





Traqueur de Lumières

Yves Ullens

Yves ULLENS



Photography is and has always been for me the ideal medium to express emotions. The particular energy brought by light and colour is vital both in my private and professional life. Light, as the only form of energy we can see, presents itself as colour. My photographs allow the viewer and the creator to explore feelings through abstraction. I see photography very much like a painter and I use my camera like a brush.

My world of photography has developed into three major themes: pictorial, kinetic and optic. Each body of work takes on its own rhythms.

Progressively since 2011, I have become a more global artist; by extending - with the help of my team - the possibilities of photography and associating it to other media and design applications:

- In 2011, realization of my first monumental installation, *Metamorphosis*.
- In 2013, creation of my first sculptures, *Crescend'O* and *Délivrance*.
- In 2015, launch of my first functional design creation: *Destination*.
- At present, I am working on larger architectural projects.

Photography will always be at the very heart of my work. And, with the spirit of a scientist, I enjoy pushing its boundaries ever farther and further !

La série de photographies *Urban Traces* de l'artiste belge Yves Ullens a été dévoilée au public pour la première fois à Bruxelles en 2017. Cet ensemble de tirages s'inscrit dans la continuité d'une réflexion esthétique sur l'abstraction en focalisant tout particulièrement sur des effets de structures, de textures et de couleurs puisés dans l'environnement urbain. L'artiste arrête son regard sur des détails insignifiants et pourtant très présents dans notre vie quotidienne. *Urban Traces* constitue un ensemble d'images détaillées de passages pour piétons ou de marquages au sol des mégapoles du monde entier (New York, Paris, Bruxelles, Londres, Barcelone, Shanghai...).

A première vue, ces traces au sol peuvent paraître très similaires et pourtant en regardant de plus près ces empreintes citadines, l'artiste dévoile une grande variété de couleurs et de formes liée à leur usure, leur abrasion ou leur lacune, disparaissant peu à peu dans le mouvement de la densité urbaine. Ces couches successives dans l'asphalte apparaissent alors comme un miroir archéologique de nos vies citadines. Un lien spirituel avec le parcours de la grand-mère de l'artiste, Marie-Thérèse Ullens, qui était une voyageuse, photographe, cinéaste et archéologue.

Yves Ullens travaille sur la série *Urban Traces* depuis 2005 en parallèle à son travail photographique abstrait. Dans cette série, l'abstraction n'est plus obtenue grâce au mouvement de l'appareil mais par le sujet lui-même. Toujours à la recherche de la lumière et de la couleur, l'artiste compose ses images en référence à la peinture. Cette série des traces rappelle tout particulièrement l'art brut et notamment les expérimentations poétiques de Jean Dubuffet intitulées *Topographie*, *Texturologies* ou *Matériologies* des années 50. Une poésie puisée dans les textures éphémères de notre quotidien.

Dans l'exposition présentée dans la galerie de Samuel Maenhoudt à Knokke, quatre nouvelles images viennent compléter la série *Urban Traces*. En clin d'oeil à la mer du Nord, deux tirages de la série *Seascapes* sont également montrées à cette occasion.

L'artiste invite ainsi le spectateur à rêver et à laisser vagabonder son imagination et ses émotions dans les formes abstraites urbaines dévoilées à grande échelle.

Né en 1960, Yves Ullens vit et travaille à Bruxelles. Il a commencé sa carrière d'artiste à 40 ans après une carrière dans le marketing et les télécommunications. Depuis les années 2000, il a participé à de nombreuses expositions collectives et personnelles, ainsi qu'à des foires internationales. Ses œuvres sont présentes dans de prestigieuses collections privées et publiques en Belgique et à l'étranger. A partir de 2011, il a étendu son travail vers d'autres médias tels que les installations monumentales, le design et la sculpture toujours en lien avec la photographie abstraite.

The series of photographs *Urban Traces* by the Belgian artist Yves Ullens has been unveiled to the public for the first time in Brussels in 2017 . This set of prints is a continuation of an aesthetic reflection on abstraction, focusing in particular on the effects of structures, textures and colors taken from the urban environment. The artist stops his gaze on insignificant details and yet very present in our daily life. *Urban Traces* consists of a set of detailed images of pedestrian crossings or ground markings of megacities around the world (New York, Paris, Brussels, London, Barcelona, Shanghai ...).

At first glance, these traces on the ground may seem very similar and yet, by taking a closer look at these city footprints, the artist reveals a great variety of colors and shapes linked to their wear, abrasion or gap, disappearing little by little in the movement of urban density. These successive layers in asphalt then appear as an archaeological mirror of our urban lives. A spiritual bond with the journey of the artist's grandmother, Marie-Thérèse Ullens, who was a traveler, photographer, filmmaker and archaeologist.

Yves Ullens has been working on the *Urban Traces* series since 2005 in parallel to his abstract photographic work. In this series, abstraction is no longer obtained by the movement of the camera but by the subject itself. Always in search of light and color, the artist composes his images in reference to painting. This series of traces is particularly reminiscent of the art brut and especially the poetic experiments of Jean Dubuffet entitled *Topography*, *Texturology* or *Materials* in the 1950s. A poetry drawn from the ephemeral textures of our everyday life.

Four new images complete the *Urban Traces* series in the exhibition presented at Samuel Maenhoudt's gallery in Knokke. As a nod to the North Sea, two prints from the *Seascapes* series are also shown on this occasion.

The artist invites the viewer to dream and let his imagination and emotions wander through the abstract urban forms unveiled on a large scale.

Born in 1960, Yves Ullens lives and works in Brussels. He began his career as an artist at age 40 after a career in marketing and telecommunications. Since the 2000s, he has participated in numerous collective and personal exhibitions, as well as in international fairs. His works are present in prestigious private and public collections in Belgium and abroad. As of 2011, he has extended his work to other media such as monumental installations, design and sculpture always in connection with abstract photography.

RESUME

Born in 1960 in Brussels (Belgium). Lives and works in Brussels.
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Solo Exhibitions (selection)

- 2018 *Urban Traces*, Samuel Maenhoudt Gallery (Knokke, Belgium)
Yves Ullens : Pure Nature, B&B Italia/ Showroom (Washington, USA)
Light Attraction, Lausberg Gallery, (Düsseldorf, Germany)
- 2017 *Urban Traces Project*, MM Gallery (Brussels)
Tribute, Mark Rothko Art Centre (Daugavpils, Latvia)
Cosmic Illusions, Le 13 (Brussels), curated by ALVARI
- 2016 Cercle Royal Gaulois Artistique & Littéraire (Brussels)
- 2015 Uptown Design, curated by Kuntz Moureau, Natan (Brussels)
Inside Treasures, Espace Casina-Dominique Rigo (Brussels),
curated by K. Moureau
- 2014 *Scent of Abstract*, Rossi Contemporary gallery (Brussels) - catalogue
- 2013 *Inside Outside*, Pascal Janssens Gallery (Ghent), with Marta Pan
The Rhythm of Lights, in "La Vitrine" of Jean Brolly Gallery (Paris)
- 2012 *Fascinating light* (retrospective), Galerie L'Indépendance, BIL (Luxembourg),
curated by Caroline Bouchard - catalogue
Yves Ullens, Ponyhof artclub gallery (Munich)
- 2011 *Beautiful Lights*, Galerie Loft (Paris), with Chen Man
10.50 Uccle (retrospective), Centre Culturel d'Uccle (Brussels)
- 2010 *Coloured Dreams*, Liaigre Benelux (Brussels)
Colours & Seas, Young Gallery (Knokke, Belgium)
- 2009 *Further Enchanted*, Smets Ellipse (Kirchberg, Luxembourg) - catalogue
Enchantment and Mystery, Pascal Janssens Gallery (Ghent)
- 2008 *Together*, Yves Ullens & Pascal Courcelles, Porsche Life House (Brussels)
- 2007 *No Limits*, Young Gallery (Brussels)
- 2006 *Full Colours*, Alexia Goethe Gallery (London) - catalogue
- 2004 *Color Changes*, Galerie Guy Ledune (Brussels)
- 2003 *Water & Light Vibrations*, Ethnic Design Gallery (Miami) - catalogue
Photo-graphiques, Loft 9 (Brussels)
Etats de Lumière, Young Gallery (Brussels) - catalogue
- 2002 Bl@Bla & Gallery (Brussels)
- 2001 Belgacom Towers (Brussels)
Entrez dans la Lumière du IIIe Millénaire, Gallery (Brussels)

Group Exhibitions (selection)

- 2018 *Abstraction Group Show 3*, MM Gallery (Brussels)
Retour au Charbon, Galerie Nardone (Brussels)
Yves Ullens, Pascal Courcelles, Seize - Group Show, MM Gallery (Brussels)
Ethnic - SpotUart Gallery (Tervuren, Belgium)
- 2017 *Abstraction Group Show 2*, MM Gallery (Brussels)
Abstraction Group Show, MM Gallery, (Brussels)
- 2016 *Matières* - SpotUart Gallery (Tervuren, Belgium)
Hong Kong Belgium Week, organized by the Belgian Embassy
(Hong Kong, China)
Autour de l'Art - Rasson Art Gallery (Tournai, Belgium)
- 2015 *294*, Avenue Louise 294 (Brussels), curated by Alex Alvari
Color Your Life, Quincailerie van AA (Brussels) curated by SpotUart
- 2014 Up Site (Brussels) curated by SpotUart
- 2013 *Mythiq 27*, Espace Cardin (Paris) - catalogue
- 2010 Pascal Janssens Gallery (Ghent)
Architects-artists encounters, Galerie Horta (Brussels)

- En corps et encore*, Suty Gallery (Coye-la-Forêt, France)
Ché Guevara, Espace Art 22 (Brussels)
- 2009** *Ché*, Galerie Suty (Rennes) et Triptyque (Angers, France) - catalogue
Ché: du héros au culte de la marque, Galerie Suty (Coye-la-Forêt, France) - catalogue
- 2008** *Quel avenir pour le futur ?*, Le Foyer (Leudelange, Luxemburg) - catalogue
- 2006** *Story*, Alexia Goethe Gallery (London)
Color Summer, Young Gallery (Brussels)
Festival International de la Photo de mer (Vannes, France)
- 2005** *Light Expressions*, ARTespace Gallery (Brussels)
- 2004** Deurlica Gallery (Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium)
- 2001** Vivendi Gallery (Paris)
 Bortier Gallery (Brussels)
- 2013 to 2015** L'Accueil, Châtelain 18 (Brussels)
- 2009 to 2012** L'Accueil, Pierre Bergé auction house (Brussels)
- 2003 to 2008** L'Accueil, Xavier Hufkens Gallery (Brussels)

Art Fairs (selection)

- 2018** Riga Photography Biennial 2018, Riga (Latvia) with the Daugavpils Mark Rothko Centre
- 2017** Art Elysées, Paris (France) Mark Hachem Gallery
 Cube Art Fair, Brussels (Belgium), Mark Hachem Gallery
 Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary, Los Angeles, Mark Hachem Gallery
 Palm Beach Jewelry, Los Angeles, Mark Hachem Gallery
 Scope New York, New York, Mark Hachem Gallery
- 2016** Art Miami (Miami, USA), Mark Hachem Gallery
 Photo Shanghai (Shanghai, China), Samuel Maenhoudt Gallery
- 2014** Art Paris (France), Pascal Janssens Gallery
 Art 14 (London, UK), Pascal Janssens Gallery
- 2013** Art Paris (France), Pascal Janssens Gallery
- 2009** Lineart (Ghent, Belgium), Pascal Janssens Gallery
- 2007** Liste Köln (Germany), Young Gallery
- 2006** Art London (UK), Alexia Goethe Gallery
- 2004** Geneva Palexpo (Switzerland), special guest

Awards

- 2011** Winner of the BKCP Bank competition leading to the realisation of *Metamorphosis*, monumental photographic installation, BKCP Headquarters, Brussels.
- 2008** Hasselblad Masters, semi-finalist.

Major orders and events

- 2015** *Triple Harmony*, multimedia installation for the board of directors room in RTL Group (Brussels).
- 2014** W.Z.C. Mariahuis (Gavere), first association of photographs and Comic Strip technics.
- 2013** *Crescend'O*, monumental photo-sculpture installation in ChromaLuxe, Beobank Headquarters (Brussels).
- 2011** *Metamorphosis*, monumental photo-installation, BKCP Headquarters (Brussels)

Collections

- Belgium :** Auday, Beobank, BKCP, Brederode, Degand, Formar (Garmin), Immocobel, McKinsey & Company, Pernod-Ricard Belux, Degroof-Petercam, Puilaetco Dewaay and RTL.
- Abroad :** Mark Rothko Art Centre (Daugavpils, Latvia), Belgian Embassy in Tokyo (Japan) and in Kigali (Rwanda), Banque du Luxembourg, Foire de Genève, Le Foyer Assurances and Color Center.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Exhibitions catalogues and monographs

- 2017 *Yves Ullens Urban Traces Project*, MM Gallery, Brussels
- 2015 *Yves Ullens. Scent of Abstract*, artist's book published on the occasion of the exhibition at Rossi Contemporary, limited to 100 copies, Brussels, 2015 (texts of Bernard Drion)
- 2012 *Yves Ullens. Fascinating Lights*, BIL editions (Banque Internationale à Luxembourg), Luxembourg. (texts by François Pauly, Caroline Bouchard)
- 2009 Exhibitions *Haute Couture* collection and *Just Ready to Wear* collection by Yves Ullens, Smets Ellipse et Smets Concept Store, Kirchberg & Strassen, Luxembourg. (text by Christine De Naeyer)
- 2006 Yves Ullens. *Full Colours*, Alexia Goethe Gallery, London. (text by Christine De Naeyer)
Yves Ullens de Schooten, Rond-point des Arts editions, coll. Monographie d'artiste, Brussels. (texts by Sophie Dauwe & Jean-Jacques Serol, Christine De Naeyer).
- 2003 *Water & Light Vibrations*, Ethnic Design editions, Miami.
(Text by Bernard Drion du Chapois)
Yves Ullens de Schooten. Etats de Lumières, Young Gallery, Brussels.
(Text by Bernard Drion du Chapois)

Group exhibitions catalogues

- 2013 *Mythiq 27*, Gotham Lab – Ysam Suty editions, France, p. 66-67 (text by Yann Suty).
- 2011 *ART, INC.*, Collections d'entreprises au Luxembourg, art contemporain.lu editions, p. 277, 280 and 335.
- 2009 *The border 09*, Contemporary art zone, Lineart, Ghent, p. 50-51.
Triptyque, Art contemporain, Angers, p. 216.
@he du héros culte au culte de marque, Suty editions, France, p. 33.
Paul Zelanski and Mary Pat Fisher, *Colour*, 6th edition, Prentice Hall, London, p. 2 and 89.
- 2008 *Quel avenir pour le futur ?*, Foyer Patrimonium editions, Luxembourg, p. 114-131.
- 2006 *Festival International de la Photo de Mer*, Vannes, p.36-37.
- 2004 Geneva Fair Palexpo, Geneva, p. 40.

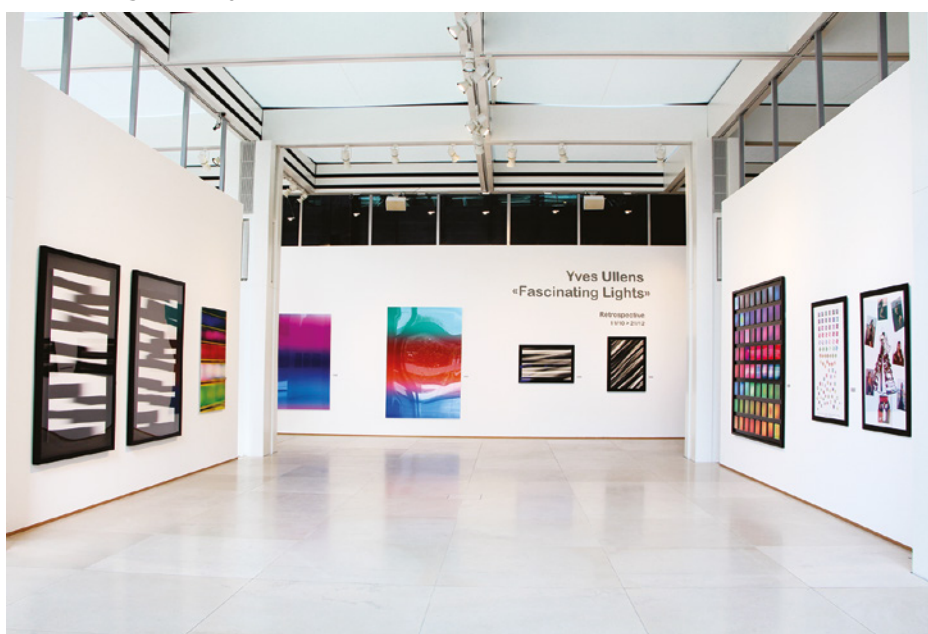
Press (selection)

- 2015 Paris-Match Belgique, n° 175, December 17th - 26th.
Juliette & Victor Magazine, n° 48, April – May, Belgium, p. 37.
"Inside Treasures" by Kuntz Moureau in Villas, n° 90, Belgium.
Gaël Belgium, September, p. 189.
Extra Maxx (Sud Presse), August.
"Uptown Design 2015, a limited edition" in Gentleman, June.
- 2012 "Let there be light !" by Frédéric Jarry in BigBook Brussels, Summer, p. 68-71.
- 2011 "Les étranges images d'Yves Ullens" in Wolvendael, n° 568, Belgium, p. 8.
- 2010 "Yves Ullens colorie les rêves" in La Libre Essentielle Focus, 27th - 28th November, p. 28.
"Art and the City" by Raoul Buyle in Elle Déco Belgique, June, p. 80.
- 2009 "Yves Ullens. Enchantment and Mystery" by Christine De Naeyer in ISEL Levenkunst/l'Art de Vivre, n° 29, mars – avril, p. 24 and 111.
"Yves Ullens. Enchantment and Mystery" in Arte News, April, p. 7.
- 2007 "Yves Ullens de Schooten. Le plasticien des lumières" by Sophie Dauwe and Jean-Jacques Serol in Places to be, September, p. 68-69.
"No Limits à la Young Gallery" by Magali Eylenbosch in Guest Magazine, n°1, April, p. 154-155.
"Le passeur de lumières " in Weekend, Le Vif, L'Express, March 2, p. 70.
"Traqueur de lumières. Yves Ullens à la Young Gallery " in La Libre Match, March 15 - 21, p. 114.
"No Limits" in Elle Deco, n°162, April, p. 18.

- “Yves Ullens de Schooten. No Limits ” in L’Eventail, n°4, April, p. 99.
 “Yves Ullens à la Young Gallery” in Arte News, March, p. 10.
 “No Limits” in Steps Magazine, February 26-March 11, p. 30.
- 2006** “Mers en Lumières” in Vannes Mag, March-April, p. 14.
- “Festival de la Photo de Mer : le jour des clichés ” in Le Télégramme, April 15, p. 17.
- 2005** “The Light Fantastic” in Canon Professional Services, online magazine, n° 13.
- “Yves Ullens de Schooten : Light Expressions ” in Arte News, December, p. 10.
- 2004** “Yves Ullens de Schooten Traqueur de Lumières” by Geoffroy d’Ursel in L’Eventail, April, p. 57-59.
- “Yves Ullens de Schooten : Color Changes” in Arte News, June, p. 81.
- “Côté création contemporaine” in Evènement Art 2005, December, p. 30-33.
- 2003** “Peintre ou Photographe ?” by Sophie Dauwe et Jean-Jacques Serol in Arte News, December, p. 40-43.
- “Yves Ullens de Schooten et Thomas Defays” by Geoffroy d’Ursel in Les Tribunes du Prestige, n° 3, January-February, p. 85-86.

Audiovisual medias (TV, video, DVD, radio)

- 2015** RCF Liège radio, “C’est l’heure du goûter” hosted by Philippe Cochinaux, December 15, from 16:30 to 17:30.
 BXFM radio, hosted by Philippe Sala and Barbara Delleur, Monday October 5, from 12:00 to 13:00.
 Le Centre FM radio, “Décibelge”, hosted by Harmonie Rouffiangue, Friday October 9, at 18:00.
- 2014** *Yves Ullens. Crescend’O*, documentary on DVD, produced and directed by Studio 77, Brussels, 7min. (conception, production and installation of the monumental photo-sculpture at BeoBank in Brussels).
- 2012** *Yves Ullens. Wonders of Light*, documentary on DVD, produced and directed by Emove (Gauthier Demaret & Lofti Bendimered), Brussels, 17min.
- 2011** *Murmures de Lumières. Yves Ullens*, documentary on DVD, produced and directed by Emove (Gauthier Demaret & Lofti Bendimered), Brussels, 12min41s (Installation of the monumental work *Metamorphosis* at BKCP in Brussels).
- 2010** RTL info, New Belgium Embassy in Pékin
- 2007** Move-on TV, reportage, 4min15s
- 2006** L’Hebdo (France 3 Ouest, French regional TV), interview, 4min15
- 2003** Ethnic Design Gallery Miami, video, 1min



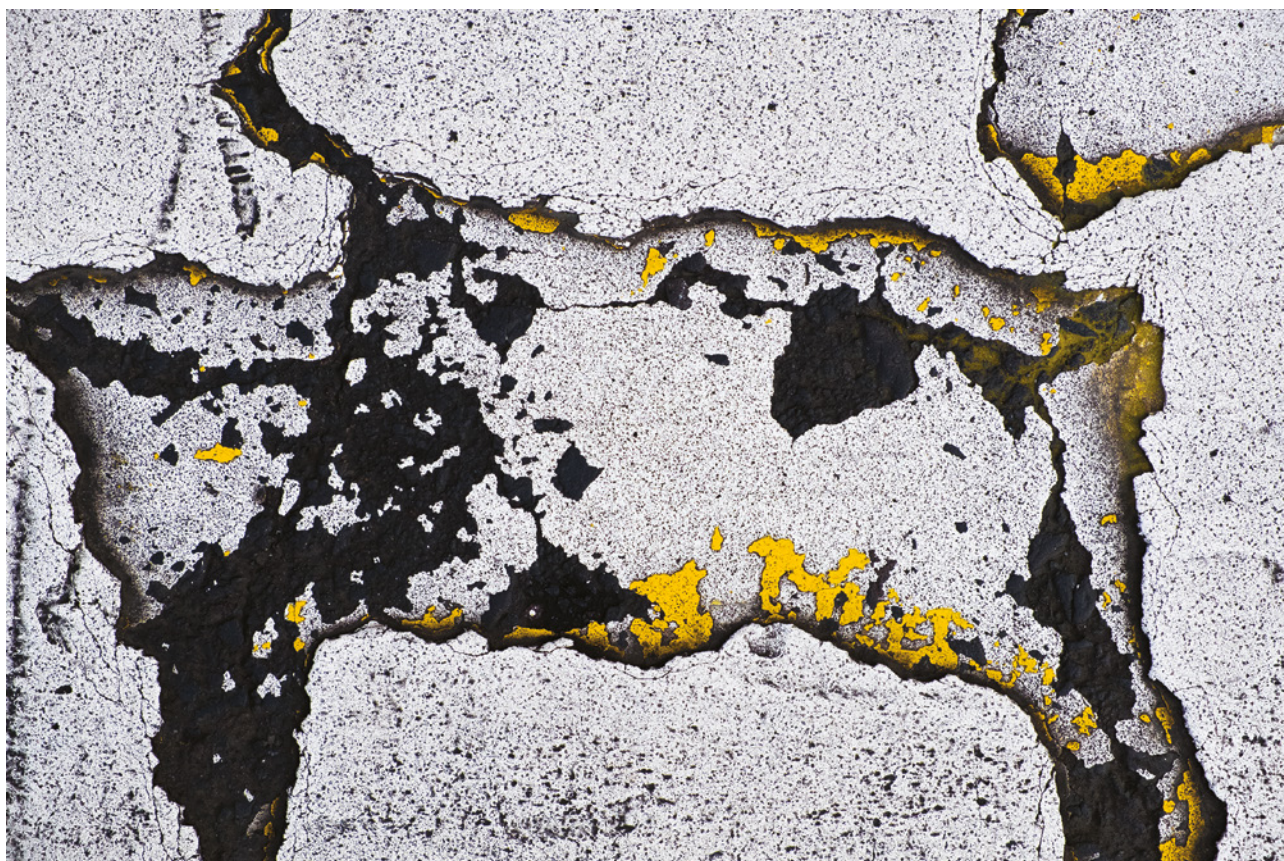
Exhibition View : *Yves Ullens, Fascinating Lights*, Galerie l’Indépendance, Banque Internationale à Luxembourg (BIL), Luxembourg, October 2012-January 2013



Urban Trace #44, Brussels (Belgium), 2013
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



Urban Trace #55, Sion (Switzerland), 2015
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/1, 100 x 150 cm
edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



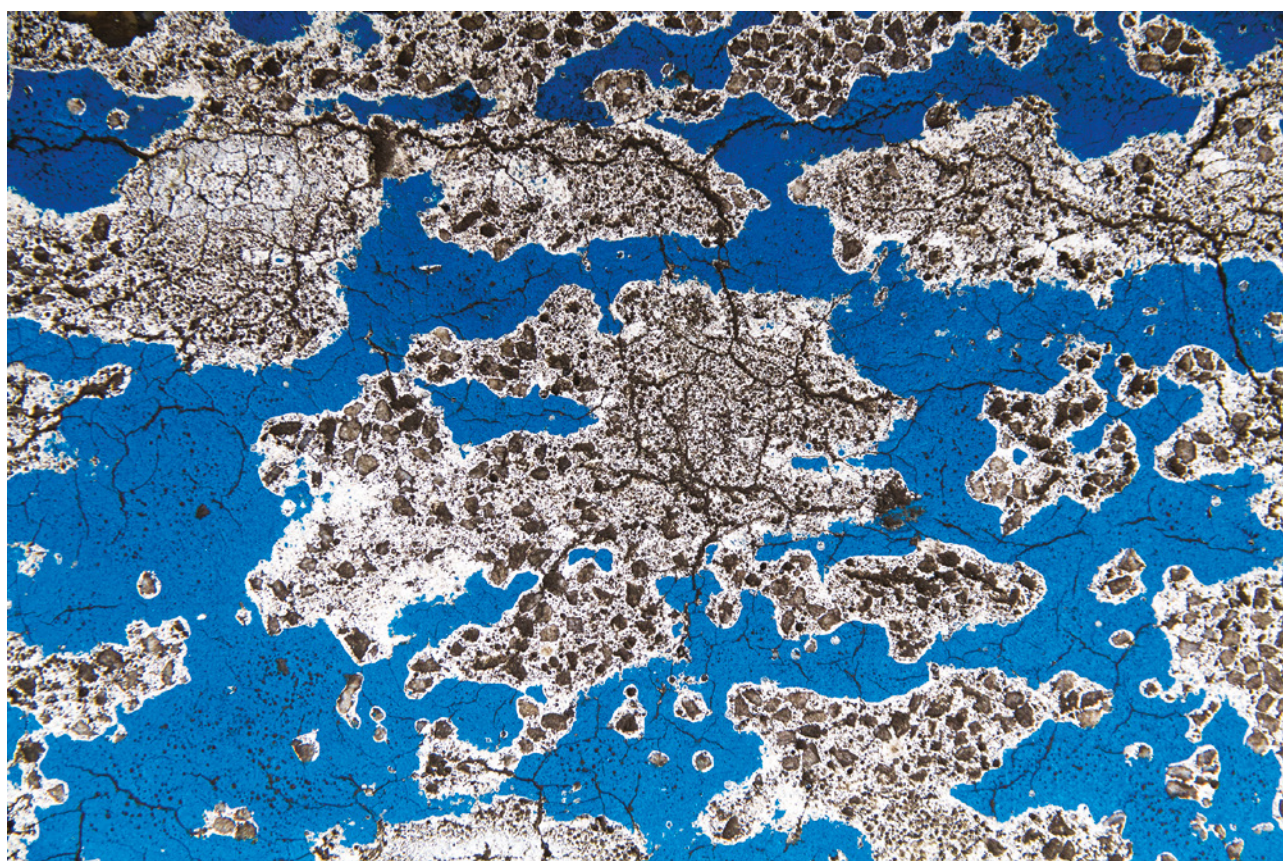
Urban Trace #61, Las Palmas (Grand Canaria, Spain), 2017
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/1, 100 x 150 cm
edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



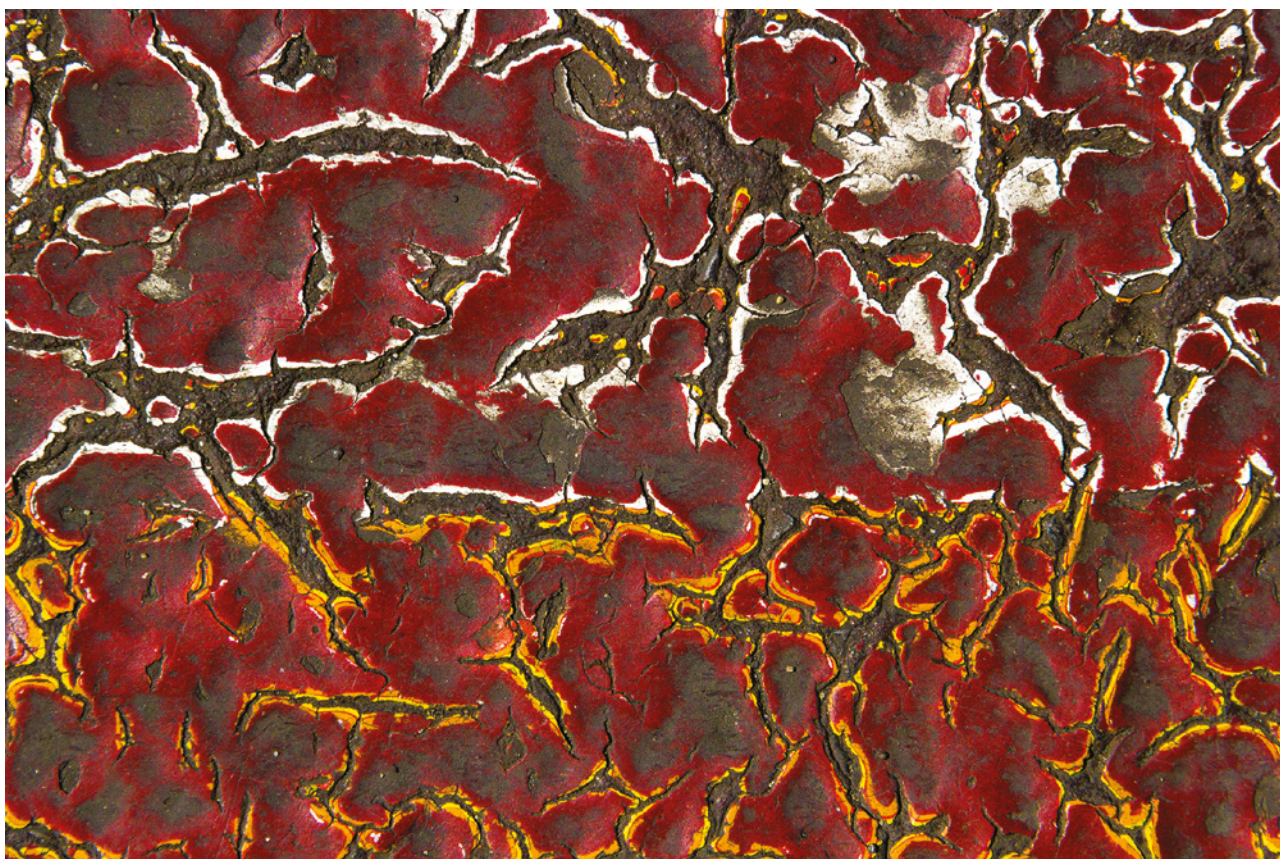
Urban Trace #52, Shanghai (People's Republic of China), 2014
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 90 x 60 cm
edition of 3 (+ 2 A.P.), 120 x 80 cm



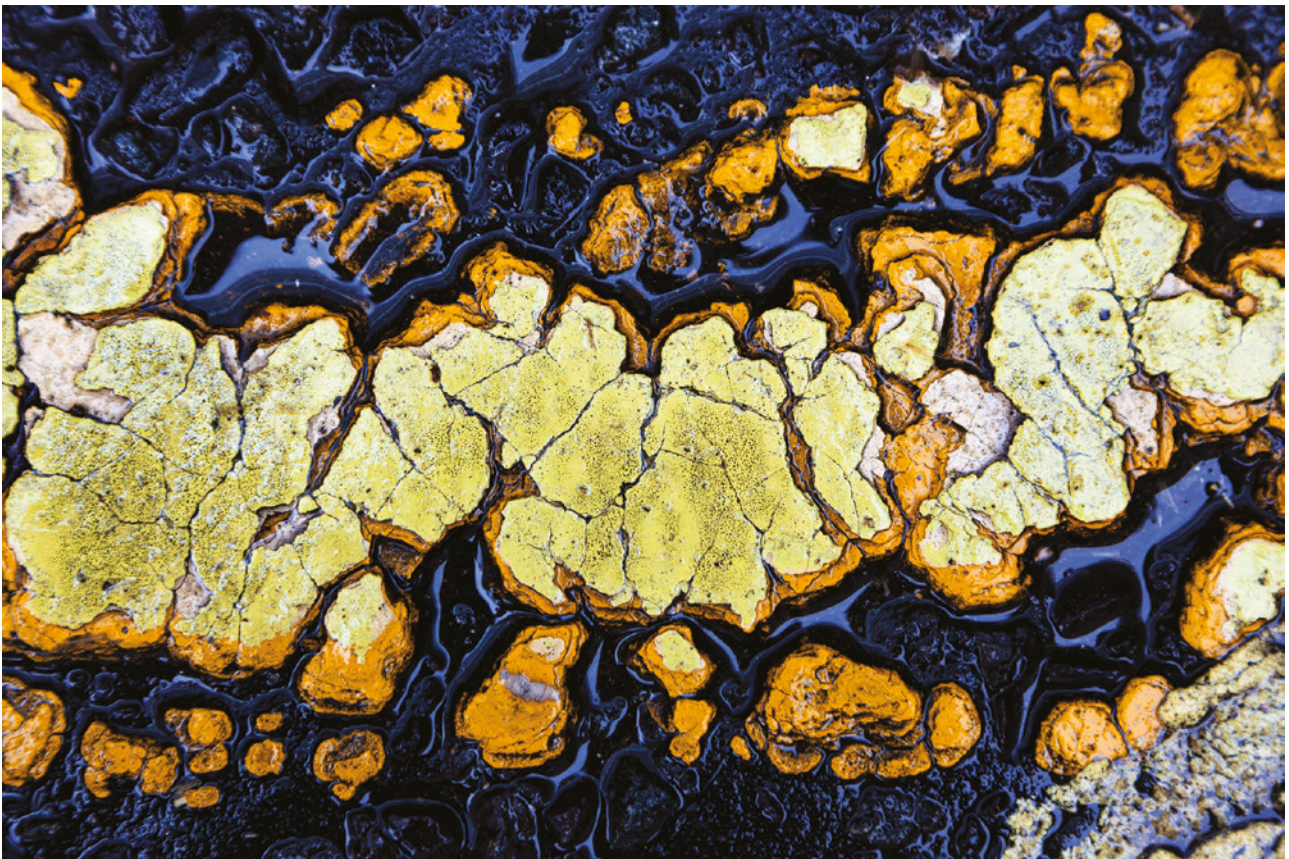
Urban Trace #15, London (United Kingdom), 2009
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm
edition of 3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm



Urban Trace #35, Milan (Italy), 2013
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



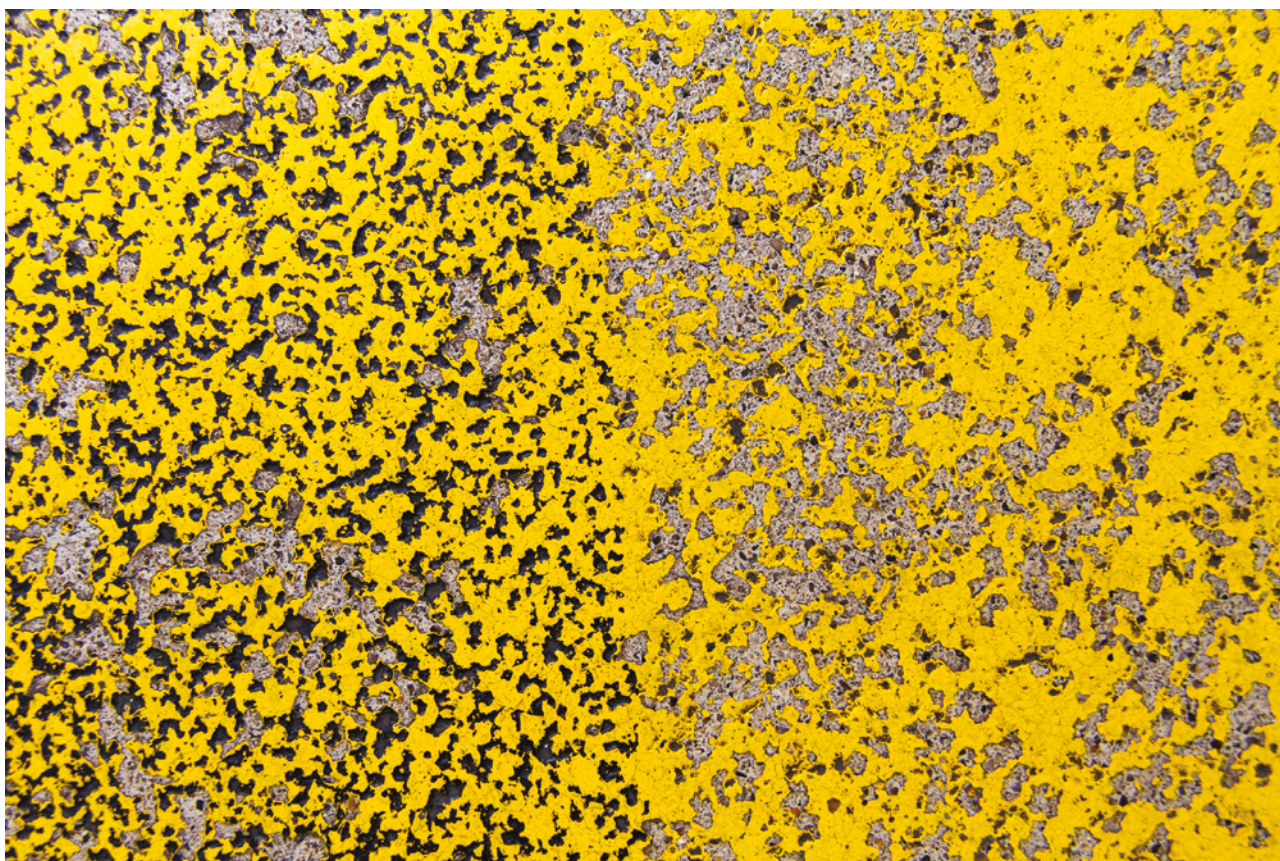
Urban Trace #19, Saint Tropez (France), 2011
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



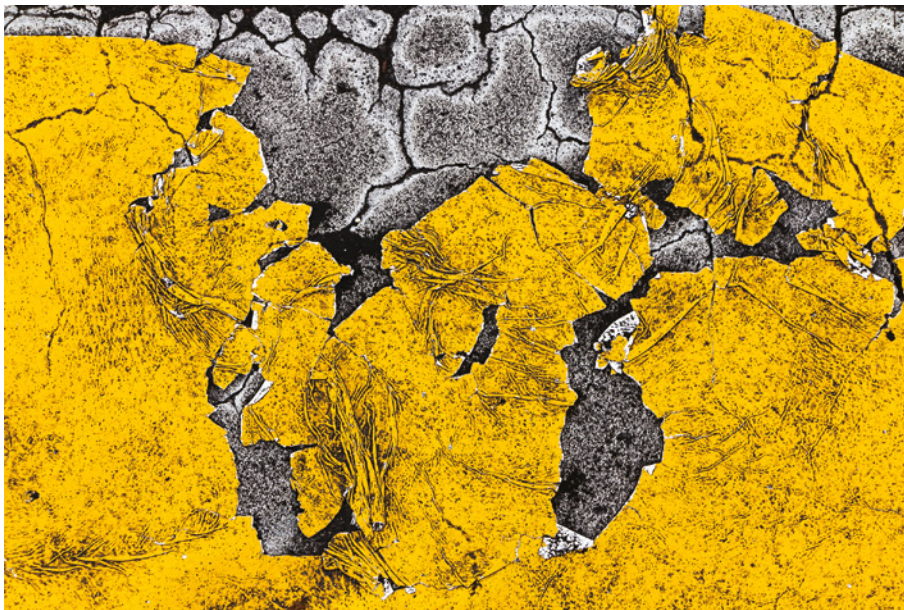
Urban Trace #16, London (United Kingdom), 2009
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm
edition of 5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm



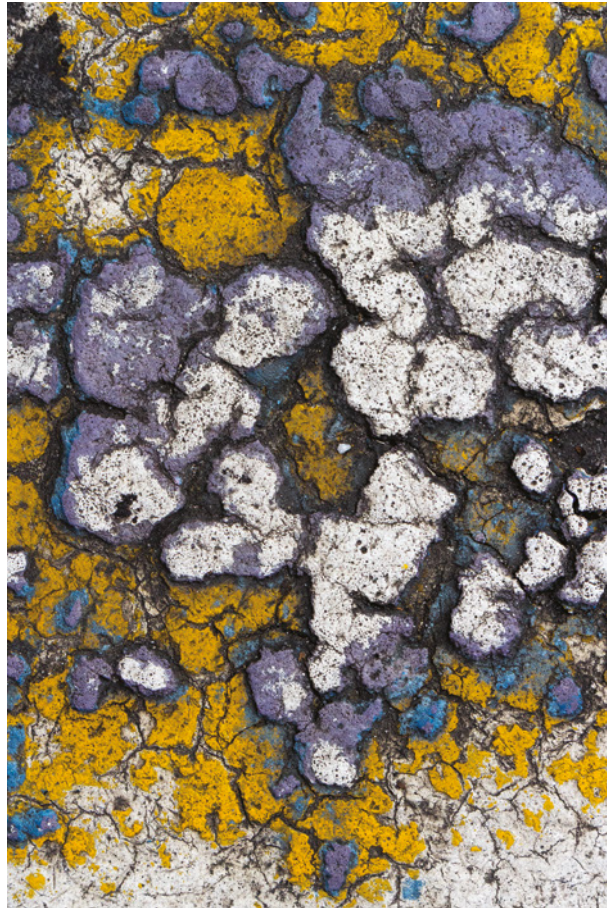
Urban Trace #20, Beijing (People's Republic of China), 2012
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm
edition of 3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm



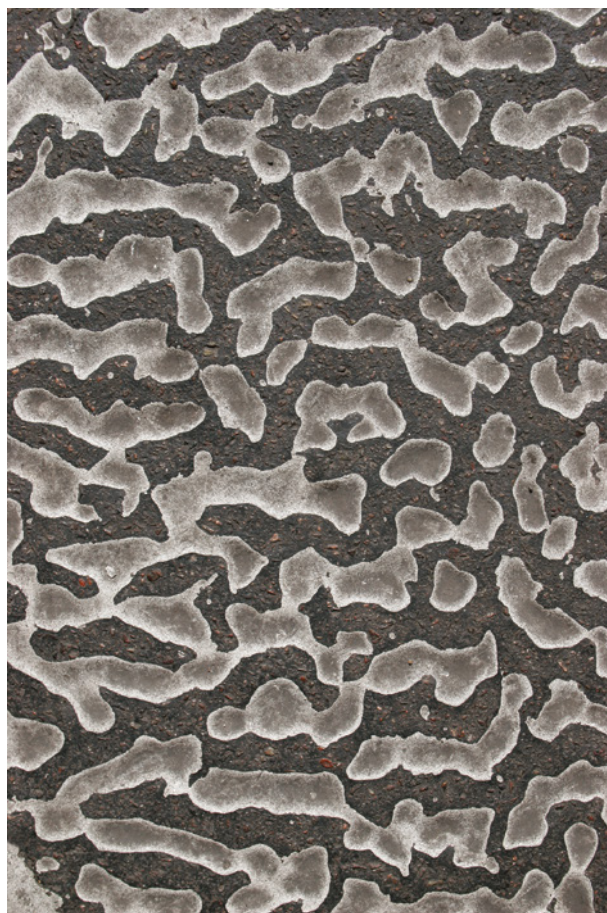
Urban Trace #30, Paris (France), 2012
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 90 cm
edition of 3 (+ 2 A.P.), 80 x 120 cm



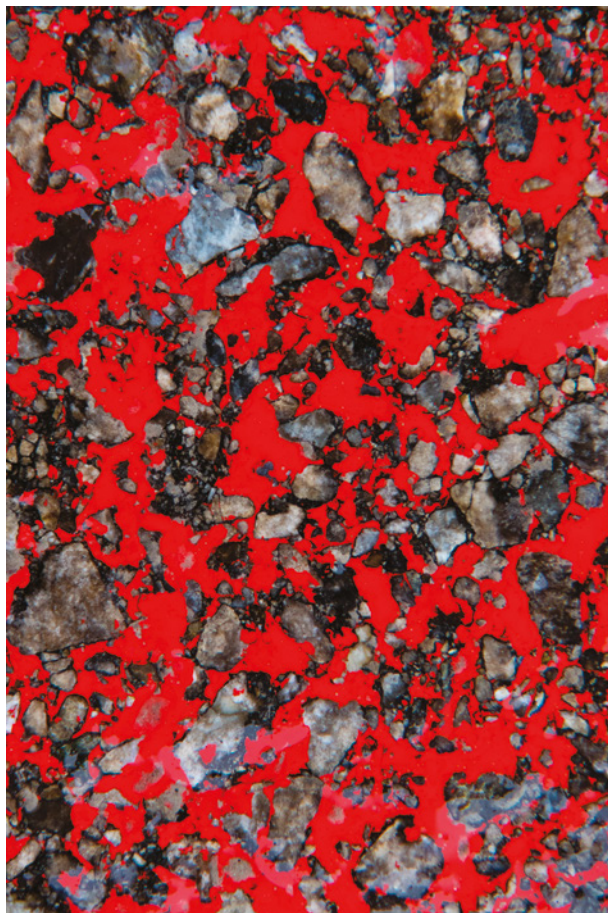
Urban Trace #33, Paris (France), 2012
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 40 x 60 cm



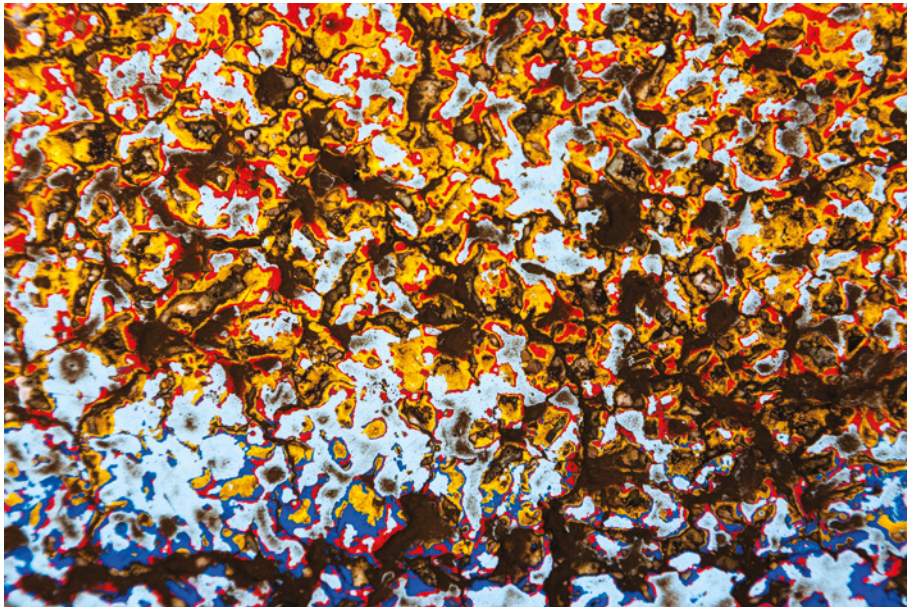
Urban Trace #45, Brussels (Belgium), 2013
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 40 cm



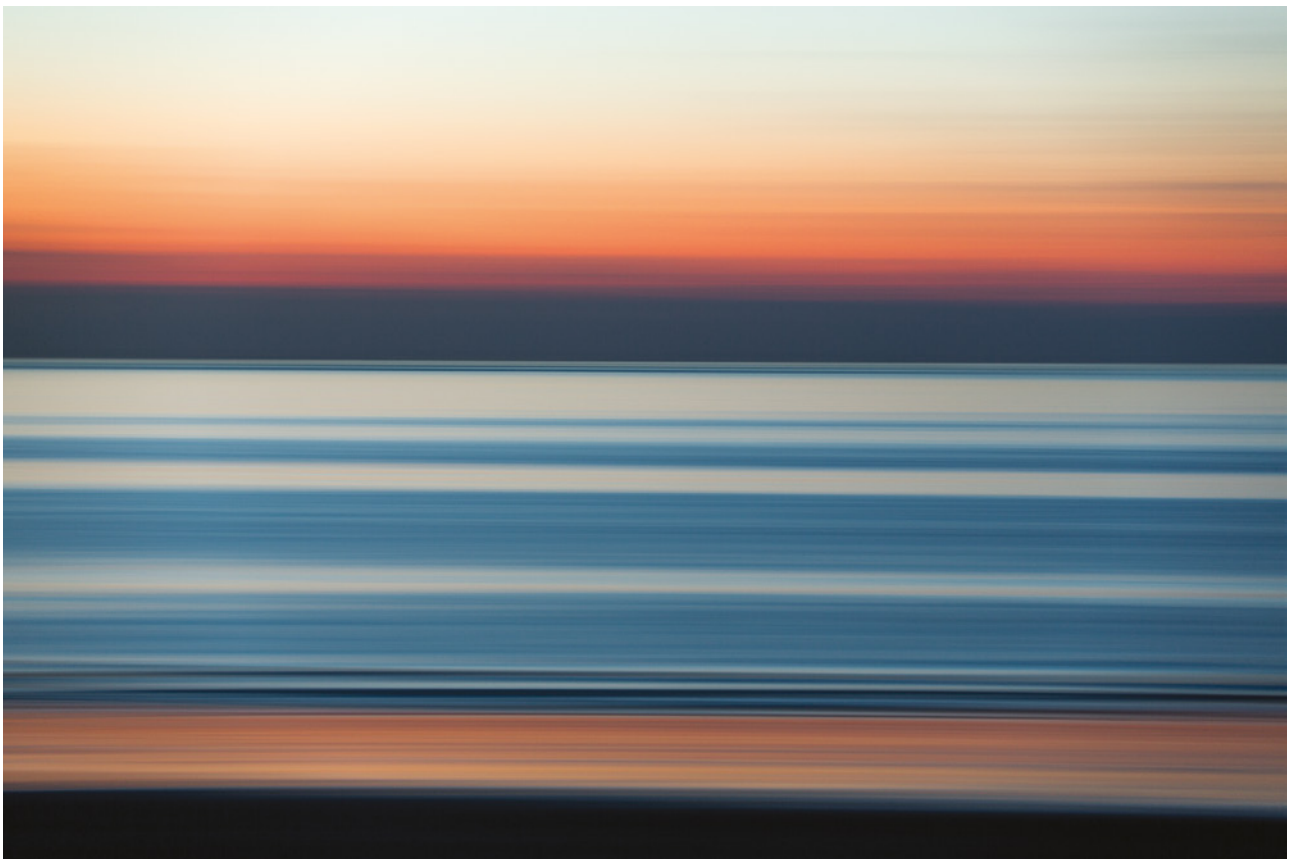
Urban Trace #01, Paris (France), 2005
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 40 cm



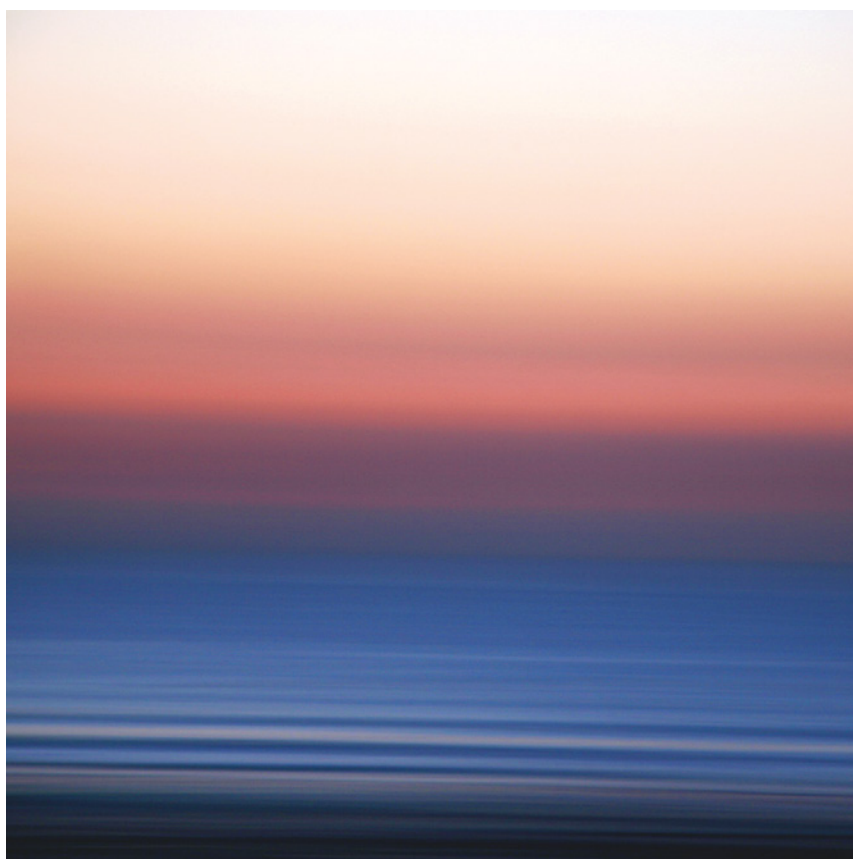
Urban Trace #56, Sion (Switzerland), 2015
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 60 x 40 cm



Urban Trace #12, Saint Tropez (France), 2008
Archival Pigment Ink Print mounted on aluminium in a black American box frame
1/10 (+ 2 A.P.), 40 x 60 cm



A Kind of Paradise #2, Knokke (Belgium), 2013
C-print mounted on Dibond with matte anti-U.V. screen in a black American box frame
1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 100 x 150 cm



Pastel North Sea #2, Knokke (Belgium), 2005
C-print mounted on Dibond with matte anti-U.V. screen in a black American box frame,
1/5 (+ 2 A.P.), 100 x 100 cm



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