

Yves Marchand & Romain Meffre

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Yves Marchand and Romain Meffre, *Ballroom, American Hotel* (2007) ultrachrome print, 150 x 190 cm, edition of 6

Yves Marchand and Romain Meffre are two French photographers who met through a mutual interest in contemporary ruins. They began their collaboration in 2002 by exploring Parisian remains before their interest took them to Detroit where a thorough exploration of the city lasting five years resulted in their seminal work *The Ruins of Detroit* (Steidl, 2010).

Since then they have completed a number of critically acclaimed series including *Theatres*, which was born out of the time they spent in Detroit. Noticing the sorry state of many of the movie theatres they came across, they discovered and documented abandoned movie across America. Many of the theatres date from the golden age of film and the stories told through these images act as a fascinating document of American History.

Gunkanjima (Steidl, 2012) is an investigation of the island of Hashima, a small island located off the extreme southwest coast of Japan. Owned by the Mitsubishi corporation who opened a coal mine there and during the 1950s it became one of the most densely populated places in the world with over 5,000 inhabitants. But after the mine closed in January 1974 the last inhabitants deserted the island, the connection by boat was suspended and Gunkanjima become a ghost town.

Industry is an ambitious and ongoing project documenting the rise and fall of the industrial landscapes of the West, while in their last series, *Lebanon* (2017), the Tripoli International Fair, one of the largest exhibition centers in the world designed by Oscar Niemeyer in 1963, due its unfinished appeal to the project's abandonment during the country's civil war in 1975.

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Born in 1981 & 1987 in the Parisian suburbs, both live and work in Paris.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2017

Industry, Tristan Hoare, London

2015

Theaters at Cultuurcentrum Caermersklooster, Ghent
Industry, Polka Gallery, Paris

2014

Theaters at Deutsches Filminstitut, Frankfurt

2013

Gunkanjima, Polka Galerie, Paris
The Ruins of Detroit, Edwynn Houk Gallery, Zurich

2012

Theaters, Polka Galerie, Paris
The Ruins of Detroit, Fontana Fortuna Gallery, Amsterdam
The Ruins of Detroit, Tristan Hoare Gallery, London

2011

The Ruins of Detroit, Kühlhaus, Berlin
The Ruins of Detroit, Galerie Wanted, Paris

2010

The Ruins of Detroit, Le Maillon, Strasbourg
The Ruins of Detroit, Gun Gallery, Stockholm

Selected Group Exhibitions

2019

In Ruins, Witley Court, Worcestershire

2018

Geometrica, Tristan Hoare, London

2016

Teamwork Makes Dreamwork, Polka Galerie, Paris
La forza delle rovine, Museo Nazionale Romano, Rome

2015

Reimagining the Industrial Revolution, Meadow Arts & Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust,
Coalbrookdale, UK

2013

Aesthetic Departures: Trends in European Photography, 1850 to the present, Detroit
Institute of Art, Detroit

2012

Parcours photographique de St. Gilles, Bruxelles
Le Silence, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Monaco