

RENATO D'AGOSTIN • HARMONY OF CHAOS

- EXHIBITION FROM MAY 25 TO AUGUST 31, 2019
- PUBLIC OPENING: SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2019, FROM 2PM TO 7PM

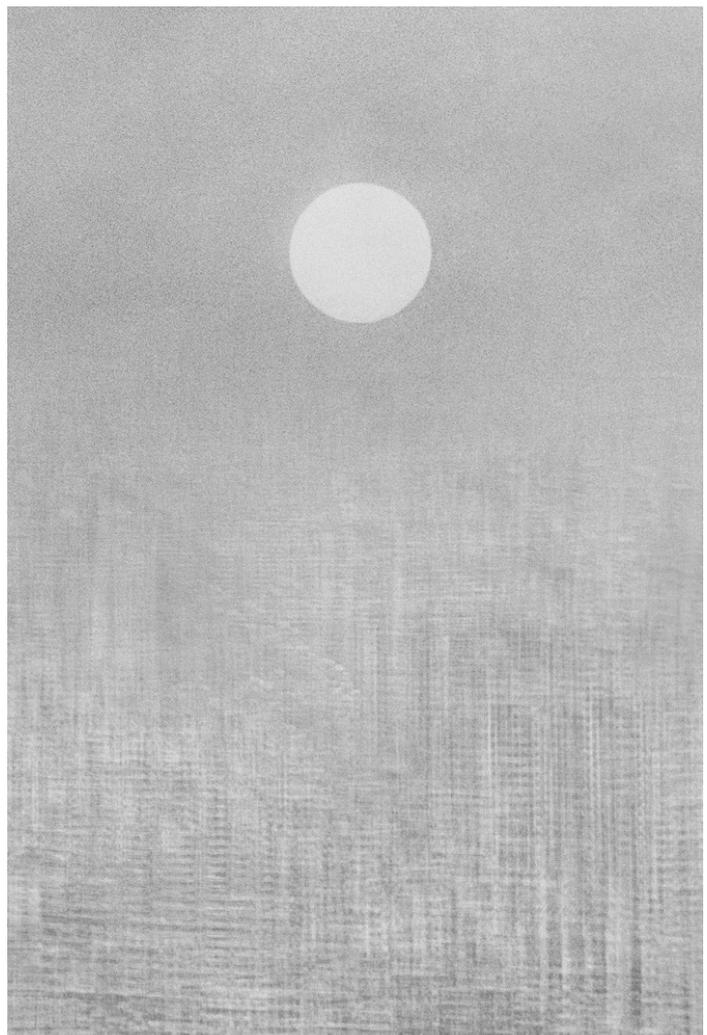
WITH THIS NEW SERIES ENTITLED *HARMONY OF CHAOS*, RENATO D'AGOSTIN, QUESTIONING THE HUMAN CONDITION, CARRIES US ALONG A DEEP AND DENSE ATMOSPHERE. THESE COMPELLING PHOTOGRAPHS FLIRTING WITH ABSTRACTION UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE UP HIS MOST ACCOMPLISHED BODY OF WORKS TO DATE.

Renowned for his unique style, exhibited throughout the world, featured in prestigious private and public collections and subject of numerous successful publications, Renato D'Agostin's work has held over the years a very special place in the world of photography. With his new series, *Harmony of Chaos*, the artist sets the bar even higher, uncovering new grounds that will mark a turning point in his career.

In *Harmony of Chaos*, Renato D'Agostin depicts the vibration and claustrophobia he felt in the streets of Shanghai. Far from drawing a simple portrait of the city, he makes from this sensorial experience a series that highlights the DNA of post-modern cities at large. The photographs emphasize on the anonymity generated by urban structures in a mastered vocabulary that endlessly plays with scales. The series gives us a sense of the fast-paced changes that occurred in these cities and questions the place of Man in these new megalopolis.

With this work, the Italian artist changes scale as if to better anchor his reflection on the world he is observing and to free his creativity. *"It is a project with which I am pushing myself to an unknown territory for my photography, eager to decode the visual alphabet Harmony of Chaos is suggesting to me"*, explains Renato D'Agostin.

For this project, the artist focused on a very limited selection: thirteen photographs, not one more. Some of them required him to develop a very specific technique to translate the vibrating feel of the city. *« I tried to push the process to the extreme overlaying exposures of the cityscapes over and over again on the same sheet of paper to get the sensation of a hive. I then took my enlarger out from the darkroom, projected the negative onto the wall and realized that the claustrophobia of the megalopolis had to be*



translated into a bigger scale ». As it was physically impossible for him to produce these multi-exposed two-meter long silver gelatin prints in his studio in New York, he took the radical decision to move, bought a warehouse near Venice and built a large-scale darkroom. The resulting prints are simply breathtaking!

Theo-Mario Coppola, who wrote the foreword of the special book accompanying the exhibition, perfectly describes the atmosphere of the series: *"Cement abstractions, blown by wind, drowned by fog, the dense, moving façades stand out, without foundation, without sky, like huge painted backdrops of a theater set. The actors – passersby – come and go in this fluid mass where people move in order to live. Their appearance is furtive. Their actions are comprised of simple gestures, reduced to the choreography of silence and to the harmony of chaos"*.

The concept book, co-published by *the(M) éditions* and *Quants*, will have an unusual format of 55x40cm and will be housed in a special boxset. It will be available on a very limited edition of 100 copies only.

The exhibition runs from May 25 to August 31, 2019. Renato D'Agostin will be attending the opening on Saturday 25 May 2019, from 2PM to 7PM.

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