

## LES DRÔLESSES

agnès b.

28.05 &gt; 31.07.2021

From May 28 to July 31, 2021, the Gallery MAGNIN-A will present *Les Drôles*, a series of photographs taken by agnès b., in the spring of 2020 during confinement. These images stage two portraits of Claire Tabouret in the springtime decor of agnès's garden dressed in creations from her personal wardrobe. Throughout the 80 images, *Les Drôles* tells the story of the mischievous and timeless agnès. It tells us about her childhood, the relationship between the designer and the artists and years of creation. She also tells us about a beautiful story of friendship born with André Magnin, thirty-two years ago as well as the admiration she has for the work of Claire Tabouret and some of her artist friends.



# LES DRÔLESSES

## *Conversations with agnès b.*

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**We know you agnès b. for your creations, your commitment (political), your love for cinema as well as for your support, body and soul, towards the young artistic scene. In this sense, you have built up a vast collection throughout your life, that you are constantly enriching . If the public knows you as a stylist and collector, many are probably unaware of your photographic practice. When did you take your first pictures?**

*agnès b. : I did not study. I left school at 17 and got married right after. I had my first child the following year. I learned everything empirically, by doing things by myself. I still do it today and I like it. Photography, I've always done it. Except for 10 years when I lived with a photographer who didn't want me to do it. I have a Nikon film camera with which I made a series of portraits during a trip to Moscow in 1987. I went for ELLE magazine for which I was working at the time. During 5 days I shot people and, depending on the place, I switched from color to black and white by changing the film. I exhibited this series in 2018 at Paris Photo with the photos of Dimitri Markov. I still have my Nikon, an old camera with 1/50 and 1/85. But for Les Drôlesses I used my iphone, more spontaneous. I was looking more for the atmosphere of each photo rather than the quality of the photography itself.*

**You have chosen "Les Drôlesses" as title for this exhibition? What does this word mean to you?**

*My father used to call us like that my sisters and me that when we were children. He used to say, "You're coming les drôlesses", which was for him his affectionate way of calling us.*

***In this series, realized last spring during lockdown, you staged in your garden two portraits of Claire Tabouret coming from your collection, dressed in your creations, chosen among your personal wardrobe. What was your intention?***

*It was a rather childish exercise, spontaneous, without any specific idea in mind. I just wanted to have fun like we did as kids, without any serious intentions. It reminds me when we dressed up dolls with paper. "It looks like we'd be at the airport terminal. It looks like we would be dressed like this, with a suitcase like this. "It's playful. Dressing these young girls, choosing which one was going to wear this or that. I picked from my personal wardrobe at home. I don't have everything in my house, but there are suits, impers, coats. Consequently the accumulation of all these clothes in my wardrobe throughout the ages, I also found it funny. I've been designing clothes for years, I must have designed at least a million of them but I always tried to make them as undated as possible. Each photo will have the date of creation of each garment. It's interesting for the history of agnès b. to show that you can still put back things that were created 30 years ago. That's really my specialty. I don't like to do things that are too fashionable. I think it's up to each person to make their own personal fashion, to put things together in their own way. That's what interests me.*

***Did you tell Claire Tabouret that her work inspired this series? What was her reaction?***

*I was the first to show Claire Tabouret's work, rue du jour upstairs, in a space that was used as an exhibition space. I had bought her a Baby from the series Les mangeurs and the two small portraits I used for Les Drôlesses. Since then we*

became friends, thanks also to Jean-René de Fleurieu, the father of two of my daughters. I admire her a lot, I like her work a lot. From the first photos of the Drôlesses, I talked to her about it and she found the idea funny. So I continued.

**Childhood is a theme that seems very present in your life. What does this series tells us about you ?**

*This game Les Drôlesses comes from childhood. I did it for fun. I always do things in a playful way. My work, I always do it with a lot of fun, fluidity. I have met many artists, and artists always talk about their childhood. Childhood is the humus, it is the starting material. It is something spontaneous, it is almost a need... This series also evokes the link with the artists. I have always had this desire to involve them in my creations. It started in the 80's with the silkscreen prints on the t-shirt that we did ourselves in my home, simple stuff but we do it ourselves. There are a lot of clothes that I made with painters, photographers, graffiti artists...*

**This series was created during an unprecedented context. How did you experience this period? How did you invest it?**

*I thought about it after 2 days during*

*lockdown, "Time, my only enemy, has fallen into my arms". I never really had time for anything, especially with 5 kids and my job. And now, all of a sudden, I found myself having time. This series is a different expression of my work. This is what confinement allowed me to do. It lasted two and a half months.*

**How many pictures did you choose for this exhibition?**

*There will be around 80 photos selected for the exhibition with photos of the staged portraits but also with photos of my garden, the atmosphere of spring, this space of nature which brought me air during this period of lockdown. We are going to publish a book that will gather these photos with handwritten notes that will accompany each image.*

**André Magnin and you have a long history of friendship. How did you meet?**

*I met André during Magiciens de la Terre presented at the Centre Pompidou. This exhibition absolutely overwhelmed me. It was for me an opening on the world, me who grew up in Versailles, received a classical education, the Italian Renaissance, and suddenly it was a shock to discover the creation in the world. I saw magnificent things. I was very intimidated to meet André Magnin. And we became friends very quickly.*



*le lys de jardin, ma fleur préférée.*



While the Magnin-A gallery will host agnès b.'s photographs, the Galerie du Jour will present from May 21 to July 24 the exhibition *Vive l'Afrique !* An opportunity for agnès b. to present to the public some of the artists revealed by André Magnin. As a testimony to its active support of African art over the past 25 years, agnès b. presents a heterogeneous panorama of contemporary creation from the African continent through the works of Frédéric Bruly Bouabré, Seyni Awa Camara, Seydou Keita, J.D. 'Okhai Ojeikere, Amadou Sanogo, Malick Sidibé and Ana Silva. This exhibition is the result of a long-standing friendship between agnès b. and André Magnin, who in 1989 was assistant curator of the exhibition "Magiciens de la Terre" and who, from that date, introduced agnès b. to contemporary art from the African continent.

## VIVE L'AFRIQUE !

*Les découvertes d'André Magnin*

21 mai > 24 juillet 2021

Galerie du Jour agnès b.  
La FAB  
Place Jean-Michel Basquiat  
75013 Paris  
[www.la-fab.com](http://www.la-fab.com)

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LES DRÔLESSES – agnès b.  
Exposition du 28 mai au 31 juillet 2021  
Entrée libre  
Du mardi au samedi, de 14h à 18h.

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