

VICHY CULTURE PRESENTS

RENDEZ-VOUS
PHOTOGRAPHIQUE DE VICHY
7 JUNE > 29 SEPT. 2024

PORTRAIT(S)



NADAV KANDER
GRAND ETABLISSEMENT
THERMAL IN VICHY

ARIELLE BOBB-WILLIS • PATRICK TOURNEBOEUF • CHRISTOPHE ACKER
CHRISTOPHE DARBELET • LAURA HENNO • NELLI PALOMÄKI
PORTRAIT(S) S'INVITE À L'ÉCOLE



Diver, Salt Lake, Utah, USA, 1997. From the series Good's Country. © Nadav Kander. Courtesy Flowers Gallery & Howard Greenberg Gallery

FRÉDÉRIC AGUILERA

Mayor of Vichy
President of Vichy Communauté
Vice-President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

“Exhibition,” “Residency,” and “Transmission” form the triptych of this 12th edition of PORTRAIT(S) which is focusing its lens on the many ways in which art can tell stories.

The tale of the Vichy, the “Queen of Spa Cities,” is two thousand years old, but her reign is far from over. In fact, it is continuing across new pages illustrated with hundreds of faces, hundreds of gazes that fall upon her every day. These new chapters are conveyed by photographers who, in the same way that writers wield words, use images to express themselves in a subtle dance between the artist’s vision and the narration of the present.

From September 7 to 29, alongside the poetry of Nadav KANDER exhibited at the Grand Établissement Thermal, Vichy will be presenting its own “Comédie Humaine.” In doing so, it will reconnect with its thermal history via an original, prestigious development combining health and leisure, rooting art firmly within the city’s identity. You are invited to discover the photographic residencies paying tribute to Vichy’s sporting, living heritage, to its cosmopolitan nature through the 60th anniversary of the CAVILAM – Alliance Française school and the Vichy, l’Internationale exhibition, and to its architecture, shared with Baden-Baden, another major spa city which has also become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Sharing art is a transmission of freedom. “I believe that, for artists, art and talent are nothing more than the means of applying their personal faculties to the ideas and things inherent to the time in which they are living,” wrote Gustave Courbet. With this in mind, the students of the École Paul-Bert have created the works for the 2024 edition of Portrait(s) s’invite à l’école. As their school prepares to close its doors for the last time in late June, they want to leave their mark on a place in which they have spent so much time learning and living.

I wish you all an enjoyable, photographic meandering through the unique layout of this event in our spa city, sprawling from the historic center to the banks of the Allier River!

FANY DUPÊCHEZ

Artistic Director

The 12th edition of *Portrait(s)* is revealing a brand-new look. While continuing its annual exploration of a particular genre, this photographic event is developing how its exhibition is presented. Following the storming success of the last festival, which welcomed nearly 47,700 visitors, *Portrait(s)* will now be hosted at Vichy's spectacular Grand Établissement Thermal, one of the city's most symbolic sites. As part of future events, the spaces in the Grand Établissement Thermal will house solo and group exhibitions, making it possible to explore a work in depth and enter the photographer's richly creative world.

For this first solo show, we are delighted to showcase one of the greatest photographers of the moment, British artist **Nadav Kander**. Kander's photographs impose silence and lead us into his very subtle world of gentleness, emotion, and fragility. This exceptional exhibition, curated alongside the artist, features a hundred works from his most iconic series, unpublished photographs, two video installations, and an installation. By exhibiting these masterful pieces in this listed building, the City of Vichy and *Portrait(s)* are confirming their determination to support and defend photography, just as they have done for the last 12 years.

Portrait(s) is also continuing to support creativity by pursuing its policy of photographic assignments, with four residencies organized this year. Echoing Vichy's sporting side and the 2024 Paris Olympic Games – during which the Olympic Torch will be carried through Vichy – two sports-related residencies have been completed, one by young, emerging American photographer Arielle Bobb-Willis, and one by Vichy-based photographer Christophe Darbelet.

Arielle Bobb-Willis turned her artistic eye to a cast of 25 professional and semi-professional athletes with and without disabilities, creating dynamic, boldly coloured images using a humorous, slightly offbeat approach. Her residency was supported by Cinq Étoiles Productions. Meanwhile, **Christophe Darbelet** took to the roads in and around Vichy to work with local football clubs. He is now presenting a gallery of portraits and landscapes, creating a metaphoric bridge between the two, with the players on one side and the environment on the other.

Of the other two residencies, the first was completed by **Christophe Acker**, who created a series of portraits and a movie about the students at Cavilam – Alliance Française, a school specialized in teaching French as a foreign language for 60 years. He lets the students express themselves fully in an examination of the sonority of the French language. The second was granted to **Patrick Tournebœuf**, who worked on the shared architectural splendour of Vichy and Baden-Baden, two spa cities listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, sketching a mirrored portrait of Europe's great spa cities.

These commissioned photographic works will be displayed outside along the banks of the Allier River, on Place Saint-Louis, on the Parvis Simone Weil, and on the facade of the University, creating an open-air photographic walking tour.

Transmissions - The *Portrait(s)* Transmissions projects are returning to the festival, with **Brigitte Patient**'s carte blanche exhibit **La voix du regard** offering an analysis of a photograph by **Nelli Palomäki** in a video and audio montage; **Des mots pour voir** with the support of Neuflyze OBC, presenting works by **Laura Henno**; and **Portrait(s) s'invite à l'école**, which every year puts on activities introducing school children to photography.

This unmissable photography event is inviting you once again to celebrate culture and support creativity and freedom of expression. We can't wait to see you for the 12th edition. Welcome to Vichy!

NADAV KANDER

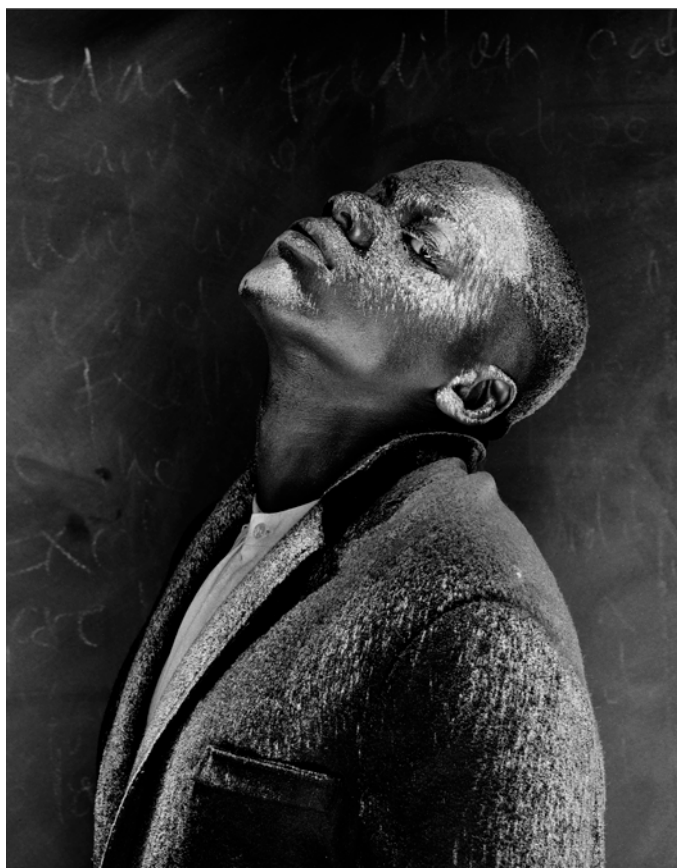
THE EDGE OF THINGS

London-based Nadav Kander is one of the great photographers and producers of our times, famous not only for his iconic portraits of major global figures but also for his monumental photographs of landscapes highlighting environmental issues. In the exquisite showcase of the Grand Établissement Thermal in Vichy, he offers a beautiful immersion in part of his work combining an installation, video installations, and photographs, some of which have never been exhibited before. In this bespoke setting that brings out the poetry and preciousness of his work, he brilliantly intersects the lines of bodies and landscapes, expressing the intense emotions in faces and the spirit of places.

Nadav Kander is represented by Flowers Gallery, London and Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York City.



Rosamund Pike II, Los Angeles, USA., 2014
Courtesy Flowers Gallery & Howard Greenberg Gallery



Daniel Kaluuya I, London, England. 2012
Courtesy Flowers Gallery & Howard Greenberg Gallery

LA VOIX DU REGARD

CARTE BLANCHE BY BRIGITTE PATIENT

Brigitte Patient has gone through the decade of *Portrait(s)* exhibitions and has chosen one artist as a representative of this vast collection. She takes us on a visual journey, describing what she perceives, what she imagines, what she knows about the photographer and his or her place in the history of photography. Guided by her voice, visitors follow her gaze through a moving image that gradually reveals itself. This year, festivalgoers will have the chance to discover a photograph by Finnish artist Nelli Palomäki.

Brigitte Patient's singular way of speaking reveals itself in dialogue with a photograph, arousing curiosity and the desire to see.

Nelli Palomäki is represented by Les Filles du Calvaire Gallery, Paris.

Sound editing: Félix Fouchet



Kasper and Olivia. *Shared Series*, 2016

DES MOTS POUR VOIR

LAURA HENNO

PRESENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF NEUFLIZE OBC

Portrait(s) and the Neuflyze OBC Foundation are pursuing the innovative project launched in 2018. The objective is to introduce the public to the exciting works in the Neuflyze OBC Collection, while providing a platform for analysis and exchange about the works to encourage an open, ongoing dialogue between the public, academics, experts, and artists.

This year, three works by Laura Henno from the Neuflyze OBC Collection are being exhibited for the duration of the festival. Comments by members of the public collected by the mediator before the exhibition will be presented in the exhibition room. The public's reactions have been recorded in a sound capsule, and provide a sincere, spontaneous view on different ways of understanding the images.

Laura Henno's photographs have a narrative potential that makes their meaning impossible to grasp, thus leaving them open to interpretation. She offers moments frozen in time, in which something important seems to be playing out in the lives of the people being photographed. The Cinquième Île series, which was shot on Réunion Island, adopts the artist's typical approach while simultaneously heralding a major change – a shift from the static, introspective individual portrait to a shared, dynamic setting of a social reality.

Passages taken from the text by Clément Dirié.

Mediation: Camille Carrias

Sound editing: Roman Chartier



Untitled, La Réunion. From *La Cinquième île* Series. Neuflyze OBC Enterprise Collection

PORTRAIT(S) S'INVITE À L'ÉCOLE

The *Portrait(s)* photography festival is continuing its activities aimed at school children with *Portrait(s) s'invite à l'école*, an initiative launched in 2017. This year, the festival has worked with a Year 5 class at the École Paul Bert with a new workshop on photography in reporting.

Under the guidance of Jérôme Schirtzinger of the Exhibitions Department and Cyrille Karam, a mediator and photographer, the class has studied the concept of bearing witness. The École Paul Bert is set to close permanently in late June; through portraits, the pupils wanted to leave their mark on the school and the people they have known in this shared space.

This workshop was made possible through the joint support of the teachers at the École Paul Bert and the City of Vichy.



PATRICK TOURNEBŒUF

FROM VICHY TO BADEN-BADEN, PORTRAITS OF EUROPEAN SPA CITIES AN ARCHITECTURAL DIALOGUE, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Patrick Tournebœuf is developing a long-term project on the transformations across Europe's vast heritage, particularly the work undertaken by the Grand Palais in Paris and the Château de Versailles. His work on architecture combines a dual documentary and artistic approach. As part of his residency, he is presenting spectacular images of Vichy and Baden-Baden, two spa cities that are both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Photographed as mirror images, these two spa resorts developed in the mid-18th century, a period during which water cures led both to luxurious thermal baths and equally spectacular, sumptuous leisure structures.

Patrick Tournebœuf is a member of the Tendance Floue Collective.



ARIELLE BOBB-WILLIS

CORPS À CORPS



Arielle Bobb-Willis is a young American photographer who was granted a residency at Vichy this year. In light of the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympic Games, her focus is on 25 professional and semi-professional athletes with and without disabilities – across all disciplines – who are training in the French capital’s many state-of-the-art sports facilities. Her hyper-charged pictures, tinged with a generous dose of offbeat humour, represent sculptural compositions drawing on intertwined, dislocated, or fragmented bodies. Her eminently pictorial work, inspired by the surrealist school, creates a personal language based on interplaying relationships between form, shape, and colour.

Residency presented and produced with the support of Cinq Étoiles Productions and RVZ.

Production team: Dominick Noboa, Carolina Anselius and Brittany Lovoi.

Arielle Bobb-Willis is represented by Les Filles du Calvaire Gallery, Paris.



Alexandre Moreau, Club de l'aviron de Vichy



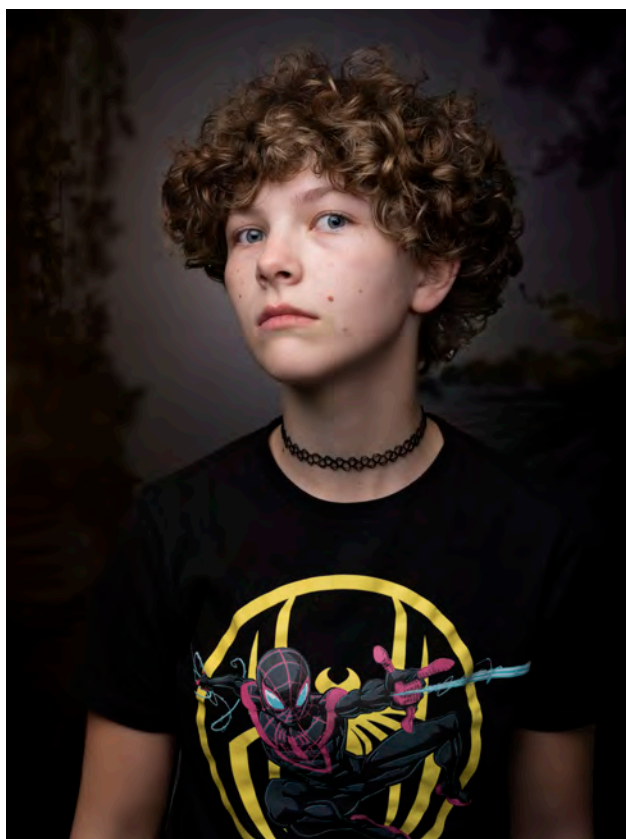
Louis Prades, Académie de natation Philippe Croizon, Vichy

CHRISTOPHE ACKER

LES VISAGES DU CAVILAM



Founded in 1964 by the City of Vichy and the Université de Clermont-Ferrand, Cavilam – Alliance Française is an institution renowned for the excellent quality of its classes teaching French as a foreign language. Each intake welcomes people from more than 70 nations. Christophe Acker, a French producer and photographer renowned for his videos for French and international artists, immersed himself in this exceptional institution this spring. His generous, playful approach resonated with his subjects, enabling him to compile a portrait gallery of students who had come from all over the world to learn French, while also letting them express themselves. The photographs, the movie, and the audio recordings are a testament to the unity that can be achieved by learning a common language.



Kate, American



Sultan Alenazi, Kuwaiti

CHRISTOPHE DARBELET

FANTASIE FOOTBALL CLUBS



Christophe Darbelet is a Vichy-based photographer whose work includes pictures of football players captured during the moment of intense concentration just before they take a penalty kick. Alongside their sometimes stern, sometimes excited faces and their wild-eyed or taut expressions, he creates a contrast with panoramas of the Allier department in France. Its fields, landscapes, and other rustic scenes create metaphoric footbridges between the sheltered football pitch and the surrounding countryside stretching out as far as the eye can see. The art book *Fantaisie Football Clubs* is being published by Éditions Filigranes, with a text by French novelist Éric Chevillard.



Arthur, Racing Club Vichy, 2024



Lili, Racing Club Vichy; 2024

FRIDAY JUNE 7

6 p.m.: Opening of the 12th edition of *Portrait(s)*
at the Grand Etablissement Thermal

The opening programme is under development.

YOUNG PUBLIC GUIDE

LEARN TO PLAY WITH PICTURES



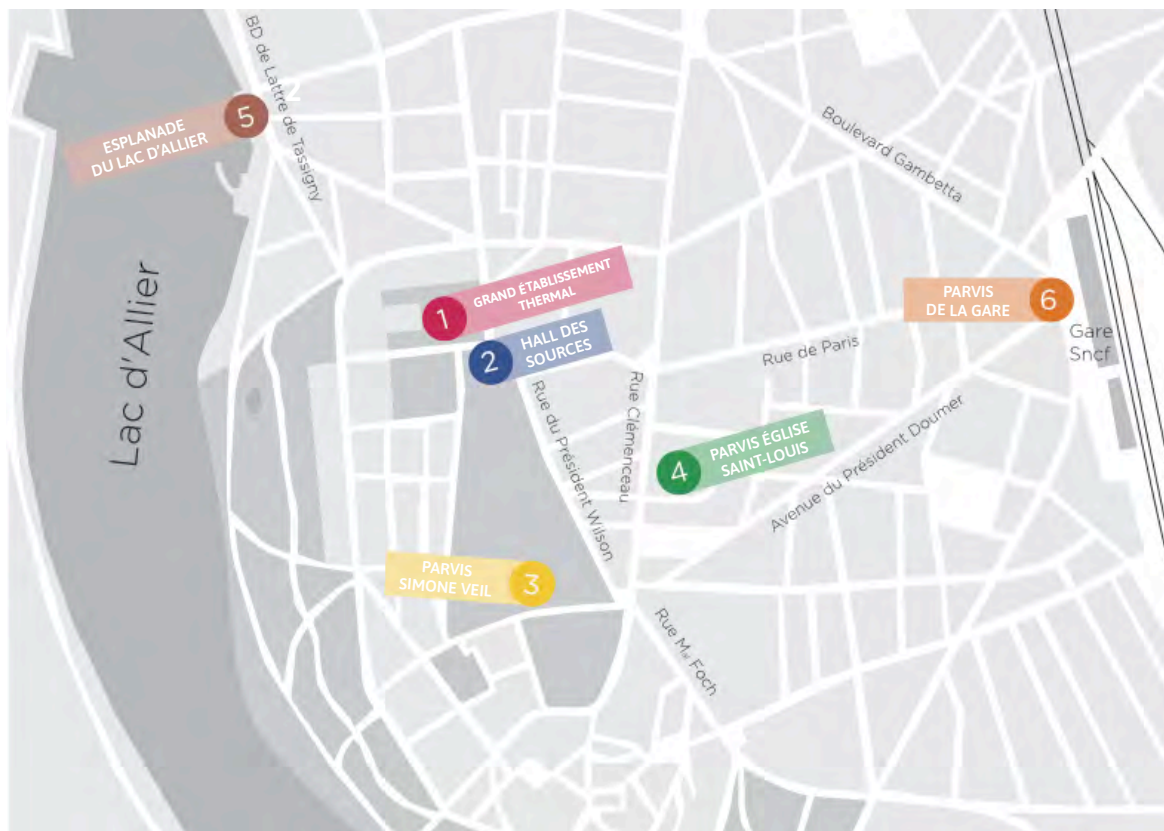
The youngest visitors will be able to play an active part in *Portrait(s)* once again this year.

An educational brochure has been specially designed for children. This guide introduces young members of the public to photographic techniques, encouraging them to play with pictures through coloring, putting things in the right contexts, and developing their sense of observation. It also enables them to learn about the work of certain photographers who are being exhibited at the festival.

Brochure available after the opening of the exhibitions in the Grand Etablissement Thermal.

Portrait(s) Photography Encounter of the City of Vichy

JUNE 7 TO SEPTEMBER 29, 2024



1 GRAND ÉTABLISSEMENT THERMAL

AVENUE DU GÉNÉRAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER
ENTRÉE PARVIS

NADAV KANDER
THE EDGE OF THINGS

DES MOTS POUR VOIR
LAURA HENNO - NEUFLIZE OBC ENTERPRISE
COLLECTION

2 HALL DES SOURCES

7, AVENUE DU GÉNÉRAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER

LA VOIX DU REGARD
BRIGITTE PATIENT - NELLI PALOMÄKI

PORTRAIT(S) S'INVITE À L'ÉCOLE

3 PARVIS SIMONE VEIL

PARC DES SOURCES

PATRICK TOURNEBOEUF
FROM VICHY TO BADEN-BADEN, PORTRAITS
OF EUROPEAN SPA CITIES

4 PARVIS DE L'ÉGLISE SAINT-LOUIS

RUE CLÉMENCEAU

CHRISTOPHE DARBELET
FANTAISIE FOOTBALL CLUBS

5 ESPLANADE DU LAC D'ALLIER

BLD DU MARÉCHAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY

ARIELLE BOBB-WILLIS
CORPS À CORPS

6 PARVIS DE LA GARE

ART EN GARE
WITH THE SUPPORT OF SNCF
GARES & CONNEXIONS

By sponsoring the Vichy Portrait(s) Photography Encounter, the Neuflyze OBC Enterprise Foundation is upholding its commitment to contemporary photography.

As the only international event to be centered exclusively on the art of portraiture, the Vichy Portrait(s) Photography Encounter brings together not only a wide variety of Exhibitions, but also a program of educational activities which Neuflyze OBC is delighted to support.

Portrait(s) and the Foundation are pursuing the innovative project originally launched in 2018. Our shared goal has always been to display the exceptional pieces held within Neuflyze OBC Enterprise Collection to the general public, and to offer a platform for analysis and debate focused on the works. In doing so, we hope to encourage an open, ongoing dialogue between members of the public, academics, experts, and artists.

A Sincere, Sustainable Partnership

As a pioneer in making patronage policy a cornerstone of its business strategy, Neuflyze OBC Bank has been strongly engaged in promoting the visual arts (photography, videography, and cinema) for over 20 years. From the very beginning, this commitment, which is pursued through its corporate Foundation, has been supported alongside heritage bodies and educational programs. What's more, the Neuflyze OBC Collection now contains more than 1,000 works of photography and videography. These two pillars are in complete harmony with the values and skills of Neuflyze OBC, whose mission is to preserve, develop, and pass on our heritage, while also promoting the emergence of future talents.

CINQ ÉTOILES PRODUCTIONS

Cinq Étoiles Productions has been a key partner of *Portrait(s)* since the beginning and is especially proud to affirm its support of the festival and of contemporary work by organizing a Vichy residency this year for the young emerging American photographer Arielle Bobb-Willis.

Our experience on the international level as a production company in the fields of photography, publishing and business leads us to meet many emerging and established photographers, as seen in the *Portrait(s)* festival. The richness of the festival's program and the energy mobilized to bring this encounter into existence resonate with us deeply.

We feel so close to the values upheld by Fany Dupêchez and the festival's teams. It is therefore completely natural for us and a source of great pleasure to provide our support to this incredible photographic festival.

Charly Forin
David Moreillon
Lucas Lechevalier

SNCF GARES & CONNEXIONS

A partner of Vichy *Portrait(s)* for the eighth consecutive year, SNCF Gares & Connexions renews its support for this compelling cultural event here in France.

Once again this year, Vichy train station will be transformed into an extension of the festival, a prelude to the exhibition that taking place on the station square. The Paris Bercy Bourgogne - Pays d'Auvergne train station in Paris, where trains depart for Vichy, will also be supporting the event, inviting passengers to come and discover it for themselves.

As an organization specializing in the design and operation of stations through their commercial use, SNCF Gares & Connexions is a key player in the field of durable mobility, involved in ecological and social transition for the benefit of all parts of France. With 3,000 stations and ten million travellers and visitors per day, it is committed to the constant improvement of its quality of operation, the invention of new services and the modernization of its heritage. Its strategic ambition is to create a connection with stations through a connection with trains. As a partner of major national and local cultural institutions, it organizes over 130 art exhibitions, activities and shows each year. These cultural events are tailored for the stations individually throughout the whole of France.

DUPON

The directors of the DUPON laboratory would like to warmly thank Fany Dupêchez and Pascal Michaut, as well as the cultural and technical teams of the city of Vichy, for their invaluable trust which has been renewed consistently since 2013. DUPON's technical team would also like to applaud the exceptional quality of the photographers selected each year, and is delighted with the cooperation and complicity, the technical exchanges, and the trust established with each of artist through using printing and framing to showcase the full aesthetics of their portraiture.

The program for this 12th edition promises to be a feast for expert eyes and an invitation for the general public to reflect and embark upon on a remarkable photographic journey.

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PORTRAIT(S) S'INVITE À L'ÉCOLE

CYRILLE KARAM AND JÉRÔME SCHIRTZINGER

DES MOTS POUR VOIR

CAMILLE CARRIAS AND ROMAN CHARTIER

SCENOGRAPHY

SYLVIE MEUNIER

TECHNICAL SCENOGRAPHY

JEAN-MICHEL FIORI

TRANSLATION

GRAY SUTHERLAND - ALEXANDER UFF

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THE PORTRAIT(S) PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL IS ORGANIZED BY VICHY CULTURE AND DEVELOPED BY FANY DUPÊCHEZ

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PRIVATE SPONSORS

Avec le soutien de la Fondation d'Entreprise Neuflyze OBC



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