

Bertrand Cavalier (1989) is a French artist based in Brussels.

His work revolves around the notion of space. Through the use of photography, video and specific scenography, he investigates the relationship between Man and his surroundings, in particular the urban environment as it took shape in the age of modernism.

He develops projects which suggest a friction between rational and emotional behaviors, aiming to question our relationship to objectivity and subjectivity. The common thread in Bertrand Cavalier's artistic thinking is his focus on the idea of the physical sensation, understood as our ability to share ideas and thoughts in ways other than through objective, factual information.

Cavalier's photographs and videos are more sculptural translations of unique moments than objective documents of social phenomena. The objects and situations that he portrays are often recognizable and ordinary. Conceived as close up images, the latter reveal, just as his exhibitions does, the inherent structure of his subjects and how, as 'foreign objects', they break with the original order. In this way Cavalier emphasizes the various aspects of urban planning, including the unintentional, the 'mishap', as a quality that allows room for a subjective and personal use of the cities in which we live.

Bertrand Cavalier received his MFA from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp in 2018. He exhibited at FRAC Orléans, BIP Liège, FOMU Antwerp and Photoforum Pasquart during the Biel/Bienne Festival of Photography. His work has been awarded by the Sébastien van der Straten fund. He published “Concrete Doesn't Burn” with Fw:Books in 2020 and “Permanent Concern” with Spector in 2024. His work can be seen at Art Press, American Suburb X, C4 Journal and Mouvement, among others. In 2021, he participated in the residency Artwell Amsterdam and the Cité Internationale des Arts Paris in 2023.

Education

- 2016–18 Royal Academy for Fine Arts, MFA in photography, Antwerp, BE
2010–13 School of Arts (Le 75), BA in photography, Brussels, BE

Books

- 2024 Permanent Concern, published by [Spector](#) (forthcoming)
2020 Concrete Doesn't Burn, published by [Fw:Books](#)

Awards & Grants

- 2023 Bourse résidence arts visuels, Sabam ^{BE}
Aide à la mobilité internationale, Wallonie-Bruxelles International ^{BE}
Bourse d'aide à la création, fédération wallonie-bruxelles ^{BE}
2022 Nominee, C/O Berlin Award, Berlin ^{DE}
Flanders Art Fund ^{BE}
2021 Bourse d'aide à la création, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles ^{BE}
Nominee, FOAM Paul Huf Award, Amsterdam ^{NL}
2019 Shortlisted, Photographic Museum of Humanity Grant ^{IT}
Selected for .tiff, FOMU, Antwerp ^{BE}
Winner, Sébastien Van der Straten Grant ^{BE}
Participant, Plat(t)form 2019 at Fotomuseum Winterthur ^{CH}
2018 Winner, Academy prize, photography department, KASKA ^{BE}
Nominee, International Photography Grant ^{IT}
Cosmos pdf award, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles ^{FR}
2015 Fotofilmic'15, 2nd place, Vancouver ^{CA}

Selected shows

- 2024 Total Museum, Seoul ^{KR} (forthcoming)
Espace JB, Geneva ^{CH}
2023 25 Arts Secondes, w/ Interlude, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris ^{FR}
Art Au Centre, Liège ^{BE}
Bienne Festival of Photography, Photoforum Pasquart, Bienne ^{CH}
Atlas Chimérique, curated by Sara Anedda, Paris ^{FR}
Frontwindows occupation, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris ^{FR}
Topographie Sensible, curated by Ariane Skoda, Paris ^{FR}
2022 Solo show, Madé gallery, Paris ^{FR}
Chance is Logical, group show Tegenboschvanvreden gallery, Amsterdam ^{NL}
2021 Negotiating Ungers, Architecture Center CIVA, Brussels ^{BE}

Unseen fair w/ Tegenboschvanvreden gallery, Amsterdam ^{NL}
2020 Solo show w/ Concrete Doesn't Burn, BIP, Beaux-Arts gallery, Liège ^{BE}
2019 Fotofinish w/ Concrete Doesn't Burn, Rietveld Pavilion, Amersfoort ^{NL}
Orléans Biennial w/ Space Between Us, FRAC, Orléans ^{FR}
31 Days of .TIFF w/ Concrete Doesn't Burn, FOMU, Antwerp ^{BE}
2018 BredaPhoto w/ Concrete Doesn't Burn, biennial, Breda ^{NL}
Cook it, Boil it, Bake it or forget it w/ Concrete Doesn't Burn
curated by Nadia Bijl, Zuiderpershuis, Antwerp ^{BE}
45 Degrés, Mulhouse Photography Biennial, Mulhouse ^{FR}
2017 *New Faces* w/ Concrete Doesn't Burn, Hangar 18 Art Center, Brussels
Musée de la Photographie de Bruxelles ^{BE}
Inter City One Night Only, Contemporary Art Center Extra City, Antwerp ^{BE}
2016 *Omber, Odradek & Octaëder*, curated by Hans Theys,
D'Apostrof gallery, Meigem ^{BE}
Lost Narratives, Mayer Van Den Bergh Museum, Antwerp, ^{BE}
Speaking in Tongues, with La Grotte,
Biennale de l'image Possible (BIP), Luik ^{BE}
2015 Fotofilmic, travelling exhibition, New York ^{USA}, Vancouver ^{CA}, Seoul ^{KR}
Speaking in Tongues, with La Grotte, gallery Le Botanique, Brussels ^{BE}
Dehors La Grotte, with La Grotte,
Dehors Contemporary Art Window, Brussels ^{BE}
2014 La Jeune Création, Cent Quatre, Paris ^{FR}
ManifestO, Cours Dillon, Toulouse ^{FR}

Selected publications

2023 [Absys](#), interview w/ Claire Contamine, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles
2022 [Mouvement n°115](#), cover and portfolio
2021 [Hapax magazine](#), curated by Iris Siking
[C4 Journal](#) essay by Eugenie Shinkle
[Art Press](#), n°488, text by Anne Immelé
[Velvet Eyes](#) interview w/ Ilias Lois
[C41 Magazine](#) w/ Concrete Doesn't Burn
[Punto de Fuga](#) interview w/ Laura Carbonell
[Phases](#) w/ Concrete Doesn't Burn
2020 [American Suburb X](#), photobooks of the year, text by Brad Feuerhelm
American Suburb X Concrete Doesn't Burn, it Crumbles.,
text by Brad Feuerhelm
2020 [Le Blog de Fabien Ribery](#), text by Fabien Ribery
2019 [FRAC Centre Years of Solitude](#), exhibition catalog,
text by Bram Van Beek

[PH Museum](#), *Architectural Banality in Post-War European Cities*
text by Laurence Cornet
[Futures](#), interview, European platform for photography
[GUP magazine](#), interview w/ Angelo Zinna
[tiff magazine](#), FOMU, Anvers, BE
2018 [ARPA journal 05](#), Columbia University ^{NYC}, text by common room
2017 [The Belgian Platform for Photobooks](#),
interview by Stefan Vanthuyne w/ La Grotte

Residency, talks, lectures

2023 Residency 2-12, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris ^{FR}
2021 Residency Artwell, 6 months program, Amsterdam ^{NL}
2019 Lecture, HELB, Brussels ^{BE}
Lecture, La Cambre Art School, Brussels ^{BE}
Lecture, KASKA Royal Academy for Fine Arts, Antwerp ^{BE}
Presentation, Belgian Night, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles ^{FR}
2018 Lecture, .tiff, FOMU, Antwerp ^{BE}
Talk, BredaPhoto
w/ Sybren Vanoverberghe, Joris Deleersnyder and Saskia Naafs, Breda ^{NL}
2017 Braakland residency, *Speaking in Tongues*, with La Grotte, FOMU, Antwerp ^{BE}

Public collection

Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Centre-Val de Loire (FRAC Orléans) ^{FR}

Collective projects

2023-00 Jette400, artist run-space
2020-22 Plateau, artist run-space
2018 45 Degrés
2012-18 Co-founder of the Brussels based artist collective La Grotte

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