

Alex Leblanc

Born in Montreal, Alex Leblanc lived his childhood in the Ottawa region of the Petite-Nation. Very early on, his attraction to photography is manifested through the influence of his mother who takes countless pictures of his son. Following her encouragement, young Alex begins handling a 35 mm camera, which propels him into the world of creativity.

During his teenage years, his growing interest is demonstrated by his participation in various school projects. Constant use of his camera turns him into an unconditional fan of photography.

A few years later, he earned a college diploma in photography at La Cité Collégiale in Ottawa. This leads him to accept the position of Director of photography at University of Ottawa's student-run newspaper La Rotonde. Studying Visual Arts at the same institution introduces him to multidisciplinary and multimedia practices.

For five years, Alex Leblanc has been teaching photography and media art at the high-school level. Alongside his teaching, he ceaselessly pursues his artist statement, which mainly focuses on theatricality in photography.

Artist statement

Mankind has a tendency to document its surroundings. From palimpsests to monuments, family pictures to personal diaries, these "documents" bear witnesses to our own personal journey on Earth and can even contain secrets to our existence. Space-time holds an enormous amount of information that mankind simply cannot appropriate itself.

Since humans are unable to fully control their sensory surroundings, they try to recreate some of the relative aspects. Through photographic documents which are in fact a pale reflection of reality, they will want to rebuild this sensory world, but in vain. They cannot succeed because the very nature of documentation is completely subjective; its first demonstration is the perceiver's intention. It thus becomes a form of art touched by the personal view of the documenter.

Travelling uninhabited places in the midst of a consumer society Leblanc attempts to obtain truthful slices of life with the help of his photographic camera. Following the steps of artists such as Jeff Wall and Evergon, he takes snapshots of everyday life seeking to grab an intangible reality... inexistent.

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Studies

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA 2002 - 2003
Bachelor Degree in Education (B. Ed.)
Ottawa, Ontario

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA 1999 - 2002
B.A. in Visual Arts
Ottawa, Ontario

LA CITÉ COLLÉGIALE 1997-1999
Photography Degree
Ottawa, Ontario

Teaching and related experience

Photography and Media Arts Teacher September 2004 to present
Collège catholique Franco-Ouest
Nepean, Ontario

Digital Photography Teacher September 2002 to June 2008
City of Gatineau
Gatineau, Québec

Visuals Arts Teacher February to June 2004
École secondaire catholique Béatrice-Desloges
Ottawa, Ontario

Director-General May 2002 to August 2003
La Rotonde Newspaper
Ottawa, Ontario

Director of Photography May 2000 to May 2002
La Rotonde Newspaper
Ottawa, Ontario

Coordinator of Photography Cultural Contest May to August 2001
Organization Committee of the 4th Francophone Games
Ottawa, Ontario

Teacher Assistant (Medias Arts) January to April 2000
University of Ottawa (Visual Arts Department)
Ottawa, Ontario

Solo Exhibitions

- 2009 *Le temps qui passe... (Time goes by)*
Studio Huit Dalpé, Gatineau, Québec
- 2006 *Antichambre ou purgatoire (Anti-chamber or purgatory)*
Galerie du Casino du Lac-Leamy, Gatineau, Québec
- 2005 *Lieux inabités (Uninhabited spaces)*
Théâtre de l'Île, Gatineau, Québec
- 2002 *Derrière les miroirs (Behind the mirrors)*
Café Le Solstice, Ottawa, Ontario
- Derrière les miroirs 2 (Behind the mirrors)*
Gallery 115, Ottawa, Ontario

Group Exhibitions

- 2009 *Art au Pluriel 2009*
C.C.T., Gatineau, Québec
- 2008 *Third Annual International Digital Miniprint Exhibition*
La Voix Visuelle, Ottawa, Ontario
- To Build A Vibrant Centre*
Crichton Cultural Community Centre, Ottawa, Ontario
- La chambre (The bedroom)*
Heritage Canada Office, Ottawa, Ontario
- 2002 *Who's Next ?*
Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario
- R.TCHO*
Graduating Students in Visual Arts Exhibition
Visual Arts Department, University of Ottawa, Ottawa Ontario
- CTRL ALT DEL*
Media Arts Group Exhibition
Visual Arts Department, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario
- Poo*
Gallery 115, Ottawa, Ontario
- Group Exhibition « R.Tcho »
Gallery 101, Ottawa, Ontario

Artistic interests

Artistic statement focusing on documentation and theatrical values.
Photography and new media expertise.
Participation in group projects.