

Alt. **+1000**  
festival de  
photographie  
de montagne

**HIGH ALTITUDE**  
photography in the mountains

16 July – 19 September 2011

**HIGH ALTITUDE**, a festival of contemporary photography, will welcome this summer in Rossinière (Prealps, Switzerland) the Royal College of Art, London.

In the desire to create international synergies, **HIGH ALTITUDE** is collaborating with the Royal College of Art in London, one of the world's most renowned schools. Students from the department of photography have been invited to present a piece of work on the mountain. This April, they will be staying in the village of Rossinière in the foothills of the Vaud Prealps to finalize their photographic

**Press release**

Rossinière, le 13 April 2011

projects. Living in a great metropolis far from the mountains, they will interpret a concept that has sparked the imaginations of generations of English tourists since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Is the mountain still a symbol of power? Is it really characterized by a wild natural environment? In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, the mountain reveals its fragility as humans progressively encroach on its territory. What remains of the myths associated with it? The students' works demonstrate, often through hybrid techniques, that the boundaries between documentary and fiction are more than ever blurred.



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**HIGH ALTITUDE**, one festival, twelve exhibitions, one international competition, one artist residence.

This coming summer, for the second time, the village of Rossinière in the foothills of the Alps is organising twelve exhibitions of contemporary photography in various disused barns and stables which evoke past ways of life in the region. However, the **HIGH ALTITUDE** exhibitions are far removed from touristic

postcards and the contemporary artists treat the mountain in its multiple guises: spectacular, sublime, domesticated, abandoned, alarming and even magical.

Twenty artists from Switzerland, Germany, Britain, the United States and the Netherlands, most of whom live far from a natural wilderness, celebrate and challenge the myths attached to the mountain and interpret,

each in their own way, this elusive landscape. Whether artistic, documentary or conceptual, the photographs will offer multiple approaches on this theme. During the summer of 2011, HIGH ALTITUDE will confront the vernacular identity of the village of Rossinière, famous for its 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture and its green landscape, a feature of the d'Enhaut region, with the challenging, inquisitive and provocative points of view of the artists.

After the first edition organized in 2008, HIGH ALTITUDE expands with new exhibits and new events. Alongside works from the collaboration with the Royal College of Art, the festival will feature works of the five winners of the competition organised in 2010 aimed at emerging Swiss and international photographers. Matthieu Gafsou (F/CH), Marion Burnier (CH), Anne Golaz (CH), Awoiska van der Molen (NL) and Daniel Shea (USA) will cover topics as diverse as the mountain landscape, the wilderness, the built mountain, the mountain as a symbol of identity, the mountain and the sublime.

In addition to the exhibitions there will be an artist in residence, Olaf Otto Becker (Germany, \*1959), who is renowned for the breathtaking beauty of his visions of Ireland and Greenland. Olaf Otto Becker will be working closely with the Parc Naturel Regional Gruyère Pays-d'Enhaut and the photographs taken during his residency will be presented in a central location during the festival.

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