

The Evocative Photography of Carine Magescas

Carine Magescas, who lived and worked in San Francisco from 1998 to 2013, is back in town. We caught up with the French photographer at her very busy show opening at the Themes+Projects gallery in San Francisco.

Magescas latest series, "La Plage Blanche," builds on her earlier work and features deliberately overexposed images of beach scenes shot in Northern California, Montauk, and as well as in a remote area of Camargue in Southern France, all sharing the characteristic of being slightly rough and un-crowded.

"I work a lot in over-exposure, often reducing the people in the photos to silhouettes in the light" says Magescas, "I like minimal compositions with a level of abstraction that allow thoughts to wander."

The feeling she hopes to instill in those who view her photographs, she tells Airows, is "to daydream, and feel immersed in a place that seems familiar yet is different, where time and space are irrelevant. I like when art can impose itself in a subtle manner, with several layers, and continues to live with you. I find this particularly important for a piece you choose to own at home and will look at many, many times."

Asking where her love for the ocean comes from, she tells us that her favorite seaside memory is from Noirmoutier, France, as a child in the 1970s. "I remember being fascinated by the shape of the dunes," she says, "studying the tide schedule, finding 'couteaux' shells with salt at low tide and the most delicious waffles at a food truck, always parked at the same spot, on the way back from the beach."

You can almost smell the salt air.

Magescas' work is exhibited at Themes+Projects Gallery through June 30.