

Press Release / Monday 12 October 2009
For immediate release



IMAGINAID

**GENEVA, PONT DE LA MACHINE,
FROM 9 NOVEMBER 2009 TO 31 JANUARY, 2010**

MURS

**A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION - 20 YEARS AFTER
THE FALL OF THE WALL OF BERLIN**

Imaginaid
L'ART D'ÊTRE CONCERNÉ

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©Stéphane Duroy / Agence Vu
West Berlin, 1989

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On November 9, 2009, the international community will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In commemoration of this event Imaginaid, an association for the promotion of culture, will present “MURS”, in partnership with the City of Geneva. Through the eyes of nineteen famous photographers, this exhibition is conceived as a journey of discovery, an introduction to the many contemporary walls that are dividing and often destroying lives and lands. Organised on the Pont de la Machine, in the heart of Geneva, the exhibition is a call for Peace and Democracy.

Walls, a burning reality

The fall of the Berlin Wall brought renewed hope to a world so long menaced by the presence of the Iron Curtain. “*Never again*”, was said over and over. Two decades later that hope seems to have vanished as more walls are erected in response to religious, political, economic or geographical differences. These modern walls are equipped with advanced modern technologies. They divide, protect, disconnect, and isolate. They are found between the United States and Mexico; between Israel and the West Bank; along the Pakistani-Indian border; dividing Cyprus, Belfast, North and South Korea, just to mention a few. Instead of trying to find a solution through dialogue, societies are turning inward behind protective walls – a worrying and paradoxical phenomenon in the era of globalization.

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A bridge to host a wall of images

Under the artistic direction of Barbara Nagelsmith and Jean-Michel Landecy the exhibition "MURS" presents the work of nineteen internationally known photographers, such as Stéphane Duroy, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Anthony Suau, Shai Kremer, Ron Haviv, Michael Yamashita and Larry Towell among others – all of them deeply concerned by the issues surrounding the creation of those walls. "*Man constructs too many walls and not enough bridges*" declared Isaac Newton. What could be more symbolic than to use a bridge upon which to display this unsettling subject. In the time it takes to walk across the Pont de la Machine it is hoped that these 24 large format images of walls will confront the visitor just as they would where they actually stand. At night, these installations lit from behind, will be even more imposing. It is hoped that this confrontation will encourage the visitor to think about the practice of building a wall as a solution instead of solving the problem that created it.

The City of Geneva gets involved!

As part of a year dedicated by the Mayor to the promotion of international Human Rights for the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Convention, the City of Geneva invites its citizens and foreign visitors to examine the growing phenomenon of walls in our society. 20 years ago, the Berlin Wall was destroyed. Walls cannot withstand the desire for liberty. They finish one day or another, by cracking and disappearing. Let each of us be inspired!

PLACE, DATE AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Dates : from 9 November 2009 to 31 January 2010

Lieu : Pont de la Machine, Geneva. An outdoor exhibition opened 24/24

Format: 24 pictures 200 cm width, presented as lightboxes

Reception : Information Office of the City of Geneva, Pont de la Machine

Photographers

Christopher Anderson, Magnum Photos
Peter Boer, Hollandse-Hoogte
Henri Cartier-Bresson, Magnum Photos
Stéphane Duroy, Agence Vu
Macduff Everton, Corbis
Ron Haviv, VII
Sean Hemmerle, Contact Press Images
Shai Kremer
Henk Kruger, Cape Times
Chris Maluszynski, Agence Vu
Peter Marlow, Magnum Photos
Tomas Muscionico, Contact Press Images
Franco Pagetti, VII
Moises Saman, Panos Pictures
Anthony Suau
Frédéric Sautereau
Larry Towell, Magnum Photos
Ad Van Denderen, Agence Vu
Michael Yamashita

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Curated by: Barbara Nagelsmith (Paris)
Scenography : Jean-Michel Landecy (Genève)
Organisation : Serge Macia, Imaginaid

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PRESS MATERIALS FOR MEDIAS

Free images are available for media use.
Their use is restricted to use in association with an article on the exhibition.
Images and a full Press Pack are available upon request.

PRESSE CONFERENCE

With the participation of Mr. Rémy Pagani, Mayor of the City of Geneva.

Date: Monday 9 november, 11am

Place : Information Office of the City of Geneva, Pont de la Machine

