

# THERE WILL NEVER BE A BEAUTIFUL SUICIDE

Curator : Andy Rankin

From the 2nd December 2022 until the 14th January 2023, pal project invites the exhibition curator Andy Rankin to present *There will never be a beautiful suicide*. This exhibition is the result of an invitation sent out to 35 painters who had the opportunity to interpret a photograph freely. In the spirit of Iris Clert's themed exhibitions, the dense display immerses the visitor in a maelstrom of shapes and colours. The exhibition will be accompanied by a digital publication, the pal mag #12.



Robert C. Wiles publié pour la première fois le 12 mai 1947 dans Life Magazine.

On May 1, 1947, a young woman jumped from the observation deck of the Empire State Building. She fell 86 floors and crashed into the limousine of a UN diplomat. A photography student was nearby and took several photos of the corpse just after the crash. One of these photos, taken from a low angle, shows the woman as if asleep in a cocoon of crumpled metal; her appearance is so peaceful in contrast to the violence of the action that it looks almost like a fashion print. The photograph was then sold to Life Magazine, which published it with the caption: «The most beautiful suicide». As soon as it was published, the photo caused a sensation. It has been reused by many artists, from Andy Warhol to Taylor Swift, immortalising this young woman forever in the American collective imagination.

What the photograph does not show is the note scribbled by the deceased and which was found in her pocket, asking for her remains to be cremated so that no trace of her body would remain. She did not want her family, or anyone else, to remember her. The aesthetic power of this photograph is undeniable. It is fascinating in many ways, but it does not respect the dead woman's final wishes - instead, her name was banded around to fulfil the sensationalist drive

of newspaper readers. Even worse, in arguing that this photo represents the 'most beautiful' suicide, the magazine thus implies a classification of suffering, a hierarchy of tragedies, an evaluation of despair.

«There will never be a beautiful suicide» is an exhibition that pays tribute to all those anonymous people who decided to end their lives and whom history will not remember. It is an exhibition that restores the anonymity of this woman who wanted nothing more than to be forgotten. The project is an invitation to thirty-five painters who have been given the freedom to re-interpret this photograph. They form a community of the moment, whose eclectic works have been created through their own gaze, in a collision of aesthetics, sensibilities, and convictions.

Extract of exhibition text written by Andy Rankin. Read the full text in the pal mag #12 and on the gallery's website.

Press contact : Edouard Legeay | [info@pal-project.com](mailto:info@pal-project.com) | 06.09.34.33.73

# press release

## **With the participation of :**

Annabelle Agbo Godeau - César Bardoux - Jimmy Beauquesne - Louise Belin - Abdelhak Benallou  
Diane Benoit du Rey - Mathias Bensimon - Raphaëlle Bertran Pinheiro - Pauline Bertholon  
Marie Boyer - Cyril Debon - Gaspard Girard d'Albissin - Ludivine Gonthier - Antonin Hako  
Julien Heintz Augustin Katz - Oleg de la Morinerie - Louis Le Kim - Antoine Leisure  
Simon Leroux Marco Mastropieri - Samir Mougas - Raphaël-Bachir Osman - Kim Ouddane Munn  
Brieuc Remy Pedro Ruxa - Lassana Sarre - Ugo Sebastiao - Siam - Lisa Signorini  
Louis Somveille - Thomas Vergne - Charlie Verot - Pedro Ventura Matos - Gaspar Willmann

## **Discover the exhibition pieces and the price list**



## THE GALLERY

pal project is an emerging art gallery situated in the 7th arrondissement of Paris. Voluntarily free and experimental, the gallery's programming offers strong and ambitious exhibition projects along with a careful editing policy in order to extend and perpetuate the developed intentions.

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**Contemporary art gallery**    **39 rue de Grenelle**    **Tuesday - Saturday:**    **[www.pal-project.com](http://www.pal-project.com)**  
**75007 Paris**    **11am - 1pm | 2pm - 7pm**    **[info@pal-project.com](mailto:info@pal-project.com)**