

Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil  
**La Campagne est noire de soleil**

Curating : Léa Bismuth

From March 19th to April 30th, 2016

With the support for galleries / first exhibition of  
National Center for the Visual Arts



Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Humeur vitrée*, 2016  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro

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## **La Campagne est noire de soleil**

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*La Campagne est noire de soleil* ( *The Countryside is black with sunligh* ) is an invitation for everything to be unveiled to the dazzled eyes, scorched spine, the body brought down to the cracked soil, to the fractured clay of beginnings. The sun scorches from all sides, leaving no room for stillness, compelling absolute immersion in the landscape whose contours are ill-defined and blurred in the shimmering heat of the air. Eyes smart from it, but that is also why they open onto age-old archaism, become savage eyes, on the lookout for the slightest thing that will help find one's way or sustain life: a mineral cavity, a rock formation, the remains of a dove turned back to primordial dirt, devoured by ants. Nearby, beneath the blazing sky, a path leads into a burned forest: incinerated treetops, charred soil, leaves and twigs reduced to ashes. The forest gently rustles, crackles and wanders; still wrestling with the wind, it sways its surviving branches against the blank blue sky.

These are chosen the territories of Pia Rondé and Fabien Saleil: sunlit places; new sanctuaries in which images are taken in order to be better unfolded later, once they shed their photographic prison. Photography is thus pure matter that blackens the glass, or skin that makes transparency opaque. Photography is but an instrument: it is the potion — in the strict sense of a photosensitive concoction, developer or fixer — in this magic art. It is of little importance how such-and-such image is made, how it ends up depositing its film on the surface of a membrane or glass lens, the techniques are so diverse: pinhole, gelatin silver, or digital prints, enlargements, negative or positive prints of various types, systems of carbon copy and caches, photograms, cutouts in fresh gelatin... What matters is the total sum of these techniques and their indistinctness; it is the emergence of the image in its sculptural form which lovingly adapts to, and blends with, its materials. Thus, like the fragments of a timeless archeological dig, sculptures of crumpled, melted glass, perhaps still hot, become what the artists call "fluid bodies," or bodies in suspension. For, glass, an organic, living matter, is born in a fusion at high-temperature, inhabited by human breath and its flame, just as photography is produced through exposure to sunlight. These are sister techniques, two sources of life that seek fire in order to come into being and exist.

from the text of Lea Bismuth

Léa Bismuth is an art critic and curator. To come: *Dépenses* ( from October 7th, 2016 to February 26th, 2017), *La Traversée des Inquiétudes*, Lab Labanque de Béthune.



View of the exhibition « Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil - La campagne est noire de soleil » Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro, Paris  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro



View of the exhibition « Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil - La campagne est noire de soleil » Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro, Paris  
 Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Cité fantôme*, 2016  
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Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Cité fantôme*, 2016  
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View of the exhibition « Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil - La campagne est noire de soleil » Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro, Paris  
 Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Charnier #1*, *Charnier #2*, *Charnier #3*, 2016.  
 Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Crane perdu*, 2016.  
 Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro



Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Corps flottant#3*, 2016  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro

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Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Cristallin #4*, 2015 - 2016  
 Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Cristallin #5*, 2015 - 2016  
 Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro





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Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Humeur vitrée*, 2016  
Whit the sound work *Lac gelé de Lamoura*, 2016 in collaboration with Julie Michel  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro



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Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Perdu*, 2016  
Argentic printing on ceramic glass  
80 x 60 cm. Unique  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro





Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Plier*, 2016  
Argentique printing on ceramic glass  
80 x 60 cm. Unique  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro





Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Escale*, 2016  
Argentic printing on ceramic glass  
80 x 60 cm. Unique  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro





Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Corps flottants*, 2016  
Argentic printing on ceramic glass  
80 x 60 cm. Unique  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro





Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Cendre*, 2016  
Argentic printing on ceramic glass  
80 x 60 cm. Unique  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro





Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Gouffre*, 2016  
Argentic printing on ceramic glass  
80 x 60 cm. Unique  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro

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Pia Rondé & Fabien Saleil, *Noir humide*, 2016  
Argenté printing on ceramic glass  
80 x 60 cm. Unique  
Courtesy of the artists and Galerie Escougnou-Cetraro

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Pia Rondé, born in 1986 in Grasse, lives and works in Noisy-le-Sec, France.

Fabien Saleil, born in 1983 in Ségur, lives and works in Noisy-le-Sec, France.

The artists were selected for Jeune Creation 2013. In November 2014 they participated to the show « Au-delà de l'image / Above the image », Escougnou-Cetraro Gallery in Paris and to the show « La légende des origines / The legend of the origins », Maubert Galery in Paris. Since June 2014 they are represented by Escougnou-Cetraro Gallery in Paris. Suite à trois mois de résidence au Musée Bernard Boesh, ils présentent en mai 2015 leur exposition personnelle « Plongement » à l'espace Short de Nantes. In April, 2015 they obtain the grant of support for an artistic research from the National Center for the Visual Arts.

<http://escougnou-cetraro.fr/artistes/pia-ronde-fabien-saleil/>

<http://piarondefabiensaleil.com/>

Coming soon : artist's book cosigned by Léa Bismuth, Pia Rondé and Fabien Saleil, co-published by the collective Exposer/Publier and the Gallery Escougnou-Cetraro.

A talk around the book and beyond will be organized, on Saturday, April 9th at 6:00 pm.

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From Tuesday to Saturday  
14h-19h and by appointment