

INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS JORION

by [Emmanuelle Brame](#)

Thomas Jorion is an artist photographer recognized by the art world. He is a talent who succeeds in creating with singularity a visual and emotional journey towards the incredible and the spectacular. The power of photography takes on a unique meaning here, allowing this artistic medium to transport us into a vertigo of emotions and well-being. The artist's work is recognisable at first glance, through his technique and his unique subjects which characterise him as a director of forgotten spaces. An encounter with an artist who produces aestheticism and enchantment, an invitation to observe and to encounter our own emotions.

What is the particular mission you seek in producing your work?

My goal is to share. I like to discover magical places, visit them, explore them. I get inspired by them. Then I try to capture all that the place can offer. This can take time. One should not confuse the power of the image with the power of the adventure of finding a new space. After my discoveries, there is a period of maturation. I have to check the result of the image. I have to make sure that it brings everything I'm looking for: a very strong emotion to propose to the public. I want to make something beautiful and put forward everything positive. I am an optimistic person by nature. My photos are always an eternal restart in this approach. My ambition is to offer inner journeys. A form of happiness. I take all my photographs with a camera and colour negatives. I think that this contributes to the special strength and quality of my photographs.

You have worked on different themes, how do you choose the subjects of your series?

I wait for my eye to be drawn to something. I let myself be surprised. That can also take time. I wait for inspiration, I want the series to bring images that feed a meaning. The scouting is a result of true spontaneity. The choice of places left behind are simple reflections that must seduce me naturally without thinking too much. For example, the subject I dealt with around the window series was a reflection on what the Covid had brought. Feeling stuck at home, without perspective. Or the topic on "Vestige d'Empire" was a way of becoming aware of what humans do to build history, somewhat madly. All this leaves traces. I bring them back.

How do you explain this series on Italy?

This country is a passion! I've been going there for a very long time. But above all, Italy perfectly embodies my subject on the past through its various ruins. I was very sensitive to this adaptation. Italy was the most emblematic place for this. The ruins are set in abyme, you always feel the presence of the past, a trace, a soul. And for me, it is even stronger here than elsewhere.

What does the term "ruin" inspire in you?

It's a metaphor for life. It's like a lecture that encourages us not to make the same mistakes again. For example, all those empires built by Ancient Rome. Time makes its history by leaving its traces with nature, which then settles in. For me, a ruin is the result of people who have lived, they have done work, they have been touched, transported... In the end, we don't really know everything that has happened on a site. It's fascinating. You just see all this continuity. That's what I'm trying to get at through my work.

Preparing for your work is like this adventure of discovering forbidden places to go to the forsaken, what does it feel like?

Indeed, there is a real adrenalin. I need it in my work. It is stimulating to optimise the senses. Above all, it helps me to feel the magic in a different way. This magic comes mainly through the feeling of the light, and

then the discovery of this chance to see, to discover little by little. I have to admit that the places I am allowed to see do not give me the same tension!

Your photos are exhibited at the Podbielski Gallery in Milan. Is it a place where one can discover your work?

Yes, it is. It's a place where you can concentrate. This place also gives off something very special. It is a moment that is like a parenthesis. Today the world loads us with messages with dark terms: war, climate... One catastrophe seems to chase another. Art is a real solution to feel good. It is important not to neglect all the moments offered to see the beautiful and thus meet its constructive emotions.