



Vandy Rattana, *France*, 2012 | digital c-print, 18 x 26cm

SA SA BASSAC is pleased to open *Surface*, our second solo exhibition with Vandy Rattana.

*Surface* is a series of thirty-three photographs selected from a diary of images taken between 2010-2012 while the artist was living in Paris and touring Europe. *Surface* follows Vandy's acclaimed *Bomb Ponds* series, from which it also seemingly departs however is inextricably linked. The artist's confrontation with the physical and psychological scars of the American bombing provoked a shift in philosophy surrounding the relationship between historiography and image making. Photographs, for Vandy, became fiction.

No longer representative of reality, the artist constructed surfaces of public and private life and space in environments alien to him, unified and defined primarily by composition - a way of seeing as an extension of a way of thinking. *Surface* is accompanied by the artist's text, drawn from his encounters photographing, in which repeat encounters with blindness and death symbolize limitations of perception, ignorance and freedom.

#### **Surface, select text by Vandy Rattana**

...The words were empty and his voice was blind, me too, I'm blind, like my camera and film. The red robe of the blonde woman is blind. She couldn't see the color of herself, like the other adorable Parisian ladies waiting for trains in dark tunnels. The sounds of their high-heeled shoes became mute, frozen, unmoving, blind. I don't know who pissed in the Paris metro of Malesherbes station at 17<sup>e</sup> arrondissement. Someone stepped in it, perhaps the same man who pissed, so he must be blind. A blind happy couple seemed to love making love in the dark tunnels. Maybe it was them who pissed there where death is not true to them and they are not true to death because they are both blind. The man is dead. His body is in the museum. He's blind. Perhaps my death would be blind too with no reason, like the death of a longneck bird that pretended to be alive at the same museum, in glass, surrounded by blindness and silence. The silence is blind, me too. In Bersonçon, it was freezing cold, I could feel it, not see it - I'm blind. The trees, the river, the houses were all freezing, blind. Even the cigognes were fixing and they're all blind. They can fly, like pigeons, in a blind space through the wind of France, and the wind is blind. They can't see each other, they feel each other...

#### **About the Artist**

Vandy Rattana (born 1980, Phnom Penh) lives and works between Phnom Penh, Paris and Taipei. His serial work employs a range of analog cameras and formats, straddling the line between strict documentary and artistic practice. Select exhibitions include: *dOCUMENTA(13)*; *The Best of Times, The Worst of Times*, Kiev Biennale (2012); *Poetic Politic*, Kadist Foundation, USA (2012); *Between Utopias and Dystopias*, Museum University for Contemporary Art, Mexico City (2011); *Bomb Ponds*, SA SA BASSAC, Phnom Penh (2011); 6th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT6).

#### **About SA SA BASSAC**

SA SA BASSAC is a gallery and resource center dedicated to creating, facilitating, producing, and sharing contemporary visual culture in and from Cambodia.

#### **Exhibition Details**

Exhibition: *Surface* by Vandy Rattana  
Opening: Saturday, 8 December, 6:00-8:00PM  
Artist Talk: Saturday 15 December, 6.00-7.30PM  
Dates: 8 December, 2012 – 13 January, 2013

Opening Hours: Thu -Sun 10am-6pm  
Location: #18 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sothearos Blvd.  
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