

LAURENCE AËGERTER

BIOGRAPHY



@ photo Naomi Jansen

"Laurence Aëgerter practices the art of displacement. For many years, she has never ceased to reappropriate the real, to circumvent it, to reinvent it. She collects, fragments, plays with the icons of our collective unconscious, draws her images here and there from the Internet, encyclopedias, books, reproductions of art works, in order to bring them back to life and offer them other spaces of freedom."

[text excerpt] Fannie Escoulen, curator, "Laurence Aëgerter, Cathédrales hermétiques", exhibition catalogue *Les Rencontres d'Arles*, Actes Sud, 2019

Laurence Aëgerter (1972) lives and works between Amsterdam, where she lives since 1993, and Marseille. She is the winner of the Nestlé International Photography Prize at the Festival Images Vevey 2016 and the Prix du livre d'auteur at the Rencontres d'Arles 2018 as well as the French Ministry of Culture's Photographic Commission 2022.

Laurence Aëgerter grew up in a family of antiquarians. As a child, she dreamt of being a detective or secret agent. Her passion for investigating unfamiliar territories finally came to a concrete form, halfway between art and anthropology. In the 90's, she obtained two Master's degrees in Art History, the first at the University of Aix en Provence and the second at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, focusing on trompe-l'oeil in 17th century Dutch painting.

Since 2001, she has dedicated herself to artistic projects and joined the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, from which she graduated in Visual Arts in 2005. Her work has since gained international recognition, has been included in private collections and is exhibited in prestigious institutions. In 2020-21 she had a solo exhibition at the Musée du Petit Palais in Paris, "Ici mieux qu'en face".

The human condition, perception and memory are the three pillars of her artistic research. By the prism of human sciences - from the great and small histories, from art history, from psychology to neurology - and their plural iconography - vernacular images, archival images from museum collections or taken from illustrated books and the Internet - Laurence Aëgerter operates as an investigator of our realities. Sometimes serious, sometimes playful, her works associate themselves with appropriation, translation and poetic displacement. They question the signifying power of the images that precede us, succeed us, surround us and exceed us, unconsciously.

Laurence Aëgerter's works, whether in the form of an intimate or monumental photographic piece, an in situ installation, a collaborative project or an artist's book, are attempts to answer questions that are shared, but which are commonly forgotten. In this hypersensitivity to the image, on the edge of synesthesia, Laurence Aëgerter invites us to reconnect with our senses, and to reconcile meaning and the essence of the world.

All the works of Laurence Aëgerter are available on the artist's website: <https://laurenceaegerter.com/>

LAURENCE AËGERTER
CV

Laurence Aëgarter - 1972 (France)

Studies

- 2005
- Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, Pays-Bas
- 1997
- 2nd Master in Art History, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1st Master in Art History, Faculty of Letters, Aix-en-Provence, France

Prizes & Residencies (selection)

- 2025
- EKWC European Ceramic Workcentre, Oisterwijk, The Netherlands
- 2024
- Commission of the MAMAC, Nice (FR)
- 2023
- Commission and Carte Blanche Photographique of Centre des Monuments Nationaux de France
- 2022
- National Commission of Photography, ‘Performance’, Ministère de la culture and 2015 Centre National des Arts Plastiques (CNAP)
- 2020
- Residency Manufacture de Sèvres, France
- 2018
- Winner Author Book Prize, Les Rencontres d’Arles, France
- 2016
- Winner Nestlé International Photo Prize, Festival Image Vevey, Switzerland
- 2014
- Winner NRC Charity Awards, The Netherlands
- 2009
- Residency Red A.I.R, Stedelijk Museum Bureau, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2026
- ‘Ode aan de dagen van wijsheid’, curator Eliane Odding. Grote St. Laurenskerk, Alkmaar (NL),
- 2025
- ‘Lullabies for the Storm’, abbaye du Thoronet, commissioned by Centre des monuments nationaux (FR)
- 2025
- ‘Le miroir aveugle’, Bildhalle, Amsterdam
- 2024
- ‘Elasticity of Presence’, Bildhalle, Zürich (CH)
- 2023
- ‘Epos van de Geest’ (Epic of the Mind), Museum van de Geest, Haarlem (NL)
- 2022
- ‘Eloge du double’, Galerie Binome, Paris (FR)
- 2022
- ‘Laurence Aëgarter at Eurojust’ (European Union Agency for Criminal Justice), The Hague (NL) , in the context of the chairmanship of France for the European Union.
- 2020-21
- ‘Ici mieux qu'en face’, curators Fannie Escoulen, Christophe Leribault and Clara Roca, Petit Palais Museum, Paris
- 2020
- ‘Nachtjagd (Wilde Sau/Zahme Sau)’, curators Rieke Righolt and Maarten Verweij, Machinery of me, Arnhem, The Netherlands
- 2019
- ‘Cathédrales Hermétiques’, curator Fannie Escoulen, Les Rencontres d’Arles, France
- 2017
- ‘Arithmétique de la perspection photographique’, Forum Für Fotografie, Cologne, Germany
- 2016
- ‘Photographic Treatment ©’, Festival Images Vevey, Switzerland
- 2015
- ‘Herbarium Cataplasma’, curator Kie Ellens, Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands
- 2013
- ‘The Modernists and More’, Hermitage Museum Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- 2010
- ‘Le Louvre’, curator Rebecca François, MAMAC, Nice, France
- ‘Seek & Hide’, Museum van Loon, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Collective exhibitions (selection)

- 2025
- ‘René, I am still standing’, curator Marieke Wiegel, Church of Our Lady, Breda (NL) met o.a. Oscar Munoz en Alicia Framis.
- 2024
- ‘L'ombre, le reflet, l'écho’, MAMAC au Palais Lascaris, Nice (FR)
- 2023
- ‘The Changing Landscape: from Voerman to Van der Linden’, Museum de Fundatie / Kasteel het Nijenhuis, Heino / Wijhe (NL)
- 2022
- ‘Devenir fleur’, MAMAC, Musée d’Art Moderne et Contemporain, Nice (FR)
- Group exhibition with a.o. Yto Barrada and Otobong Nkanga
- 2022
- ‘Alternative realities’ at Unbound/Unseen, curator Damarice Amao, with a.o. Anna Malagrida and Neoza Goffin, Amsterdam (NL)
- 2021
- ‘New distances’, Musée du Jeu de Paume, Jeu de Paume Lab, Paris, France
- 2019
- ‘Photos around books’, Camera Austria, curator Reinhard Braun, Graz, Austria
- 2018
- ‘Big Botany: Conversations with the Plant World’, Spencer Museum of Art, curator Stephen H. Goddard, Kansas, USA
- 2018
- ‘Rendez-vous with Frans Hals’, curator Ann Demeester, Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem, The Netherlands
- 2016
- ‘I Wanted to Be a Photographer’, curators Fannie Escoulen and Anna Planas, Fondation Colectània, Barcelona, Spain
- 2016
- ‘Quickscan NL#02’, Nederlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2015
- ‘Making Africa - A continent of contemporary design’, Guggenheim Bilbao, curators Amelie Klein and Okwui Enwezor, Bilbao, Spain
- 2015
- ‘Avoir Lieu’, Mois européen de la photographie, Luxembourg
- 2014
- ‘Tristes Tropiques : illustrations hors texte’, curator Azu Nwagbogu, Lagos Photo Festival, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2011
- ‘From Here On’, Les Rencontres d’Arles, France/ Arts Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain/ FOMU Fotomuseum, Antwerp, Belgium

Bibliography (selection)

- 2025
- ‘L'image Tissée’ / ‘The woven image’, Etienne Hatt, Art Press
- 2024
- ‘Laurence Aëgarter aux marches du palais’, Gilles Renault, Libération
- 2024
- ‘Aëgarters thora’, Arnon Grunberg commissioned by Museum of the Mind
- 2023
- ‘Epreuves de la matière’, Héloïse Conésá, exhibition catalogue Bibliothèque nationale de France
- 2020
- Monograph book *Laurence Aëgarter, Ici mieux qu'en face*, Fannie Escoulen and others, Actes Sud, Arles, France
- 2020
- Conversations, vol 3*, Rémi Coignet, The Eyes Publishing, Paris, France
- 2019
- L'art de l'évasion de Laurence Aëgarter*, Fannie Escoulen, ArtPress. *Rencontres d'Arles 2019*, ‘Cathédrales hermétiques’, Actes Sud, Arles, France
- 2018
- Gradhiva, Sur le vif, photographie et anthropologie*, Camille Joseph and Anaïs Maurin, Quai Branly museum, Paris, France
- 2017
- Photographie et mémoire*, catalogue Mois européen de la photographie, ‘Avoir Lieu’, Leonora Bisagno, Luxembourg
- 2017
- Entretiens : Perspectives contemporaines sur les publications d'artistes*, Jérôme Dupeyrat, éditions Incertain sens, Rennes, France
- 2015
- Netherlands Yearbook for the History of Art, Arts of Display*, Frits Scholten, Leiden, The Netherlands
- 2011
- Rencontres d'Arles 2011*, ‘From Here On’, Actes Sud, Arles, France

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Laurence Aëgarter - 1972 (France)

Collections (selection)

FR	MAMAC, Nice; Bibliothèque nationale de France - BnF, Paris; Centre national des arts plastiques - Cnap; Château Borély, Musée des arts Décoratifs et de la Mode, Marseille; Musée Georges de La Tour, Vic-sur-Seille; Musée national de céramique de Sèvres.
NL	Nederlands Fotomuseum Rotterdam; Dutch Ministry of Foreign affairs; Amsterdam Museum; AMC Hospital, Academisch Medisch Centrum, Amsterdam; Museum van Loon, Amsterdam; Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar; Museum Het Dolhuys, Museum of Psychiatry and the Mind, Haarlem; Fries Museum, Leeuwarden; Museum Boymans van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Koninklijke Bibliotheek Den Haag.
USA	MoMa, New York; The New York Public Library, New York; Paul Getty research Center Institute, Los Angeles; Spencer Museum of Art, Kansas; John M. Flaxman Library, The School of Art Institute of Chicago; Robert B. Hass family library, Yale University.
ES	Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.
UK	Tate Gallery, London; Chelsea College of Art and Design, London; The Archive of Modern Conflict, London.
CH	Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne.
AT	MAK, Österreichisches Museum für Angewandte und Gegenwartse Kunst, Vienna.