

On the Ganges, sacred daily rituals.

Photographs by Luc Maréchaux



Official Exhibition

Bombayser de Lille 3000

Luc Maréchaux
110 rue Pasteur 94120 Fontenay-sous-Bois FRANCE
06 83 09 01 39 luc.marechaux@free.fr
www.luc-marechaux.com

Exhibition: *On the Ganges, sacred daily rituals*

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1/ PRESS REVIEWS

Several newspapers and magazine have written articles on the exhibition during its appearance at Villeneuve d'Ascq for Lille 3000 and in 2005 at the Maison des Indes at Paris.

Le Monde des religions

"Benares, Hardwar, Rishikesh: three Indian towns on the banks of the Ganges. Three towns where the photographer Luc Maréchaux paused to capture the quasi-carnal connection of the Hindus to their sacred river.....Priestly rituals as the sun rises, the cleansing of the faithful....., snapshots of daily life. **Magic.**"

Air France Magazine

The photographs of Luc Maréchaux offer a **humane and intimate** view of the ties that bind men and women to the Ganges River.

La France catholique

The Ganges, Hindu communion

"**There is a real enthusiasm that permeates this exhibition.** Prayer becomes self-evident, the simple communion of beings with the sacred river. The poses of the people become almost superfluous even as they illuminate the state of their souls. One has the impression that the photographer infused them with a mysticism as strong as it is simple."

Var Matin

"The photographer has seized in an instant those intimate sacred moments and captured in his images the vibrant intensity that emanates from the impromptu expressions and poses of his subjects."

20 Minutes

A rare view of this intimate and deep relationship.

List of other journals, magazines and television shows that have discussed the exhibition:

France 3, La Vie, La voix du Nord, Nord Eclair, Zurban, Religions et Histoire, Trek Magazine, Marco Polo Magazine, l'Officiel des spectacles, Le Pariscope, Télérama.fr

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2/ PRESENTATION SITES

15th congress of the SFAP

Société Française d'Accompagnement des soins Palliatifs

CNIT / La Défense Paris

June 2009

Médiathèque de Pornichet

Loire Atlantique

October 2008

La Maison du citoyen

Fontenay sous bois / Val de Marne

Fébruary 2007

Forum *La Science & Nous* 20e édition

Le pouvoir des images

Conseil Général du Val de Marne

October 2007

LILLE 3000 - *Bombayser de Lille 3000*

La Maison Folie de Villeneuve-d'Ascq La Ferme d'en Haut

October / November 2006

La Maison des Indes

Paris - 2005

Thalia, Art et Culture

Les Arcs (Var) -2004

Centre Culturel de Saint Raphaël

(Var) - 2003

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3/ EXHIBITION THEME

Through 20 color photographs, the exhibition offers an empathetic view of the attachment that draws men and women to the Ganges.

The exhibit approaches the subject from a double perspective, by revealing daily routines at the same time as it highlights the spiritual dimension of life on the river.

The photos from this exhibition were taken at Benares, Haridwar and Rishikesh, three towns that intersect with the great sacred waterway.

For the 800 million Hindus living in India, the Ganges is more than an element of the landscape; it is a spiritual link, threading through the holy cities and pilgrimage sites that coalesce at its banks.

Every morning, thousands of people come to the Ganges, which they see as a permanent source of regeneration and to which they attribute nutritive, curative and purifying powers.

At dawn, priests intone their first prayers of the day, facing the sun that rises slowly on the horizon. Women dressed in saris, cleanse themselves, while others bathe their young children or wash their clothes.

Luc Maréchaux's photographs document this moving spectacle, in which each day consists of traditional rituals, and share with us the poetry, passion and unfamiliarity captured in the moments of daily life.

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4/ EXHIBITION PRESENTATION

The exhibition consists of 20 color photographs.

The prints in the exhibition were produced by a professional laboratory:
Central Color

The prints were pasted to a 1mm-thick rigid aluminum sheet and protected by plastic.
The photographs are then ready to be exhibited.

Format of the photographs:

2 photographs:	60 x 80 cm
18 photographs:	40 x 60 cm

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5/ INTERVIEW WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHER

“This collection holds a unique place in my work. Never before have I been so attached to or felt so much empathy for a population. I rediscover these warm feelings on each of my voyages to India, and the country’s images remain with me upon my return to Paris. My approach to the subject, which was from the beginning spurred by humanitarian and brotherly feelings, led me to a close encounter with another world.

I discovered in the daily scenes taking place on the banks of the Ganges what I can only call a relationship between the people and the river based on connections that were both spiritual and concrete.

I wanted to pay homage to the multiple facets of the beauty of this relationship, whose daily renewal profoundly moved me.

More than just portraits, this work offers snippets of an intimate dialogue. My goal was to summarize a conversation that only photographs can capture. What started out as a project to encounter other people and take their portraits, became instead an observation of the relationship of each individual to the great river.”

Luc Maréchaux

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6/ PHOTOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHY

Luc Maréchaux works on both documentaries and photography.

As a director and writer of documentaries, he focuses on privileged moments of connection between human beings.

Whether he contemplates the life of a homeless man, the efforts of the women of Niger to preserve their traditions, the spiritual path of a Frenchman in India, or a humanitarian mission in Madagascar, His work takes an approach similar to that of "engagé" journalists.

From 1998 to 2002 he worked for the Alpha Omega Agency and has operated as an independent photographer since 1996.

His photography centers on two themes. The first emphasizes the connection with the other and compliments the tone of his documentaries. Whether in the Congo, India, or Syria, his photos remain, above all, the documentation of what it is to be human. The second theme, using a formalist approach, studies the emergence of beauty in places where one does not expect to find it.

His photographs had been included in a number of thematic exhibitions in France and in other countries. Some of them have been published in periodicals, reviews and books.