

artist:

Olivier Douard

title:

*Grand Littoral & Saint-Jacques*

dates:

March 27th - May 13th

venue:

Cocotte, Treignac, FR

exhibition text :

Olivier Douard is a photographer native of Perpignan and currently based in Marseille. The exhibition presents a selection of photographs from two distinct series, taken in each of these cities.

Grand Littoral is the name of a commercial area located on a hill north of Marseille. In 2016, Netflix had giant Hollywood-style letters installed on its heights spelling out the name of the city and its new eponymous series - their first French production starring Gérard Depardieu, among others - to promote its release. Despite a lawsuit filed by a Marseille artist to whom the idea was allegedly stolen, and a disastrous critical reception of the series, the installation has remained, going through a small makeover in 2019 to distance itself from the series' logo. In the wasteland at its feet in the midst of redevelopment (Foresta) is now a free boxing ring, compensating for the current closure of the gyms, where Olivier Douard has made a series of portraits in 2021.

Saint-Jacques is the name of a neighborhood in the historic center of Perpignan. It is home to a community of sedentary gypsies, whose first traces of presence date back to the eighteenth century. The community has managed to preserve a unique identity and way of life despite the pressures of adaptation (or even persecutions depending on the period) of which they are the target. The result is a certain freedom and a frank and joyful irreverence particularly well captured by the images of anarchic graffiti on dilapidated walls photographed by Olivier Douard in 2018, accompanied by portraits of inhabitants.

checklist :

images 1 to 8: exhibition views

images 9 to 16: Grand Littoral series, 2021

images 17 to 32: Saint-Jacques series, 2018