



Let's March !

A PROJECT OF PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AND PUBLICATION ON
WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN IN EUROPE

Presentation

> <http://enmarche2010.free.fr>





La Marche Mondiale des Femmes

The World March of Women is a movement that was launched in Canada in 1998 and that organizes a March every 5 years. The first one took place in 2000 and the third one will take place in 2010. This movement gathers groups and organizations from all over the world. This year, the march is marked by the centenary of the International Day of the Woman. It will begin on March 8th and will end on October 17th 2010 in Congo.



1. Photographic Project

The project consists in taking photographs of the marches in a big city of each European country who will take part in the event. We are not aiming at being exhaustive but rather to get a kind of global map on a European level in order to display this idea of « collective » through the photographs of the demonstrators. The concept of « collective » always implies to question of the multiplicity of the individuals who compose it. If the collective is a gathering of people linked by common interests, still every individual has got his own peculiarity. This paradox is particularly present in the feminist struggle, which gathers people on the basis of a specific oppression (towards women) and at the same time people confronted to different oppressions and injustices following their country (abortion, rights etc..), or other sociocultural specificities (age, immigration, social context, sexual orientation etc...).



Damaris Maa Marchand,
Arcueil-Paris.
© Claire Malen, 2010.

So it is a matter of marches of several women rather than a march « of women ». That is why I would like to work on photographs of the demonstrations as well as on portraits of European participants, in their home (or any place they consider as their own), on their peculiarity and their fight's. Obviously the main idea is unity, it is out of question to part the women with their struggle or to form them into a hierarchy ; the purpose is to show the diversity in unity.



Demonstration of World Marche of Women in Brussels © Claire Malen, 2010





2. Exhibition

The exhibition exposes two kinds of photographs. The pictures of the demonstrations are displayed on the wall. In different sizes of 20X25 to 50X70. The photographic portraits of the marching women, displayed on an atypical vertical size, a 50x150cm emphasizing the verticality and the impression of women « standing ». The size of the photographed persons is close to the 1/1 scale. These photos are presented on a pedestal in the middle of the showroom, in the style of totems. Their arrangement and their modality of monstration give the impression of human crowd. The interviews of the activists are not presented in the form of texts but in the form of audio recording. The listener can chose the track corresponding the portrait he/she chose and listen to the testimony of the person photographed by means of a headphones. This project articulate the collective and the individual in a visual and textual way. The testimonies concern the motivations and the militant route of every person.



Pierrette Pape, Bruxelles.
© Claire Malen, 2010

3. General outline



Portraits are exposed on totems to stress the idea of strong and active persons. These «portraits-totems» are laid out on the center of showroom whereas the photos of demonstrations are hung on the wall. So, the spectator can have a walk in the middle of portraits and photos of demonstration and then go to listen to the interviews by means of headsets.





4. The book

From the point of view of the shape, the book is a « léporello », that is a work folded in accordion. The choice of the léporello corresponds at the idea of the march, of a topographic map, or a map of road which we unfold. The book can be read at the same time page by page or considered unfolded in an overview. It corresponds completely to the problem of the collective (vision of group) in connection with the individual

(readingpageonpage). The testimonies of the activists are retranscribed next to their portrait. There is one portrait by page.



View of the spread « leporello » book (length 1,30 m)

Technical-wise :

The dimension of the book is of 16X26 cm closed and 16X130 cm unfolded. It consists of 40 pages on paper 320 g. The book is presented at the same time as the exhibition.



View of the model of the spread book in double page

5. Calendar 2010

The European countries participating actively in Marche are : Belgium (shooting on March 6th in Brussels), Switzerland (on March 13th in Geneva), France (on June 12th in Paris), Spain (on October 17th in Vigo), Portugal (on April 25th in Lisbon), Greece (on June 28th in Thessalonica with the caravan of the Balkans which gathers the Macedonia and Albania), Poland, and finally Turkey (shooting on June 30th in Istanbul). Namely, for the moment, 10 European countries represented in the photographic project.

The world date of close of Marche is October 17th, 2010. It is also the *World Day of the Refusal of the Poverty*. An international demonstration as well as actions are also planned this day. It will also be the last shots concerning the project.

The exhibition can be organized from February, 2011.



The World March of Women, Bruxelles © Claire Malen, 2010





6. Presentation of the author

Claire Malen was a graphic designer and a photographer for the newspaper « POTE A POTE, The paper of the suburbs » in Paris. She then worked about subjects like immigration and violence. Afterwards she was hired as a photographer and an editor for the Casino Company (a large supermarket chain), where she lead reports in France and abroad. She contributed as an independant photographer to publications and magazines, and she became a local correspondent (edition and photograph) for the newspaper « La



© Claire Malen, série *Les lieux de l'hystérie*, 2007-2008

Tribune – Le Progrès » in Saint-Etienne. She joins the news agency « Ressources Urbaines » in its creation in 2005 [visit > www.ressources-urbaines.info](http://www.ressources-urbaines.info).

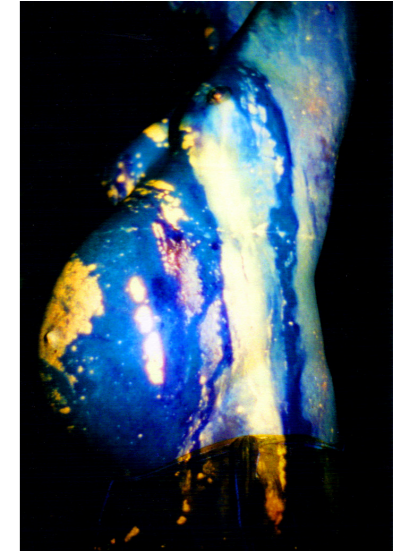
At the same time she made a personal work of plastic photography which main theme was the feminine identity. She took part in several exhibitions, with other artists or on her own. She made an exhibition with the city council of Lyon as part of the month of the Woman in March 2008



© Claire Malen, *Dies Irae*, 2000



© Claire Malen, *YX, questions de genre*, 2004



© Claire Malen, *Sans Titre*, 2002

called « A l'envers des femmes » (*Beyond women*).

[Visit > http://galerieclaire.free.fr/PAGES/PageExpositionMairie.htm](http://galerieclaire.free.fr/PAGES/PageExpositionMairie.htm)

Education :

After a graduation in photography at the Graphic Arts Professional High School Quinault in Paris, and in graphic design at Estienne school in Paris in 1997, Claire Malen restarted her studies at the Jean Monnet University of Saint Etienne in 2004. She got a Master in the practice of Plastic Arts and she is currently finishing a Master 2 Professional in Plastic Arts, speciality « Art Edition – Artist Book ».

Claire Malen was born on July 31st 1974 in Versailles (France).





7. The partner :

The association « Presse et Cité » (Press and City)

The photographer Claire Malen regularly collaborates with the association « Presse et Cité », which works for a better knowledge of the working class districts. Her works on the representation of the people in these districts called « Visages de la France métisse » (*Faces of the intermixed France*) were exposed by the association in the « Forum Médias-Banlieues » (*Medias and Popular Suburbs forum*) at *La Villette*, Paris in October 2009.

« Presse et Cité » gathers a national network of media participants coming from the working class districts and develops concrete experiences of citizenship, and territory liveliness, through a website mainly dedicated to the various medias : press, association movement, urban cultures, actions for territorial communities.

Through this partnership, « Presse et Cité » aims at going along with Claire Malen in the construction of this photographic project about World March of Women in Europe.

Presse & Cité



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