

PRESS RELEASE

Chimie lumineuse

Silvi SIMON

September 22 - October 26, 2018



Cercle brisé 3, 2015

Dimensions: 30.2 x 40.2 cm

Chemigram with exposure on gelatin silver-coated paper with silver chlorobromide

© Silvi SIMON courtesy galerie SIT DOWN

The fields of experience and innocence

Since the mid-90s, the artist has been developing a work that is part of the wider cinema movement. She is particularly interested in the chemigram, a creative process combining painting and photography. She met her inventor, Pierre Cordier, in Brussels where he taught and where she studied.

In his remarkable essay "Silvi Simon's Light Chemistry", Dominique Païni calls upon several potential ancestors of his chemigrams, including Andy Warhol's Oxidation paintings, proceeding after Duchamp and Yves Klein, from an experimental delegation of the movement. Another common point: when Warhol chooses screen printing, other more industrial techniques, which create more numerous and similar images, are already available in the printing press. The use of film by Silvi Simon is of a similar preference for an artisanal process, both modern and already valuable, more than obsolete, retaining a certain magic, that of a world still enchanted by the daily presence of the living and the bright promises of progress.

"My cinematographic images bear witness to an attachment to nature, to forms and to primary elements. I observed and captured with my photosensitive camera the movements of human body parts (...) or the effects of light on water, smoke, fire, birds, wind, storm, (...)) always with a focus on what can come from a cinematographic or photographic ontology "
Silvi Simon

At a time when scientific research is engaged in a process of extreme abstraction, where the experiment, even if it remains a single step, is largely simulated by numerical modeling, the chemical experiments carried out by Silvi Simon revive with the inaugural sensations this original research. Unlike science, the artist's research is not aimed at a pre-defined goal. Yet there is talk more and more of "research in art". The expression makes perfect sense in the light of Silvi Simon's practices. This singular work in the landscape of contemporary art shows a certain mastery of an elusive medium, while revealing its playful agility, its reactivity, as its propensity to serendipity, this necessary disruption of control, caused by the material itself.

"Men walk by various paths. Whoever follows them and compares them will see the birth of strange figures; figures that seem to belong to this great numerical writing that one encounters everywhere: on the wings, on the hull of the eggs, in the clouds, in the snow, in the crystals, in the forms of the rocks, on the frozen waters, on the inside and outside mountains, plants, animals, men, in the light of the sky, (...). "
Novalis

Bernard Goy - Inspecteur conseiller pour les arts plastiques
Drac Grand Est - Site de Strasbourg

Notes: the title is a diverted quote from the painter and poet William Blake (1757-1827) author of the compilations: *Songs of Innocence (1789)* and *Songs of Experience (1794)*.

Dominique Païni is a French intellectual, film theorist, former director of the Cinématèque Française and curator of numerous exhibitions.

The quote from Novalis (pseudonym of Georg Philipp Friedrich Von Hardenberg, 1772-1801), poet, philosopher, researcher and mystic, central figure of the German Romanticism, is extracted from the *Disciples at Sais*, a short story of 1798 published in 1802.

BIOGRAPHY

Silvi Simon (born 1970 in Livry-Gargan, Seine-Saint-Denis) lives and works in Strasbourg. She gained her visual arts training at the Université des Sciences Humaines in Strasbourg and in animation cinema at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Visuels de La Cambre in Brussels. At the same time, she took a number of alternative courses for the laboratory processing of film stock, notably at Ateliers MKT in Grenoble.

In 1991, Silvi Simon co-founded the collective Burstscratch, which runs an artisan cinema laboratory in Strasbourg and works for the creation and distribution of experimental cinema on gelatin-silver film. Her early practice explored the fields of expanded cinema. Over the last twenty years, her immersives installations have been shown in numerous venues around the world. Since 2013, the artist has been engaged in extensive experimental photography work on the chemigram. She also realizes minimal lighting installations with laser pointers. During a residency in Stuttgart with the French Institute, Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg and Ceacac Strasbourg, she started a new video installation work : *Dys Focus, n°1*.

Solo shows (selection)

2018 *Dys-Focus n°1, Nature collection*, Centre européen d'actions artistiques contemporaines, Strasbourg
2016 *Silvi Simon*, Galerie Yves Iffrig, Strasbourg
2014 *Silvi Simon*, Galerie Yves Iffrig, Strasbourg
2012 *Filmatruc à verres n°4, Orage*, Centre européen d'actions artistiques contemporaines, Strasbourg
2011 *Filmatruc en construction*, La Chambre, Strasbourg
2011 *Filmatruc*, Art Gallery of Windsor, Windsor, Canada
2008 *Filmatruc,,* The Film Gallery, RE: Voir, Paris
2003 *Lieu de Passage*, Stimultania, Strasbourg

Group shows (selection)

2016 *L'OEil du collectionneur, Comme une respiration*, collection Madeleine Millot-Durrenberger, Musée d'Art moderne de Strasbourg
2015 *Sans Titre*, La Kunsthalle, Mulhouse
2015 *Apparitions – Révélation*s, Espace Multimédia Gantner, Bourgne
2015 *Ateliers Nomades*, Pilsen 2015, Pilsen, République tchèque
2015 *Temps fort Lux !* En partenariat avec l'Année de la lumière, Besançon
2014 *Un cercle n'est qu'un point dilaté*, In Extremis, Strasbourg
2012 *Collectif Burstscratch*, l'Aubette 1928, Festival Ososphère, Strasbourg
2009 *Filmatruc à verres n°2*, Oiseaux, Plug In, Bâle, Suisse
2009 *Filmatruc à verres n°1, Pierre*, L6 Kunsthau, Fribourg-en-Brigau, Allemagne
2008 *Installation La Byrinthe/Filmatruc*, Espace culturel Carré Rotondes, Luxembourg
2006 *Installation à Main d'oeuvre pour la sortie de la revue Exploding N°12*, Paris
2005 *Filmatruc*, Festival National du Film d'animation, Auch
2002 *XXL*, Lieu Unique, Nantes

Artistic collaborations (selection)

2013 *SPLASH !* Installation multi-projection avec Vivian Ostrovsky, CCA, Tel-Aviv, Israël
2012 *Ocean Bazar* avec Vivian Ostrovsky, les Voutes, pour les 30 ans de Lightcone, Paris
2011 *Ocean Bazar* avec Vivian Ostrovsky, Galerie Solar, Vila do Conde, Festival Curtas, Portugal

Festivals (selection)

2018, *Dys-Focus n°1, Nature collection*, Filmwinter – Festival for Expanded Media, Stuttgart, Allemagne
2015, *Regards*, performance, Mire, Nantes ; Espace en cours avec Braquage, Paris ; La Filature, Mulhouse, France
2014, *Festival Cinema experimental frances*, Caixa, Curitiba, Brésil
2014, *Festival Impetus*, Belfort, France
2011, *Rencontre des labos*, Festival 25FPS, Zagreb, Croatie
2011, *Cinéma Nova*, Bruxelles, Belgique
2009, *Festival des cinémas différents*, Collectif Jeune Cinéma, Paris, France
2009, Musée d'Art moderne et contemporain, Strasbourg, France
2008, *7th P.A.F. Annual of Animated Film Festival*, Olomouc, République tchèque
2008, *37th International Film Festival Rotterdam*, Pays-Bas
2007, biennale de Wro, Wrocław, Pologne

Publications / Books

"*Silvi Simon, Chimie Lumineuse*", avec un essai de Dominique Païni. Monographie co-éditée par la Galerie Yves Iffrig et In Extremis, 2018
"Dys-Focus, n°1 – Nature collection" catalogue d'exposition des installations digitales, éditions Institut Français de Stuttgart, 2018
"*Ecrans, Expanded Cinéma*", sous la direction de Raphaël Jaudon, Dario Marchiori, Luc Vancheri, texte de Frédérique Devaux : « Architexture(s) interactive(s) élargie(s) de Silvi Simon », Classiques Garnier, 2015-1, n° 3
"Fabriques du cinéma expérimental", Éric Thouvenel & Carole Contant, Entretiens avec Martin Arnold, Frédérique Devaux, Olivier Fouchard, Ken Jacobs, Christian Lebrat, Rose Lowder, Nicolas Rey, Silvi Simon, José Antonio Sistiaga, éditions Paris Expérimental, 2014
"*Kinética : lieux d'expérimentations cinématographiques en Europe*", Éditions La Passe du Vent, 2011
"*Exploding n°10+1*", revue d'analyse de l'expérimentation cinématographique, Paris
"*Exploding n°9*", revue d'analyse de l'expérimentation cinématographique, Paris

Press visual material (on request)

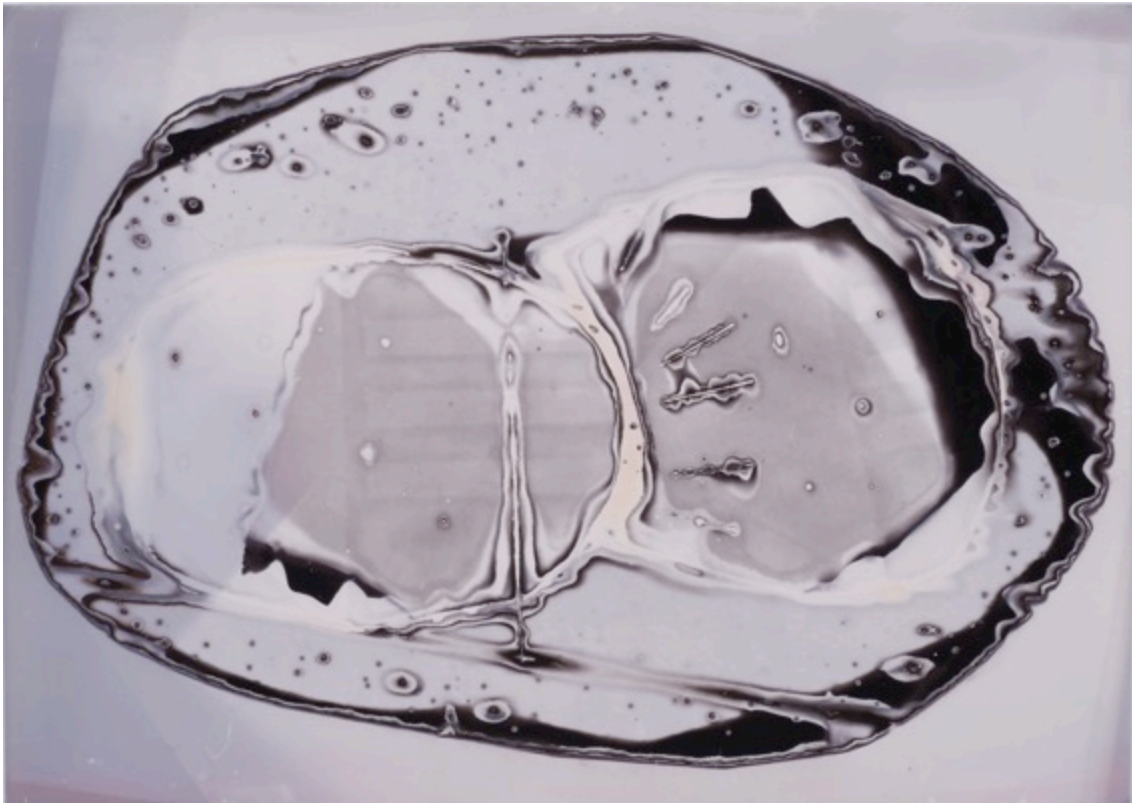


Fixed light 13, 2015

Dimensions : 17.7 x 23.9 cm

Exposure of several days on gelatin silver-coated paper with silver chlorobromide

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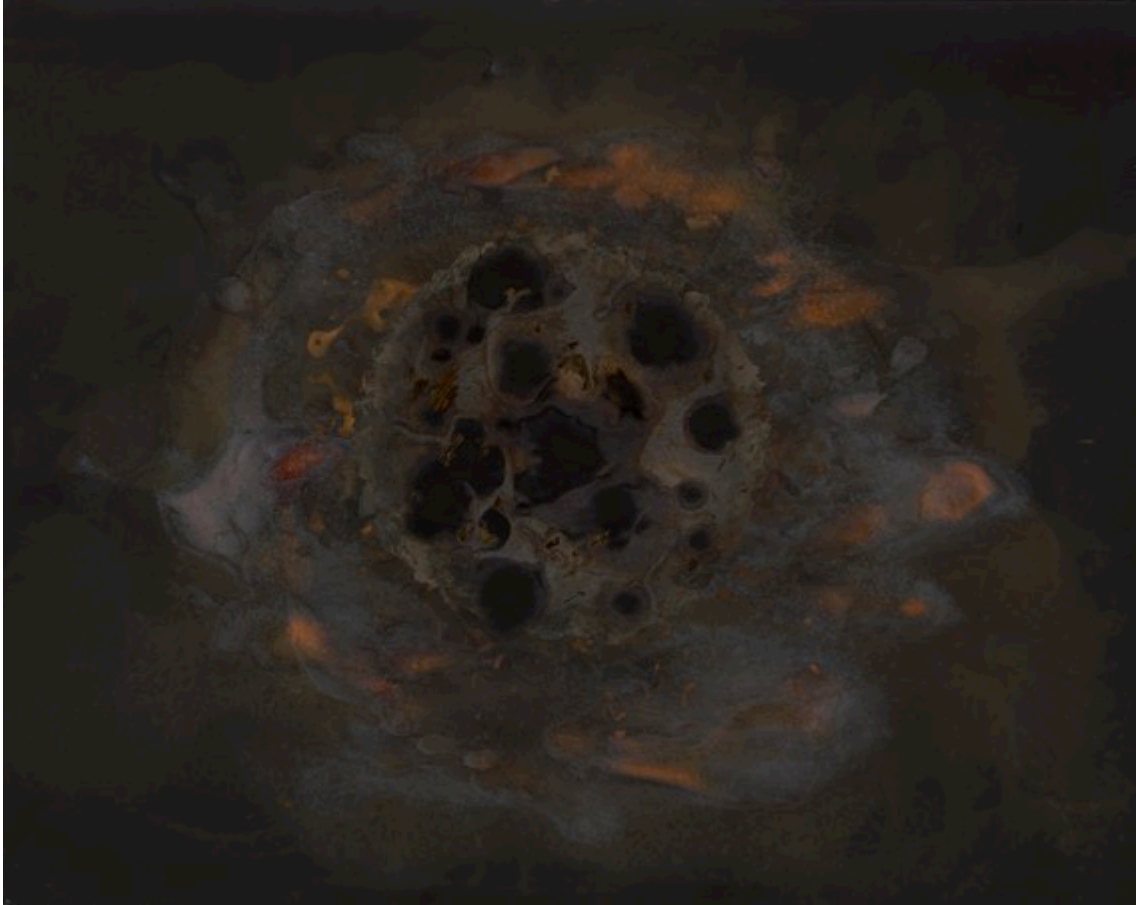


Untitled #9, 2013

Dimensions : 12.6 x 17.7 cm

Chemigram with exposure on gelatin silver-coated paper with silver chlorobromide

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EXoL₂, 2013

Dimensions : 30 x 40 cm

Chemigram with exposure on gelatin silver-coated paper with silver chlorobromide

© Silvi SIMON courtesy galerie SIT DOWN



Untitled #3, 2014

Dimensions : 12.6 x 17.7 cm

Chemigram with exposure on gelatin silver-coated paper with silver chlorobromide

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CONTACT

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