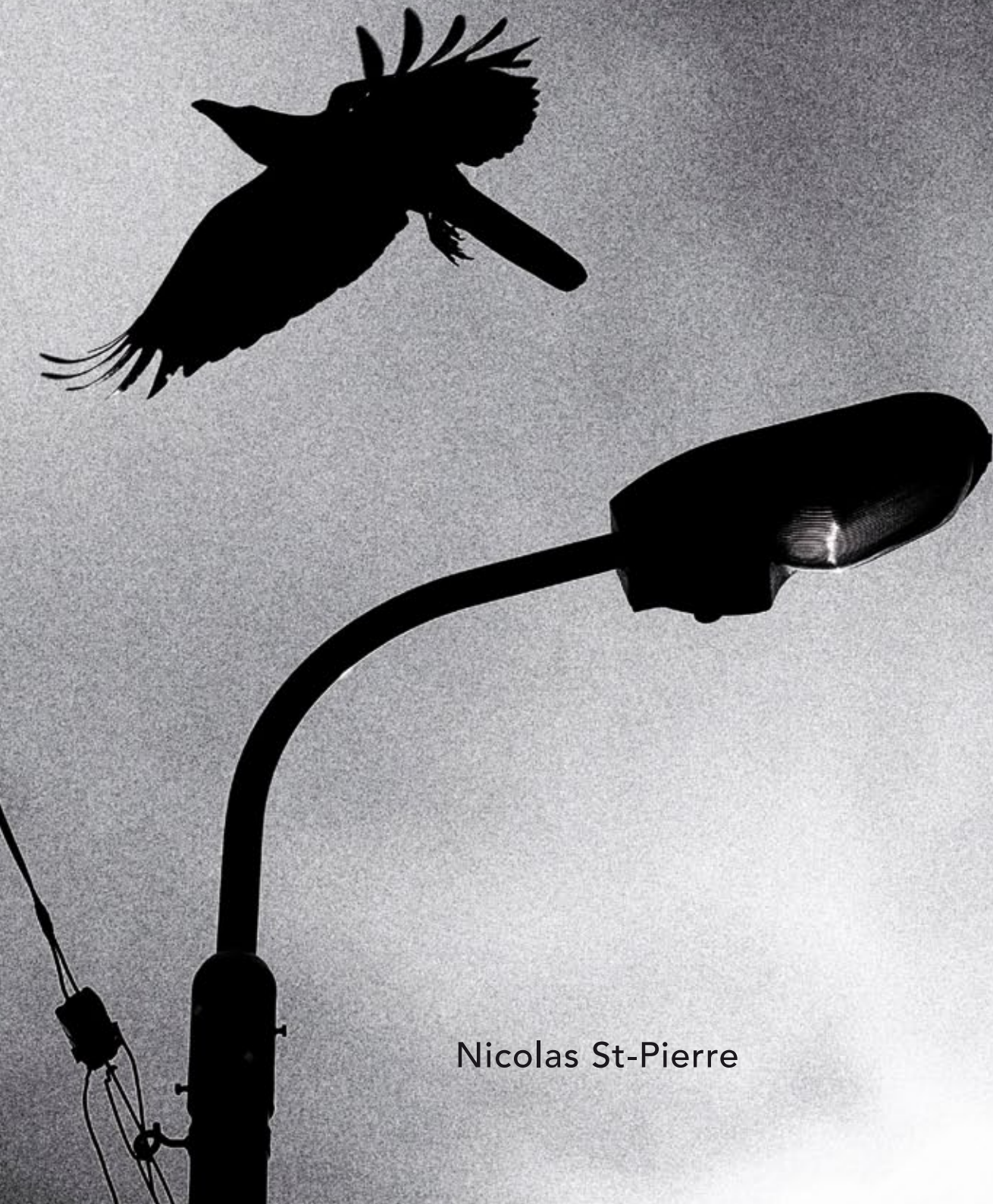


Where Have The Birds Gone?

鳥はどこへ行ったのか

Nicolas St-Pierre



鳥はどこへ行ったのか

Where Have The Birds Gone?

鳥はどこへ行ったのか

Nicolas St-Pierre

URBAN Book Award 2021 winning project

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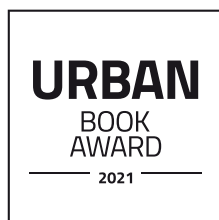
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URBAN
PHOTO AWARDS

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Photo
Days

Nicolas St-Pierre

Where Have The Birds Gone?



WINNING PROJECT

«Nicolas St-Pierre's work is an intellectual fantasy carried out with mastery and a skilful photographic language. Good photography, engraved, well structured, and masterfully post produced.»

Francesco Cito

URBAN Book Award 2021 Head of the Jury



"It could be the most terrifying motion picture
I have ever made!"—*Alfred Hitchcock*

Nothing you
have ever
witnessed
before has
prepared
you for
such sheer,
stabbing
shock!



ALFRED
HITCHCOCK'S
"The Birds"
TECHNICOLOR

Based on Daphne du Maurier's classic suspense story

ROD TAYLOR · JESSICA TANDY · SUZANNE PLESSETTE and starring TIPPY HEDREN
Screenplay by EVAN HUNTER · Directed by ALFRED HITCHCOCK



A Thrilling
New Experience

枯朶に
烏のとまりけり
秋の暮

On a withered branch
A solitary crow
Autumn evening

Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694)

For my dad (1936-2018)











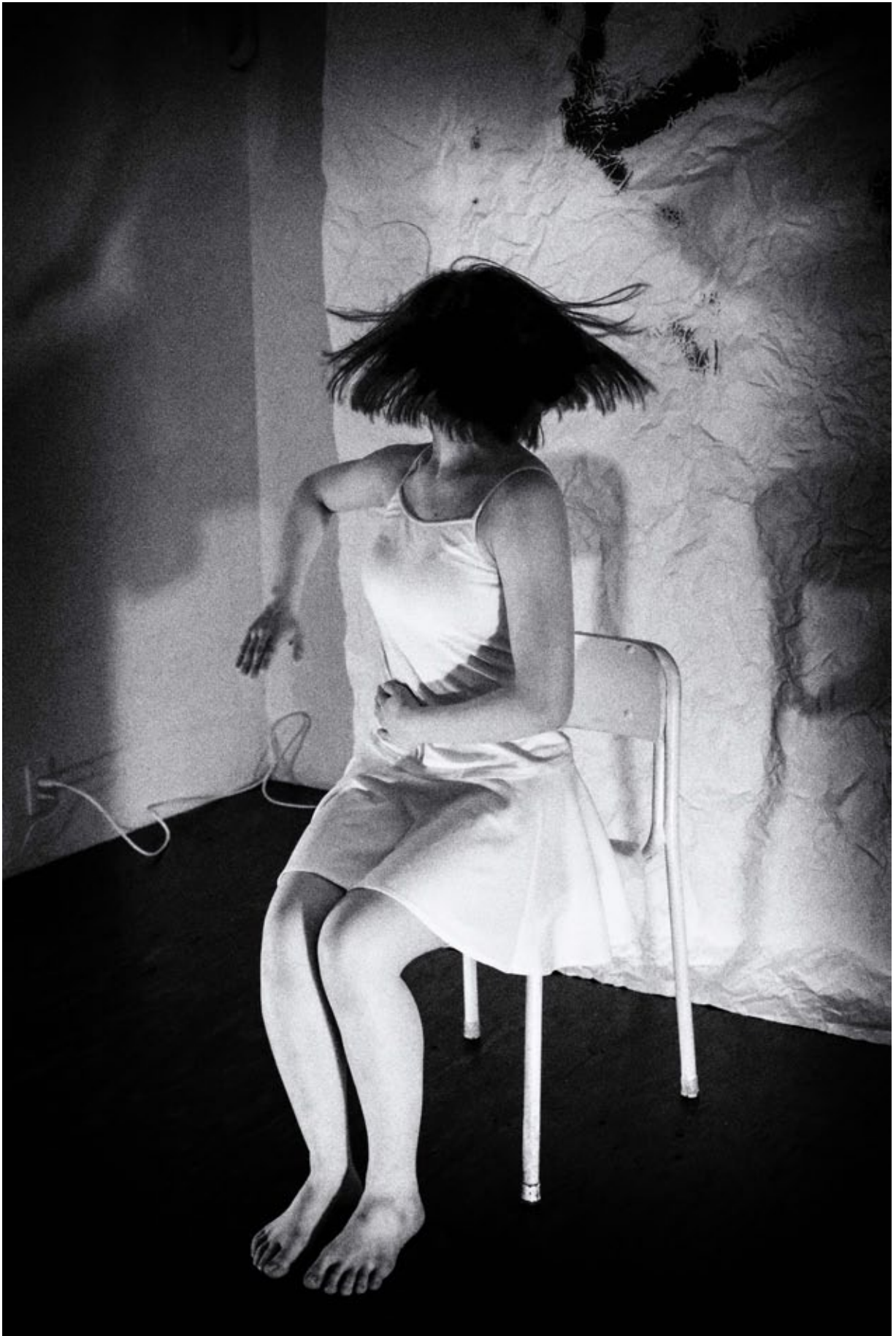










































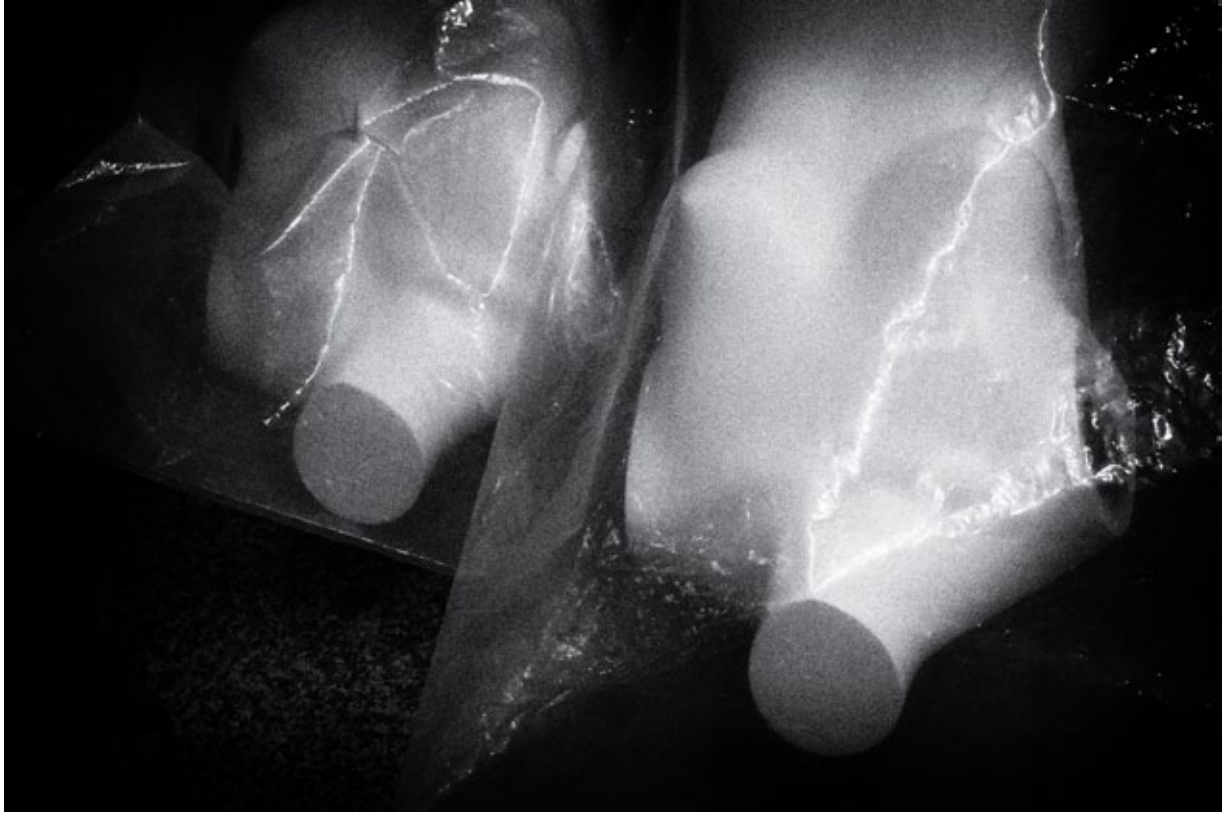










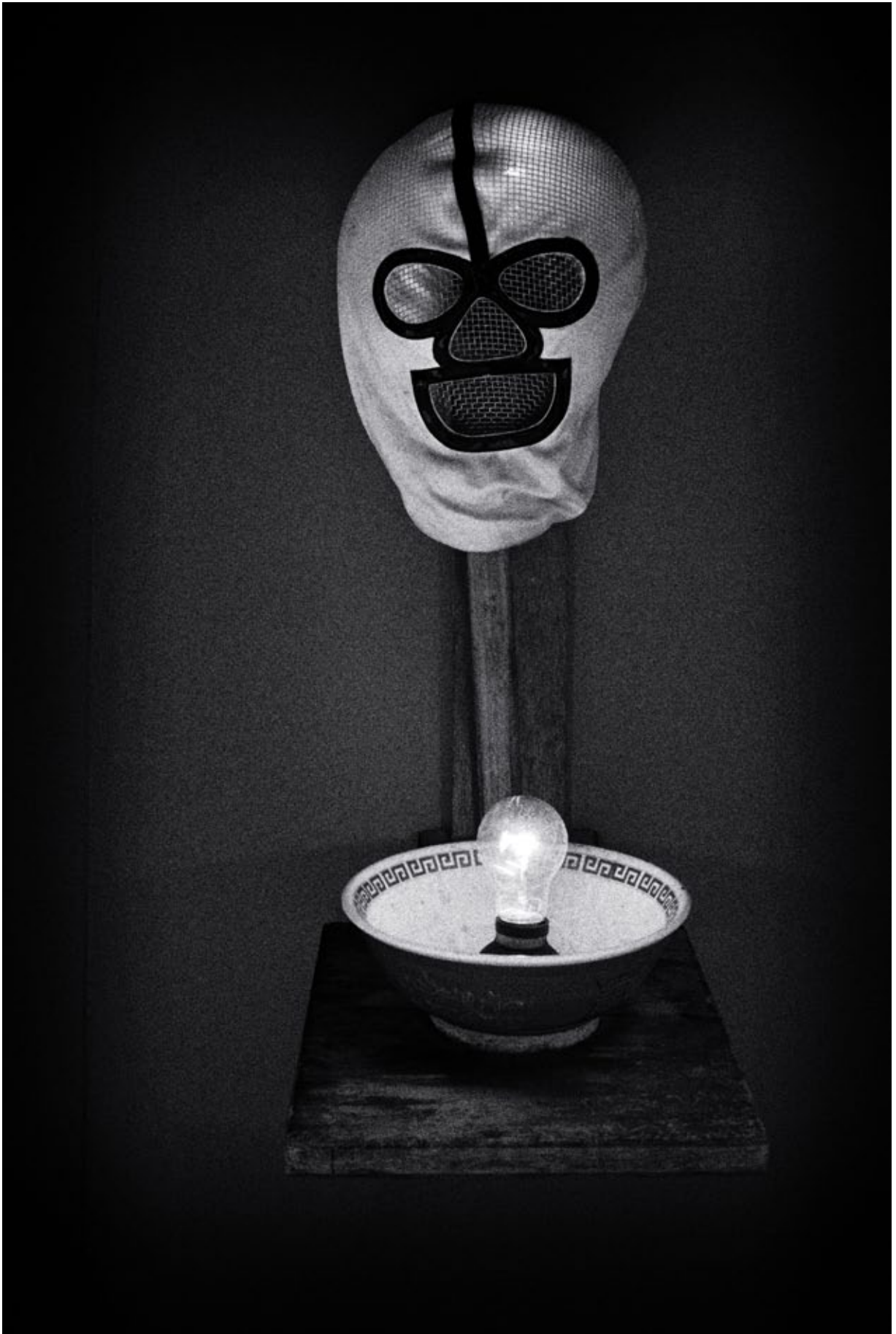
























An intricate web of electric wires deserted by birds, a small boy being swallowed by a giant rock, a faceless train operator... During the four years that I lived in Japan (2015-19), I spent countless hours exploring on foot the streets and back alleys of Tokyo. Almost every day, I was stopped dead in my own tracks by the unexpected sight of something that did not belong to the scene, or the deafening silence of something that cried out to be there. Despite all the time and efforts that I had invested to learn Japanese and acquaint myself with local culture, I was never able to completely shake off the impression that I had set foot in a strange land. The photographs presented in *Where Have the Birds Gone?* constitute my own attempt at rendering the sense of alienation and unease that I felt while living in Japan, and which will be so familiar to those who have visited the country.

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I wish to express my gratitude to former Magnum photographer David Alan Harvey who made me realize that a photograph can either be a mirror, reflecting a portrait of the artist who made it, or a window, through which one might better know the world. I believe the photographs presented in this book are in fact both mirrors and windows.

I am also indebted to Michael Tardioli, co-founder of the School of the Photographic Arts: Ottawa, who provided me with insightful comments on the first book dummy that I ever produced and introduced me to the basics of book design.

In addition, I wish to thank the organizers of the Urban Photo Awards 2021 and the jurors of its "super-commission", notably President of the Jury Francesco Cito, for having selected my book as the winner of the Urban Book Award 2021 and for having contributed to its visibility and diffusion as part of the Trieste Photo Days. *Grazie di tutto cuore per il vostro appoggio e per avere creduto in mio libro!*

On a more personal note, my heartfelt thanks go to my wife Julie and my three daughters, Jeanne, Eugénie and Camille, for being there by my side and putting up with my all-consuming passion for photography. *Je vous aime plus que je ne pourrai jamais l'exprimer.*

Lastly, I wish to dedicate this book to my late dad who supported my wanderlust since my teenage years. *Papa, j'aurais aimé que tu sois ici pour voir ce livre.*

Ottawa, September 2021



Nicolas St-Pierre (b. 1974) is a Canadian photographer and storyteller based in Ottawa, Canada. He has been practicing photography ever since he was offered a Soviet-made Zenit camera by a dear Italian friend some 30 years ago. Lawyer by training, former reporter at *La Presse* (Montréal, Canada) and diplomat by trade, Nicolas dedicates most of his spare time capturing the places and people that he encounters through his professional and personal travels.

Of all photographic genres, documentary and street photography are currently those that appeal to Nicolas the most. Nicolas strives to capture fleeting moments, uncover the extraordinary in everyday life and lead the viewer to look at the world with a fresh pair of eyes. Often imbued with mystery, his images have an unsettling effect as they leave those who look at them searching in vain for answers.

His work has been exhibited in galleries in Ottawa, Montréal and Val-d'Or (Canada) as well as in New York City (USA), Mexico City (Mexico), Golshahr (Iran), Kirkkonummi (Finland), Beijing (China) and throughout Japan (Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, Sapporo). It was also featured in Canadian, American, French and Japanese publications, including *La Presse*, *Street Photography Magazine*, *Réponses Photo*, *Latent Image*, *Photo Life* and *Onbeat*, as well as in online magazines. In recent years, Nicolas' work has garnered awards from the International Photography Awards (IPA), the School of the Photographic Arts: Ottawa and the Japan Through Diplomats' Eyes Photo Contest. In 2021, Nicolas was the winner of the URBAN Book Award (Trieste, Italy) for his book *Where Have the Birds Gone?*



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