



“The City Front” at Galerie Maria Wettergren

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Exhibition view, “The City Front” at Galerie Maria Wettergren
(Courtesy of Galerie Maria Wettergren ©Benoît Fougeirol)

Galerie Maria Wettergren presents French artist and photographer Benoît Fougerol’s “The City Front,” through February 2, 2019. The exhibition features a series of works created between 2002 and 2015 in the ZUS areas (Sensitive Urban Zones) of the Parisian suburbs. “Benoît Fougeirol offers us a cartographic, toponymic and photographic inventory of the Sensitive Urban Zones, the ZUS, on the outskirts of Paris, in order to interrogate their representations,” writes the gallery.

The highlights of the show include a selection of seven silver print photos, five big and two small, as well as an installation "Attempted Exhaustion." Describing the installation, the gallery states in a press release: "the latter work, with its title borrowed from Georges Perec, is the fruit of an important topographic research carried out by the artist between 2013 and 2014, composed of a map (drawn from a score of ZUS operations carried out by the National Agency for Urban Renovation in Seine-Saint-Denis); a text, composed from all the street names forming the parameter of these areas, like an administrative poem, pasted to the wall; and a slideshow of black and white documentary photographs of these front lines, between city and city, zone and Suburbs, between what would be sensible, and what would not be."

Benoît Fougeirol investigated these zones of exclusion over a period of ten years, exploring about twenty sites. "With his landscapes of ruins, or 'ruins of landscape,' to borrow the poetic words of Jean-Paul Robert, Benoît Fougeirol's photographic works, such as the seven photographs of the 'Around' series raise the question of borders. Borders between the city and the city (Paris and the suburbs), architecture and nature, civilization and abandonment, between myth and reality," writes the gallery.

The exhibition is complemented by the artist's book "Zus," laureate of the prestigious MAD ADAGP Award La Révélation Livre d'Artiste 2018, which is at the heart of this research while forming a new work in its own right.

Photographer and artist Benoît Fougeirol was born in 1962. He lives and works in and around Paris. For some years now he has been exploring the uncertain zones of the city limits, collecting images. At once topographic and poetic, his approach captures the unsuspected, silent wealth of this space where greenery meets asphalt, according to the gallery.

The exhibition is on view through February 2, 2019, at 18 rue Guenegaud 75 006 Paris, France

For more information, visit: <http://www.mariawettergren.com/>
(<http://www.mariawettergren.com/>)

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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