

## Mikael Lafontan

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Mikael Lafontan is a French and Swedish artist born in 1968, who has been living and working in Paris for the past 20 years.

Most of his work covers and explores northern landscapes: Scandinavia, Scotland, Canada or Iceland. Raised in France by a French father and a Swedish mother, Northern countries represent for him a source of nostalgic inspiration. Distance generates hunger, desire. People of mixed origins are defined by their differences: Swedish in France, yet French in Sweden. Stuck on a never-ending quest for his lost home. And what could be better than photography to sooth this need?

As soon as it's taken, the photo belongs to the past, it represents the time lost. Here, nostalgia has a double meaning: one referring to the intrinsic specificity of photography, and one regarding the artist's approach to his origins.

Scandinavians have a very special bond with nature. Their ecological conscience wasn't born with climate change, but is deeply rooted in their essence. Climate and nature are rough in those countries, making survival harsh and forging, throughout history, this spirit of respect, mixed with fear and superstitions.

Mikael's work isn't an ideological statement, but a search for this northern spirit within the landscapes, totemic shapes and matters. Old scandinavian tales and beliefs, filled with mysterious creatures, bring life to nature itself.

### EDUCATION

1987: Fotografisk Grunkurs / Kursverksamheten Lunds University, Sweden.

1988-1991: Masters in Sciences and Techniques of Fine Arts, option Photo, University Paris 8.

1993: Begins photographing as a professional.

### EXHIBITIONS

2019

L'Empreinte, Fontainebleau

2017

Envie d'Art, Paris

2016

AAF London

AAF Seoul

AAF Singapore

AAF Hong Kong

Envie d Art galleri, London, Paris

2015

AAF Singapore

Création du Collectif Hossa

AAF Seoul

AAF New York

AAF Brussels

2014

AAF Brussels, Hamburg, Singapore, London, Hong Kong

Envie d Art gallery, Paris XVI

London art fair

Scope Basel

Art Hamptons, Miami

2013

London Art Fair

AAF Hamburg, Brussels, Singapore, Londres

KRD gallery, Paris VIII

Envie d Art gallery, Paris VIII

2012

London Art Fair

AAF Los Angeles, London, New York, Stockholm, Singapore, Milan

Sophie Maree gallery, Netherlands

2011

AAF Brussels, London, Milan, New York

London Art Fair

Art Chicago  
Envie d'Art gallery, Paris

2010  
AAF London, Brussels, Milan, Singapore, New York  
Envie d'Art gallery, Paris  
Art Chicago

2009  
Scandi Press, Paris

PUBLICATIONS  
May 2016, <http://www.phasesmag.com/mikael-lafontan/le-marais/>  
Mikael Lafontan et Eric Pessan, "N", les inaperçus, 2012.