

NEW RELEASE 2024

Martin Essl  
*Le bateau ivre*  
*Paris 2019–2023*

Designed by Martin Essl  
Cloth hardcover with tipped-in plate and in slipcase  
22,5 × 30 cm  
240 pages  
149 color ills.  
ISBN 978-3-96900-173-8  
Euro 60,00



**A high-quality artist's book that captures Paris in surreal, poetic images.**

The title *Le bateau ivre* (The Drunken Boat) refers to the poem of the same name by Arthur Rimbaud, in which he uses the image of a boat to represent a man's journey through life. In a poetic photographic essay structured like a play in five acts, Martin Essl redraws the outline of a city in transformation and composes an abstract and contemporary map of Paris.

» Against a backdrop of crises and in the memory of recent events that are as complex as they are tragic, Martin Essl would like to give expression to a new era that fluctuates between disillusionment and the frenzy of necessary reconstruction. Different contours and perspectives guide the project. Initially following the path of surrealists, water features and mirrors, vertical and horizontal lines and day dreams form the framework of this photographic endeavour. *Le bateau ivre* leads us on a Parisian tour that shows the eternal return of the 'same', like a curtain that open and closes endlessly. As if diluted and transformed, under the influence of variations around cold colors, the Parisian space gradually becomes *acqua alta*, geographical, social, cultural, and temporal boundaries are dissolved.

*Le bateau ivre* or the "Parisian Scenes" of a city and its inhabitants, all of whom are undergoing reconstruction, as if caught in a trap of their introspection. « — Sarah Sauquet, Paris 2024

**Martin Essl** is an Austrian photographer based in Paris. He studied at the Art University in Linz, Austria, and the National College of Arts and Design in Paris. His first book, *Le Chateau Rouge No 1*, has been published by Kehrer Verlag in 2015. His photography projects are often autobiographical and exploring the relationship between people, the city, time and memory.

#### Exhibitions

Art Paris 2024 – with Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris  
04–07.04.2024

Photo Basel 2024 – with Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris  
03–08.06.2024

Further venues to be confirmed

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