



Marc Lagrange
(Belgian, 1957 - 2015)

Biography

Filled with longing and sensuality, Marc Lagrange's photographs celebrate fantasies and desire—placing beauty and dreams at the center of his world. Lagrange was born in Kinshasa, Congo, in 1957. His career path led him from engineering to photography, and his creativity from fashion to art. Privileging analog over digital, the Antwerp-based Belgian artist searches for intimacy and emotion as opposed to artificial effects.

His giant Polaroids—which have been exhibited worldwide—are a powerful example of his craft as well as his attention to detail: he can display the texture of skin, highlight natural curves and make his models stand out. Lagrange elaborates entire sets until he finds the exact mood he wishes to convey, with the end goal being to create the images he wants. From the color of the walls to the shape of a chair, every single detail counts, underlining Lagrange's perfectionist streak and his willingness to unfold narratives.

Throughout his career, Lagrange has photographed the same women over different periods of time, turning them into his muses. Inge Van Bruystegem—a striking model and talented dancer—is one of them. Lagrange has been working with her for more than fifteen years, developing a privileged relationship. The trust that has flourished between them over the years is quite rare in photography and still generates surprising results.

Individuals who pose in front of Lagrange's lens end up spontaneously performing and revealing more about themselves than they perhaps intended to. One thing Lagrange respects is the mystery and power of women: even fully nude, his models are confident and in control; real protagonists as opposed to passive figures.

In 2012, Delvaux—the oldest luxury leather goods house in the world—commissioned Lagrange with portraits of women from different generations depicting their relationship with their handbags. Seductive and elegant, the black-and-white photographs gave birth to a new series that has been ongoing.



In 2014, Lagrange traveled to New York to shoot iconic women and the results were powerful. From Carmen Dell’Orefice to Zani Gugelmann, he met some of Manhattan’s most stylish and influential women and captured their strength and charisma. The series was named *Timeless Beauties* and subsequent trips to China, Japan and other key destinations for Delvaux were organized. Since 2008, Lagrange has additionally developed his video work, including a film for the fashion brand Supertrash’s fragrance launch. In 2012, he also filmed Liesa Van der Aa’s clip for *Louisa’s Bolero*.

Marc Lagrange’s work has been honored with several exhibitions in Europe and the United States. In 2011, *Maison Lagrange* introduced more than 240 artworks to the public, many of them previously unseen. The retrospective lasted six months. The following year, his *Extra Large Marc Lagrange* show in Graz, Austria, spread over 3,000 square meters. Lagrange also participates in Art Miami on a regular basis, and several books have been published under his name, including *Polarized* by Ludion in 2009 and *Marc Lagrange XXML* by Lido in 2009. In 2013, *Diamonds and Pearls* was published by teNeues in 80 countries.

The following year, in 2014, he published *Hotel Maritime – Room #58*, a private edition limited to 300 copies whose content was shown internationally. The atmosphere of *Hotel Maritime – Room #58* echoes some of Edward Hopper’s most soulful and alluring paintings. More conceptual than his previous works, it underlines the descriptive quality of his art.

From 2015, a selection of Lagrange’s iconic works was featured at the TEFAF art fair in Maastricht with SmithDavidson Gallery, the Netherlands. *Senza Parole*, which partly took place in the Italian town of Pietrasanta, coupled with the *Handelsbeurs* project in Antwerp, Belgium and a Fellini inspired shoot at the baroque loft of Paolo Calia in Paris, these three series are part of this new book. Marc Lagrange kept looking for singular subjects and unexpected stories, placing humanity at the core of his approach.

Since his sudden death in a car accident in Tenerife in 2015, his legacy lives on through his timeless photographs of boundless sensuality and elegance and his artworks continue to be recognized and honored worldwide.

Selected Exhibitions

2023

Reflections, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
SmithDavidson Icons, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, NL

2022

The Photography Show, SmithDavidson Gallery, New York, USA

2021

Solo: *MARC LAGRANGE, 30 YEARS*, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
Solo: International Photo Biennale Ostend, Ostend, Belgium

2019

The Photography Show, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, NL

2018

Solo: *Chocolate; The Chocolate Polaroid exhibition*,
SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA, Amsterdam, NL

2017

Modern Masters, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA
Timeless Beauty, Archeological Museum Tongeren, Belgium

2016

Mix and Match, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, NL

2015

Presentation of *Senza Parole*, Paris, France
Solo: *Marc Lagrange*, Leslie Smith Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
Global Art Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
Premiere at TEFAF with Leslie Smith Gallery (Currently
SmithDavidson Gallery), Maastricht, The Netherlands

2011

Solo: *Maison Lagrange*, Antwerp, Belgium

2009

Eelizee - Lust - Iconen, Abdijmuseum Ter Duinen, Koksijde,
Belgium

2006

Solo: FotoMuseum, Antwerp, Belgium

Books

- 2019 *Chocolate*, published by TeNeues
- 2015 *Senza Parole*, published by TeNeues
- 2014 *Hotel Maritime - Room 58*, limited in 300 copies
- 2013 *Diamonds and Pearls*, published by TeNeues
- 2012 *XXML 20 years Marc Lagrange* (collectors edition)
- 2009 *Marc Lagrange 20*, published by LIDO
- 2009 *Polarized*, published by LIDO
- 2009 *Chateau Lagrange*, published by AP Fotomuseum
- 2006 *LUST*, published by Tectum
- 2006 *Chateau Lagrange*, published by AP Fotomuseum

Selected Art Fairs

Photo London, London, UK
KunstRAI Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL
PAN Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL
Paris Photo OVR, Paris, France
MIA Photo fair, Milan, Italy
Fresh Eyes Photo Fair, Amsterdam, NL
Zona Maco FOTO, Mexico City, Mexico
Art Miami, Miami, USA
EXPO Chicago, Chicago, USA
Art New York, New York City, USA
TEFAF Maastricht, Maastricht, NL
Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary, Palm Beach, USA
Art Up, Lille, France
Lille Art Fair, Grand Palais, Lille, France
Art Cologne, Cologne, Germany
Art Paris, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Photo Basel, Basel, Switzerland