

Engram
Histoires de l'Oeil
July 12 – September 10, 2018
La Vitrine

Histoires de l'oeil first came about as an in-situ reflection specific to the street-level concept of La Vitrine: to see and be seen, a notion deeply anchored in the Lebanese culture.

The blue eye symbolizes both the superstitious beliefs of the region as well as the eye of surveillance, censorship, and voyeurism. It is the eye that sees and the eye that is seen by the actual passersby of Pasteur Street who will find a reflection of themselves in it.

On the ground, a black and white checkerboard continues the existing pattern of La Vitrine's entrance. The eye is thus implanted in an even more intimate space where Engram expands on what already exists. This allows the collective to simultaneously exploit the pre-existing while bringing a novelty to the space: the eye itself.

Histoires de l'Oeil is an allusion to the title of Georges Bataille's novel, expanding it and its notion of voyeurism to a wider range of stories captured by that of the various passersby.

About the collective

Engram is a duo of photographers and visual artists founded in Lebanon in 2003 by Joanna Andraos and Caroline Tabet. The collective seeks to produce photographic series as well as installations combining photo (film and digital) and video.

Their work around the process of memory and disappearance is recurrent in their projects and are inspired from real or fictional facts that transcribe in image a concept or narrative close to that of a cinematic sequencing.

This approach is often complemented by the sound component in order to achieve a singular audio-vision experience.

In 2010, they publish a monograph of their series "290 rue du Liban". This book brings together a photographic series taken inside a traditional Beiruti house built at the turn of the 20th century and destroyed in 2005, a collection of archival images found in one of the shops adjoining the house as well as photographs of its destruction.

In 2017, Engram received a special jury prize for their new project 'Conversation with my friend', as part of the 32nd Salon d'Automne at the Surssock Museum in Beirut.