

PANIC POINT

5 March : 9 April 2015



Photographs by **Francesca Piqueras**

Galerie de l'Europe - 55 rue de Seine – 75006 Paris

PRESS KIT



Point 3



Point 1

Press Release

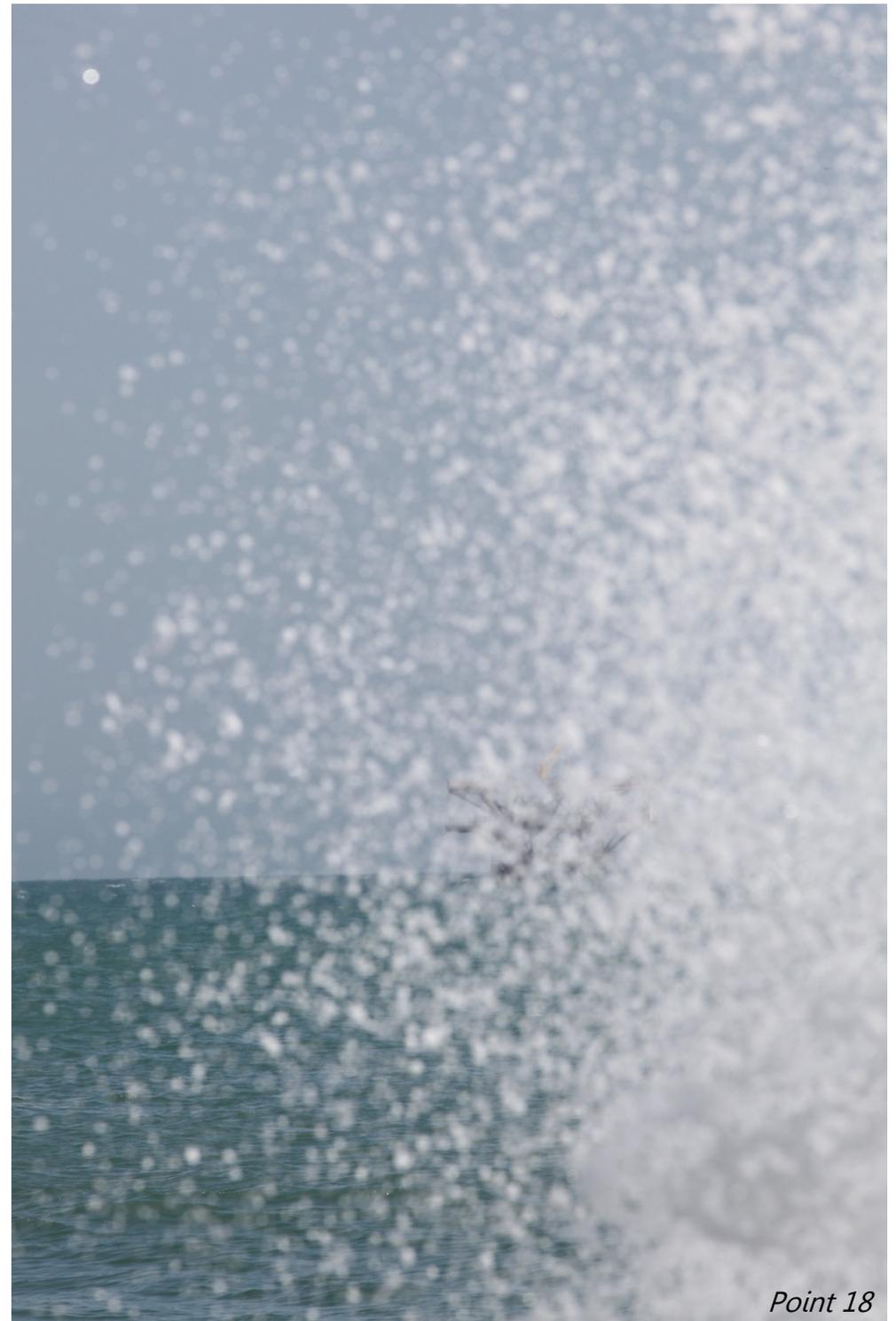
The photographer Francesca Piqueras turns her lens to the ocean as she continues her album of industrial relics that she began seven years ago. After her series on cargo ships dismantled in Bangladesh and washed up on the coast of Mauritania, oil rigs in maintenance yards and abandoned military forts in the North Sea, she set sail in September 2014 for Panic Point in Peru. At this famous surfing spot, tubular silhouettes of oil rigs emerge beyond perfectly-formed waves:

"Hidden from view behind these massive expanses of water that express a powerful strength, these metal Titans appear fragile and vulnerable", explains Francesca Piqueras.

Her journey to her father's homeland of Peru, where she spent her teenage years, was a journey back to her roots, with the sense of loss and disillusionment it can entail. On this coast that was once teeming with fish, where Hemingway trolled for swordfish, Francesca Piqueras saw "dozens of dead sea lions soaked in oil or shot by fishermen, and seahorses killed by pollution dragged along by sea currents". But this is not what she photographed. Her gaze reaches further...

While at Panic Point, the sense of urgency she felt led her to take her camera into the water, without taking precautions to protect it, mesmerised like a war correspondent by this front line where man and machines confront the ocean in order to reap its treasures. **Her photographs of waves suspended in mid-air moments before they break and exploding sprays of foam depict a battle field.** Exposed to the force of the elements, these metal predators that scar the sea floor to extract black gold appear to be just as frail and precarious as Hokusai's boats tossed about by the waves. For Francesca Piqueras, everything is a question of time.

"It is a struggle in which nature may be plundered, but from which it will inevitably emerge victorious."





Point 2



Point 15

Biography

Francesca Piqueras grew up in a family of artists. Her parents were friends with Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray and Salvador Dalí, with whom they spent their summers in the Spanish town of Cadaqués. Surrounded by this glittering world, she became an attentive and solitary observer of her environment.

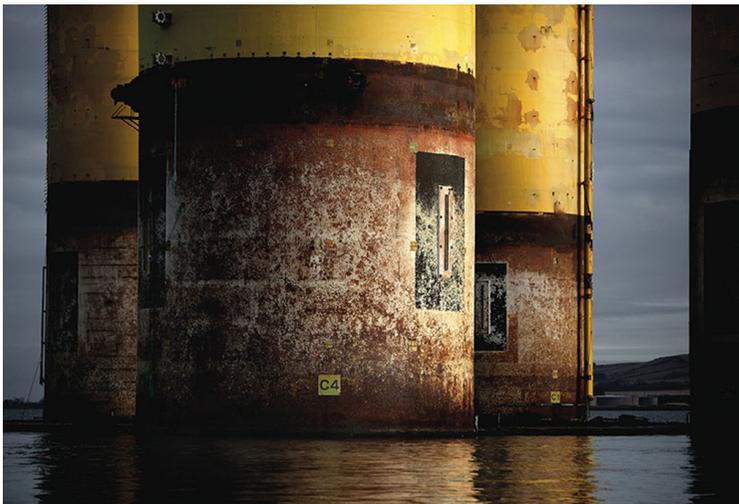
At barely ten years of age, she took a passionate interest in a camera she was given as a gift, which allowed her to sharpen her visual sense, always at a certain distance. She went on to study art history and film, and worked as an editor, but never abandoned her precious cameras. It was not until 2007 that she first exhibited her work, with a first series of black and white images of urban environments in which even traces of urine take on a dramatic impact.



Fort series (2013)



The Architecture of Silence series (2011)



The Architecture of Absence series (2012)



The Architecture of Absence series (2012)

Strongly affected by Michelangelo Antonioni's film *The Red Desert*, her interest was subsequently drawn to a different kind of trace left by mankind – that of industrial society. She switched to colour photography in 2010 with her series entitled *The Architecture of Absence*, which focused on ship-breaking yards in Bangladesh, followed in 2011 by her series *The Architecture of Silence*, which portrays cargo ships washed up on the beaches of Mauritania. She continued this artistic exploration of sea, sky, metal and rust in the North Sea, turning her attention to oil rigs undergoing maintenance (*Interior Architecture*, 2012) and abandoned military installations (*Fort*, 2013).

Exhibitions

Architectures

Galerie BOA (Paris)

2014

Fort

Galerie de l'Europe (Paris)

2014

Interior Architecture

Galerie de l'Exil (Paris)

2013

The Architecture of Silence

Galerie de l'Europe (Paris)

2012

Festival Photo Saint

Germain des Prés (Paris)

2011

Galerie Insula (L'Île d'Yeu)

2011

The Architecture of Absence

Galerie de l'Europe (Paris)

2011

Gange, et la vie suit son cours

Maison de l'Inde (Paris)

2010

Hommage à l'Angélus

de Millet (Barbizon)

2010

Paysages clairs pour

des jours sombres

Galerie de l'Europe (Paris)

2008/2009

Limites

Galerie de l'Europe (Paris)

2007



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The photographs exhibited at the Galerie de l'Europe are produced in Lambda prints mounted on Dibond under Diassec, with editions limited to 8 prints, in various formats depending on the image: 100 x 150 cm, 80 x 120 cm and 70 x 105 cm. A catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

Galerie de l'Europe

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Tues-Sat 10:30 am - 1 pm & 2 pm - 7 pm

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