

Galería Elba Benítez



Jorge Ribalta

Renaissance. Scenes of Industrial Reconversion
in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Coalfield

April - May 2019

The Galería Elba Benítez is pleased to announce the coming exhibition of *Renaissance. Scenes of Industrial Reconversion in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Coalfield*, a photo-documentation project by Jorge Ribalta, opening April 11, 2019.

Renaissance examines the conversion of the obsolete infrastructure and altered landscape of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais — a vast former coal mining region in the north of France — into a nexus of cultural institutions, transportation hubs, shopping malls and nodes in the new global workplace of immaterial labor. Shot in the spring of 2014, the photos of *Renaissance* — 172 in total, organized into geographical and conceptual sections — depict historical artifacts, buildings and building construction, archives and archival material, individuals and landscapes. More historiography than history,

Renaissance aims to bring what Ribalta refers to as “historical density” to the photo-documentation process, combining an informed political position with a research-driven artistic practice.

Jorge Ribalta (Barcelona, 1963) is an artist, researcher, editor and independent curator. He has had solo shows at the Centre Régional de la Photographie Nord-Pas-de-Calais (Douchy-les-Mines, 2016); the Linea di Confine per la Fotografia Contemporanea (Rubiera, 2018); the Württembergischer Kunstverein (Stuttgart, 2016); Museo Guerrero (Granada, 2015); the Helga de Alvear Foundation (Caceres, 2015). He has participated in numerous group shows, including at the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (2015); the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid, 2014); The Museum of Modern Art (New York, 2000); the Centre d'Art Santa Mònica (Lerida, 1994) and elsewhere. He has curated numerous photography exhibitions and edited numerous photography books.

Image: Jorge Ribalta, *Renaissance. Scènes de la reconversion industrielle dans le bassin minier du Nord-Pas-de-Calais*, Centre Régional de la Photographie Nord-Pas-de-Calais (CRP), Douchy-les-Mines, France, December 2015 (detail of the show's installation)