

**Jean - François Spricigo** (born 1979 in Tournai, Belgium) is one of the best **Belgian photographers of the young generation**. He also dabbles in film and wrote numerous pieces of poetic prose. He has created his own, highly **emotional language of photography**; it is personal, features blurred images, visible grain, close-ups of the most distinctive pieces, expressive portrait shots, both of people and of animals, as well as wide angle shots of landscapes. He describes his work as a striving to express his feelings, and not to present the world. It is difficult to identify the thematic connections of the photographs which create separate threads, presented as a series at exhibitions. They are rather **loosely linked images**, similar formally and in terms of emotional 'colour'. Thus cycles such as "notturmo", "silenzio", "ici, hier", "settembre", "Prelude", "anima" were created. The most recent one, "toujours l'Aurore", will be presented at the exhibition in the ZPAF Stara Galeria (Old Gallery).

This series will allow viewers to fully explore the characteristic features of the Belgian artist's photographs: the poetic, open-ended narrative, consisting of portraits with blurred features, but still retaining the emotional truth of portrayed animals and humans, mysterious landscapes, and few snapshots of everyday life. Special place is held by the portraits of animals, depicted up close, with emphasis on their inner emotional and mental life.

Jean-François Spricigo photographs basically only in black and white, because in that way he can best show the light and because he comes from the cold, restrained North. Colour appeared in his photographs when he was at a residency at Casa Velasquez in 2012, as an expression of his admiration for the colourfulness of the South. Ever since, typically when intense colour is present, it is modest, although saturated, as in a number of photos from the presented cycle. It seems that the essence of his photograph is to express Life, sentient Nature, the Soul pervading nature, present in a man, an animal, a landscape. It is also a photograph of silence and stillness, a witness of the transformation of everyday noise into contemplation.

**Jean-François Spricigo** has participated in numerous group exhibitions, reviews, festivals, such as **Paris Photo, Rencontres internationales de la Photographie d'Arles** and individual projects in the most important institutions and galleries devoted to photography, including **Musée de la Photographie de Charleroi** ("**Romanza**" cycle, 2012), **104 Paris** ("**toujours l'Aurore**" cycle, 2014). He collaborates with some of the well-known galleries around the world: **Galerie Agathe Gaillard (Paris), Galerie Maeght (Paris), Louis Stern Gallery (Los Angeles)**, where he has held individual exhibitions. He is the winner of important artistic awards, such as the **Prix de Photographie de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts de l'Institut de France, Fondation Belge de la Vocation** and has many **photographic publications to his name**.

The current Jean-François Spricigo's exhibition is his second presentation in Poland. The first was the "Prelude" shown in 2009 at Simonis Gallery in Warsaw.

The exhibition was created in collaboration with ZPAF Old Gallery, 104 gallery in Paris, Flying Gallery Foundation and the Representation of Wallonia and Brussels in Poland. Its curators are Clotilde Simonis-Gorska and Lena Wicherkiewicz.