

galerie michèle chomette

24 rue Beaubourg 75003 Paris

STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS FOR 2007

ZONE OF FRICTIONS, SHIFTS AND INFILTRATIONS

From 16 January, an evolutive structure: *Contemporary Artists and Historical Photographs – 1849-2007*

2007 will have the force of a single proposal – a single exhibition – but one that will be ever-changing, discontinuous, multiform; a series of variations orchestrated by my personal ethos, with uncompromising standards as the watchword; an aesthetic dialogue between history and contemporary developments in photography; a meeting point of sense, vision, emotion and desire; the inventive, or provocative, intensity of artistic thinking, and reflections on the medium; investigations into forms and ideas, with the accent on humour and the fantasies of the intelligence – and freedom, to do exactly as I please !

Fewer constraints, but more lightness, flexibility and mobility : an opening presentation that provides a thematic axis; then additions, subtractions, permanences, continuities and displacements, as a function of moods, explorations and encounters.

In other words, this is to be a laboratory in free activity, with conceptual, visual rotation and flux, but no cadence imposed by a timetable. There will be high points and stopping points, with monographs, experimental sessions and episodic transverse interventions: installations, projections, impromptu critiques, and invitations to participate, display and debate, as a way of facilitating the circulation of hypotheses and projects, and their fulfilment, whatever form they may take – visual, material, filmic, theoretical, literary, festive, or whatever.

This freedom of thought, tone and enterprise that I am inviting you to share, on an occasional or an ongoing basis (even though you may not know what to expect, any given day or month), is going to mean the disappearance of the invitation cards and texts which, while I took pleasure in preparing them, were all too often cast onto the postal waves like messages in bottles, not necessarily reaching their intended recipients. For our first-line interlocutors, and other interested parties, such traditional modes of communication will be replaced by emails announcements, or messages on our answering machine (if only to state whether the gallery is open or dormant). And the press will certainly be passing on information about the different stages along our itinerances. *But I shall be counting above all on the faithfulness and curiosity of our visitors.*

I intend to develop specific, autonomous, personalised activities, in parallel with the normal business of a gallery that is open to the public, **in order to concentrate on the artistic causes I believe in, and on the gallery's primary function**, namely that of representing, promoting, distributing and selling the work of those artists with whom I have chosen to join forces. And the same goes for the vintage works in the gallery's exclusive collections – 19th-century early prints, and the modern period of 1920-1940 – which I have brought together over thirty years devoted essentially to photography.

I hope to win back time for my central priorities, with ongoing attentiveness to collectors and institutions, from a commercial viewpoint, as well as to critics and historians in more theoretical perspectives.

For these reasons I prefer, from now on, to avoid the stratification of exhibitions one upon the other, along with the associated strings of codified tasks whose utility is often superficial, and which entail the risk that I will run out of energy, not to mention soul and pleasure. Instead, I will be concentrating on core assignments and groups.

The gallery will continue to be open as usual, from 2:00 to 8:00 pm, Wednesday to Saturday, except during the setting-up periods, private appointments and invitation-only events.

If these views are also yours, I feel I can be confident about making a success of this new year with, and thanks to, all of you !

Michèle Chomette

Wednesday - Saturday 2pm - 8pm and by appointment tel 33 (0)1 42 78 05 62 fax 33 (0)1 42 72 62 05

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