

A SUMMER OF PORTRAITS

300 european photographers exhibit 2000 portraits on the streets.

A GIANT EXHIBITION IN BOURBON LANCY

From 16th July to 17th September 2006

Bourbon-Lancy

Saône et Loire, Burgundy Region

Official Opening Ceremony : 23rd July 2006

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BOURBON LANCY SUMMER 2006

2000 PORTAITS INVADE THE TOWN !

In order to organize a big event it isn't necessary to be a big town. Bourbon-Lancy will prove this during the summer of 2006 when it hosts a giant exhibition of photographic portraits.

Over a two month period, 2000 photographic images will invade this small town in southern Burgundy, renowned for its spa waters and richly historical sites. The idea was that of Gérard Cimetière, a local born photographic portraitist and president of the portrait commission at the GNPP, National Group of Professional Photographers. Not only has he gathered interest in his project from fellow photographers but also gained support from fellow citizens, local and regional bodies.

Such an event in the heart of this small tourist resort obviously attracts the attention of local councillors, traditionally interested in original initiatives. However, this idea required national and even international support. Gérard Cimetière managed to gain this support as numerous french photographers joined their european colleagues, reunited by the European Photographic Federation.

His goal, explains Gerard Cimetière, is « to create discussion about the art of portraiture », a specialist art rapidly loosing popularity in France. He reminds us « during the 50's parents took their baby to the photographers, returning for their first holy communion, on a girls eighteenth

birthday and when a boy was called up for national service ». These traditions have practically disappeared.

« Today, popular events like « Star Academy » should help to push portraits back into fashion and enable people to understand that portraits are an integrated part of family heritage »

For the exhibitors, this event is a competition between fellow professionals. Different prizes will be awarded by a jury composed of photographic professionals, journalists and artists. The prizes will be awarded at the official closing ceremony on the 22nd October.

With the help of specialized schools in Mercurey and Saone et Loire, an internal event will take place in the aim to valorize the apprenticeship of this art. Students will exhibit 100 images. The jury will award a trophy to a « young talent ».

The official opening ceremony will take place on 23rd July. It will involve different festivities including a visit of the numerous exhibition sites in the company of local personalities, guests from the economic sector and media representatives. 1000 balloons will be released on this occasion.

The Summer of Portraits creates a giant interior and exterior exhibition. (the official number of 2000 portraits, makes it one of the most important events in its category in both France and the rest of Europe).

The fact that these photographic images are displayed in several different areas of the town enables one to create a circuit. Discover the main attractions of Bourbon-Lancy, its spa quarters dating from celtic and roman times, the old town originating in the middle ages, the XIV century belfry and timbered housing dating back to the XVI century.

A Summer of Portraits.....

An important event for local and regional tourism.

An important event for the photographic profession.

An important event for the art of photographic portraiture.

2000 PORTRAITS DIVIDED BETWEEN SEVERAL DIFFERENT EXHIBITIONS

For this second edition the participants send a CD of photographic images to be printed in Bourbon-Lancy using Epson ink and printers. In order to protect these large photos (60 x 60) PVC backing and the plastic laminating of these images will also take place in the town using FILMOLUX products.

EPSON, a privileged partner to many photographic portraitists, sponsors A SUMMER OF PORTRAITS 2006.

Providing the machines, ink and other necessary equipment for the exhibition, EPSON declares a strong partnership with both french and european photographers.

The works of 200 photographers, all members of the national photography club, create the heart of this exhibition.

To the images of these french professionals are added the works of their european colleagues from 15 other countries : <http://www.fepqep.org>

There is no particular theme to this exhibition. The different awards correspond to different artistic and professional qualities and do not correspond to a type of photo, a certain category or a particular style.

Young photographers will also be rewarded. Students from different schools of photography, in Mercurey and Saone et Loire, will exhibit over 100 portraits

The works of these different categories of photographers will be examined by a jury and prizes awarded.

A large number of portraits will also be presented unofficially.

These images will include the works of :

European photographers having achieved a QEP certificat from the European Federation of Photography.

Members of the GNPP having obtained the title « Portraitist de France » or the diploma « Meilleur Ouvrier de France ».

Studio Harcourt, one of the top french studios, specialists in celebrity photographic portraiture.

THE ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

The GNPP, National Group of Professional Photographers, stems from several photographic syndicats. In the sector of professional photography the GNPP is officially recognized by public administrations. Such recognition creates access to government ministeries and certain advantages for administrative, legal, social and tax purposes.

The GNPP is a federation composed of 30 regional syndicats. Each syndicat is independant.

However, each syndicat must comply to national status. The GNPP is the only group to benefit from such a wide spun structure accross french territory.

The portrait commission of the GNPP, presided by Gérard Cimetière, photographer in Bourbon-Lancy, is at the origin of this summers event..

Locally, the association « Les Amis du Vieux Bourbon » deal with the organization of the event, closely supported by the tourist office.

For this 2nd edition, the town of Bourbon-Lancy is the principal partner.

THE AWARDS

The jury of the event, composed of photographic professionals, artist and journalists will award three different prizes :

- 1) Three Trophies : Crystal, diamond & ruby (concerning the portraits exhibited by members of the GNPP and the European Federation of Photography.
- 2) A Trophy « Young Talent » : awarded to a young apprentice photographer.

THE SPONSORS

A « Summer of Portraits » has received support from :

EPSON, priveledged partner of the event

Filmolux, backing and plastic laminating

The town of Bourbon-Lancy, official partner

The Tourist Office, Bourbon-Lancy

The Saône & Loire Region

The Casino, Bourbon-Lancy

MMF Pro

Forest Cartonnages

The Regional Tourist Board

The Burgandy Region

COMIRAM Innovation, creation of web sites

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