot



03 | Mathieu Pernot, Beirut, 2020



02 | Mathieu Pernot, Beirut, 2020



04 | Mathieu Pernot, Beirut, 2020

PRESS IMAGES  
MATHIEU PERNOT  
LA RUINE DE SA DEMEURE



05 | Mathieu Pernot, Tripoli, 2019-2020



07 | Mathieu Pernot, Aleppo, 2021



06 | Mathieu Pernot, Aleppo, 2021



08 | Mathieu Pernot, Homs, 2020

PRESS IMAGES  
MATHIEU PERNOT  
LA RUINE DE SA DEMEURE



09 | Mathieu Pernot, Karamlesh, Nineveh Plains, 2019



11 | Mathieu Pernot, Mosul, 2019



10 | Mathieu Pernot, Mosul, 2019



12 | Mathieu Pernot, Mosul, 2019

# EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME

## • Autumn 2022



Jan Groover, *Sans titre*, ca.1978  
© Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne - Fonds Jan Groover

### Jan Groover - Laboratory of forms

In collaboration with the Musée de l'Élysée in Lausanne, the Fondation is presenting an exhibition dedicated to the American photographer Jan Groover (1943-2012) for the first time in France. Through her constant experimentation with the photographic medium, Jan Groover's work features an exceptional diversity of subjects, format and technical processes.

### Inaugurating a new exhibition space

In the autumn 2022, a 100m<sup>2</sup> space will be inaugurated, representing a 30% expansion of the exhibition and event space.

### EVENTS

Each exhibition includes conferences, discussions, screenings and signings. Depending on the evolution of the health context, some of these events may be scheduled online. The events for the exhibition Mathieu Pernot - *La ruine de sa demeure* will be announced at [henricartierbresson.org](http://henricartierbresson.org)

## TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

Beyond its own site, the Fondation will continue to support the works of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Martine Franck being shown in many institutions around the world and promote the work of researchers by giving them the best access to archives. The Magnum Photos agency, created by Henri Cartier-Bresson, at the instigation of Robert Capa, along with George Rodger and David Seymour, continues to handle requests for copyright syndication.

- November 23, 2021 / February 21, 2022  
[Henri Cartier-Bresson Photographer](#)  
Musée Mohammed VI d'art moderne et contemporain, Rabat, Maroc
- February 18 / July 3, 2022  
[Henri Cartier-Bresson - China, 1948-49 | 1958](#)  
MUDEC (Museo delle Culture), Milano, Italia
- July 14 / October 7, 2022  
[Henri Cartier-Bresson - The Decisive Moment](#)  
Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, South Korea

# PRESS IMAGES 79 RUE DES ARCHIVES



001

Fondation HCB, 79 rue des Archives, November 2018  
*Reception*  
© Cyrille Weiner



004

Fondation HCB, 79 rue des Archives, October 2020  
*Gregory Halpern exhibition*  
© Hugo Hébrard



002

Fondation HCB, 79 rue des Archives, June 2021  
*Reception and bookshop*  
© Hugo Hébrard



005

Fondation HCB, 79 rue des Archives, June 2021  
*Eugène Atget exhibition*  
© Hugo Hébrard



003

Fondation HCB, 79 rue des Archives, February 2020  
*Marie Bovo exhibition*  
© Matthieu Samadet



006

Fondation HCB, 79 rue des Archives, October 2021  
*John Coplans exhibition*  
© Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson

## SPONSOR OF THE FONDATION HCB

### THE FONDATION D'ENTREPRISE HERMÈS

Established for the promotion of creative skills and know-how, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès has celebrated photography as one of its key priorities from 2008. As a result, a number of acclaimed photographers have been invited to show their works in various exhibition spaces set up by the Foundation.

This sensibility to the photographic medium was continued and confirmed in 2013 when the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès became the exclusive patron of the Prix Henri Cartier-Bresson. Awarded by the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, this prestigious prize aids artistic creation by allowing a photographer to produce or continue a project he or she couldn't achieve without this support. It's intended for an experienced photographer who has already achieved a significant body of work in a documentary vein.

In 2014, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès teamed up with the Aperture Foundation in New York to create Immersion, a French-American Photography Commission. This new programme of artist residencies, exhibitions and publications has allowed French and American photographers in turn to produce new bodies of work.

In 2021, Immersion is evolving and unfolding as part of a new partnership with the International Center of Photography (ICP) and the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson. Through this programme, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is reasserting its wish to go a step further in supporting photographic creation, by forming links with prestigious and internationally recognized institutions in this field.

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès's diverse activities are governed by a single, over-arching belief: our gestures define us. Put another way, individual actions nurture growth and well-being for us all. The foundation puts in place the necessary conditions for the creation of new work across the arts, the transmission of skills and know-how, the protection of our environment, and the encouragement of social solidarity, through a number of programs designed to accompany its beneficiaries as they build tomorrow's world. Together these actions reflect our fundamental aims: to cultivate shared intelligence, harness progress for the greater good, and enshrine humanitarian values at the heart of today's society. Established in 2008, the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is directed by Laurent Pejoux and chaired by Olivier Fournier.

