

Ruins & Archaeology

FRANK PERRIN

September 19-28, 2014

STATION

As part of **BEIRUT ART FAIR 2014**

STATION presents Frank Perrin's latest photographic series
Archaeology (preview) and
Ruins (integral version)



ns #03, From Teheran to Pyongyang

Exhibiting for the first time in Beirut, **Frank Perrin** presents two new chapters from his ongoing "Post Capitalism" project, started nearly ten years ago. In these Perrin explores the driving force of our « post capitalist » condition: **a fantasy that is represented, in its most emblematic form, by the facade.**

A unique feature of these two sections, **Archaeology** and **Ruins**, which will be presented at STATION, is the absence of any human forms. As in the ideal cities of the Renaissance, the images present architecture that focuses less on practical living and more on their ability to inspire thought. The two sets of nearly three-meter-long photographic panoramas play with how the iconography of architecture is used to represent wealth and authority.

The **Ruins** section is about understanding the way money is accumulated and the symbols that circulate wealth. Using banknotes from multiple countries, Perrin has isolated various reproductions of buildings to create long frescoes of composite imaginary landscapes. Each panorama proposes a symbolic journey, from Beirut to Brasilia, from Bhutan to Washington, from the buildings of Hong Kong to African power plants; a mosque in Afghanistan next to the Capitol that sits beside the Moscow Stock Exchange: a composite mixture where all contradictions feed their opposites – **a metaphor for our contemporary chaos.**

Using the **scanning-collage** technique for the first time, Frank Perrin sees this re-appropriation as a tool for emphasizing "the kitsch and ridiculous truth of symbols of power."

Archaeology reunites different perspectives that invite a reflection on contemporary deterioration. For this series, Frank Perrin worked in the celebrated **Cinecittà studios in Rome**, which served as the filming location for historical films like *Ben Hur* and *Cleopatra*. Made legendary by the likes of Federico Fellini and Martin Scorsese, the Cinecittà studios have now been left behind as ghost towns.

Through his panoramic images, Frank Perrin shows the debris of set pieces and decors from different eras: Roman temples and Renaissance facades alongside enormous scaffolding and a plastic chair from current times. In this cinematic archeology, reality and fiction overlap to form a sense of disconnection, where you exist in the **« space-between » the two worlds where the films were created, where they come to life on our screens.**

Archaeology depicts the virtual architecture that exists only in the imagination and memory of films. The floating decorations present a ghostlike facade, creating a new "species of spaces", metaphysical spaces that Giorgio de Chirico could cross.



Archeology #04 (2011).

ABOUT FRANK PERRIN

Frank Perrin is a French photographer based in Paris. He has spent the last ten years working on his project **Post Capitalism**: «a visual and mental encyclopedia, a reasoned catalog of our constantly changing contemporary obsessions».

Thus beauty, solitude and vanity intertwine in a strange reality that exceeds fiction, presented in an indefinite sense of 'in-between'. Frank Perrin methodically draws his photographic eye to the structuring of several independent series, such as **Runway shows**, **Joggers** or **Streets**. These many chapters provide the opportunity to analyze the transformations of our flashy desires. *Post capitalism is a tracking shot on the founding ideas of our time.*

Some of Perrin's works are in private collections in Paris, London, New York,

Brussels, Milan, Athens, Miami, Palm Beach, Tokyo, and Seoul. Other pieces of his work can be found in public collections such as the **FNAC** in Paris or the **ING Insurance** collection in Amsterdam. They are exhibited in international galleries and museums such as the **Centre Pompidou Metz**, and the **Musée Galliera** in Paris. Frank Perrin is also represented by the Swiss gallery **Analix Forever**, with which he participates in international events such as the **FIAC**, **Paris Photo** or **Art Paris** at the Grand Palais. He is also the director of the magazine **Crash**.

ABOUT STATION

STATION is a hybrid cultural space dedicated to visual, performing and digital arts.

Since opening next to Beirut Art Center and Ashkal Alwan a year ago, STATION has regularly organized exhibitions of video, photography and installation art by local and international artists. In addition, the venue has hosted events for some of Lebanon's landmark cultural festivals, including Beirut Design Week, PhotoMed, and, in this case, Beirut Art Fair.

By its experimental character and contextualized programming, STATION aims to facilitate the exchange between artists, audience and cultural stakeholders. Its collaborative approach seeks to integrate contemporary cultural projects and practitioners from overseas (for example Slovenia, France, the US and Switzerland) with the local and regional scene (including Egypt, Morocco, Syria and Lebanon). Situated in the post-industrial neighborhood of Jisr El Wati, the recently renovated wood factory consists of 1400m² spread over two floors, including three ground floor spaces and a rooftop terrace.

ABOUT BEIRUT ART FAIR



Organized by Cedralys SARL since 2010, BEIRUT ART FAIR, with a focus on the ME.NA.SA ART, has established itself on the regional and international art scene with its unique positioning and in synergy with the collectors' interests.

BEIRUT ART FAIR enables to discover new artists, inspired by their heritage and their history turmoil, creating their artwork away from the globalization buzz and fashion trends.

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