



The Last Water War

Ruins of a Future

Émeric Lhuisset

Exhibition, Book, Website



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Since men cultivate the land, rivalries over water are a source of disputes. The concept is expressed directly in the English language *rivalry* from the Latin *rivalis*, meaning *the one who uses the same river as the other*. It was around 2600 BC in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) that the first known water war took place. The city-states of Umma and of Lagash (of which Girsu is the religious capital) fought for centuries over the exploitation of irrigation canals fed by the Tigris.

Today, many factors fuel fears of a 'new water war' on the very location of the destruction of the ancient city of Girsu. Power games between the different communities, the civil war in Syria, the presence of the Islamic State, but also the fact that the majority of the dams that control the flow of the Tigris and Euphrates are located in combat zones, are all factors of instability and tension. Coupled with –despite of the war- high population growth, the increasing scarcity of water resources in the region and global warming, a new water war is almost inevitable.

Last Water War - Ruins of a Future presents a series of photographs taken on the archaeological site of Girsu (Iraq) by Emeric Lhuisset. Through the ruin, the architectural object sculpted by time, positioned at the crossroads of past, present and future, the artist is questioning the future. The photographs will be displayed on the streets of a number of cities in Turkey and the Middle East in the form of posters combining image and text.

Émeric Lhuisset

Émeric Lhuisset (1983) holds degrees in visual arts (École des Beaux-Arts, Paris) and geopolitics (Université Panthéon-Sorbonne / ENS Ulm). As a photographer, Lhuisset seeks to raise questions about the representation of conflicts and geopolitical issues. His projects took him to the Middle East, Afghanistan, Colombia and Ukraine. Lhuisset has been featured in exhibitions at Centre Pompidou (FR), Folkwang Museum (DE), Stedelijk Museum (NL) and Tate Modern (UK). He teaches at the Institute of Political Studies of Paris.

In 2015, Émeric Lhuisset published a large format book on newspaper stock *Maydan - Hundred Portraits* (André Frère Éditions & Paradox).

Exhibition Installation with large format framed photographs, documentation of poster campaign in public space in the Middle East.

Book To be announced.

Web www.lastwaterwar.org

Launch

Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris (FR), September, 2016.

Preview: Surssock Museum, Beirut (LB), July, 2016.

Info www.paradox.nl/
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