

Chiaroscuro

In his first publication, comprised of two inseparable volumes, Chiaro / Scuro, Cokney contrasts his alternative life and work with the way it is seen by the vandal squad who, in his case, have become art-critic-prosecution-witnesses. Cokney's illegal painting, from metro depots to law courts, via the Palais de Tokyo art centre, is 'clair-obscur', chiaroscuro, light and dark: the contrast of pigments, the darkness of metro depots lit with neon, obscure anonymity next to the reputation of a pseudonym, exiting clandestinity, entering judicial and cultural institutions. Arrested and convicted in 2012, then charged in 2014, the artist was fined 228,000 euros for voluntary damage, and is awaiting trial for criminal conspiracy.

Book 1: Chiaro, the white book.

When Cokney was released from custody after his first arrest in 2012, the police handed him two rolls of undeveloped film: rolls no. 10012A12 and 10112A12. The artist didn't yet want to see the photos that were saved from the material confiscated for his criminal record. He will discover them, like the readers, in this first volume, which assembles interviews, memories, analyses, manifestos... pages written by Cokney, of course, but also by guests invited for the occasion, pages that are bound in Japanese style and which, once their folds are torn open, will reveal these forgotten, secret photos – so many fragments of his clandestine life rendered public with his arrest. While the digital era has turned the graffiti milieu upside down, updating it to the web 2.0 era, Cokney continues to photograph his paintings the old-fashioned way, not wishing to forget the fear of finding spoiled shots in his prints, of losing forever the proof and memory of those ceaselessly effaced images. This policy is pushed to the extreme here, by making no selection for publication. Everything is delivered untouched, raw, and in the order of shots taken on the film.

Book 2: Scuro, the black book.

Arrested in 2012 by the anti-graffiti brigade, and searched in front of television cameras for the evening news on national TV station TF1, Cokney was fined 228,000 euros. Case N° 1203264038. Documents from the case, graphic analyses, photographs, complaints, obscure cleaning quotes, often duplicated or tripled to pump up the bill... All these documents, roughly photocopied and published in this black book are today considered by the artist as part of his artistic work. With an introduction by his lawyer, who defended him against the civil parties constituted by the RATP and SNCF (Paris public transport service and French national railway service), this second volume is the strict reduction of the life of the artist as seen through the spectrum of the legal system. Some of these documents were displayed in the exhibition 'Guerre du Nord' at the Palais de Tokyo exhibition in June 2014, when Cokney had just been arrested again, charged, and was under judicial supervision. By confronting his work in a conceptual manner, with judicial and personal archives, Cokney reinvents the way graffiti is exhibited and presented out of context, without actually doing graffiti, and questioning its current commodification.



Book 1: Chiaro - N°10012A12/10112A12

160 pages - Offset printing
Soft cover - French binding
Format 16,5 x 24 cm
French & English texts

Book 2 : Scuro - N°1203264038

178 pages - Offset printing
Soft cover - Perfect binding
Format 16,5 x 24 cm
French & English texts

Based on an original idea by: Fabrice Barrat & Hugo Vitrani

Foreword: Thierry Lévy

Texts: Hugo Vitrani, Fabrice Barrat, Claire Bablon-Müller, Xavier Lagrenade, Thibault Choay

Translation: Chloé Baker, Marion Bouvet

Photographs: Fabrice Barrat

Art direction & graphic design: Twice

Printed in the Czech Republic

First edition of 500 copies

ISBN 978-2-9536997-8-4 - © CLASSIC-2015

Retail price: 45€

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Cokney:

A graduate of the Olivier de Serres Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués et des Métiers d'Arts (arts and crafts school and school of applied arts for industry) in arts and metal sculpture for trade and industry, Cokney took his first steps in graffiti in 1999, swiftly turning to a practice of exclusively vandal performance and paintings on railway and metro trains. His style evokes the heritage of classical painting and graffiti, traditional Japanese engravings and tattoos, which he has practised since 2006, having found and forged his style in the alternative skinhead and punk circles that he moved in. Arrested in 2012 and in 2014, Cokney has been fined 228,000 euros for voluntary damage. He is currently under judicial surveillance and under investigation for criminal conspiracy, which prevents him from speaking freely about his work.

<http://www.cokney.com>

Exhibitions / projects:

"Terrains Vagues", Palais de Tokyo, December 2012 (end undetermined) - Group exhibition led by Lek and Sowat for the first session of the Lasco Project, bringing together approximately 50 international artists (Futura 2000, Mode2, O'Clock, Azyle, Dran...) and for which Larry Clark shot his film The Smell of Us (exhibition curator: Hugo Vitrani)

"Happy Meal #6", Maison Welcome, July 2013 - group exhibition with tattoo artists Easy Sasha, Thomas Hooper, Rue, Liam Sparkes, Guy le Tatoueur.

"Drawing Now", contemporary drawing fair, Espace Communes, March 2014 - collective exhibition with Jacques Villeglé, Lek, Sowat, Wxyz and Sébastien Preschoux (exhibition curator: Philippe Piguet)

"Guerre du Nord", Palais de Tokyo, from June 2014 (end undetermined) - solo exhibition for the third session of the Lasco Project, where for the first time the artist used his judicial quotes as part of his work (exhibition curator: Hugo Vitrani)

2013, 2014, 2015: Mondial du Tatouage (international tattoo fair) (Paris)

June 2015 : artist t-shirt design for agnes b. alongside Futura, Lek, Evol and Philippe Baudelocque.

Hugo Vitrani :

Hugo Vitrani has filmed interviews with artists for online journal Mediapart since 2010. He is a regular Beaux Arts magazine contributor. Since December 2012 he has been curator of the Lasco Project, the Palais de Tokyo's first urban art programme, in which a hundred recognised and emerging artists have taken part, among whom, Futura 2000, Mode 2, Cleon Peterson, Boris Tellegen, Jacques Villeglé, André, Lek & Sowat, Dem189, Azyle, O'Clock, Dran, Horfée, Ken Sortais, Evol, Ether & Utah... He has recently published an interview with artist Stelios Faitakis in the catalogue for the exhibition One Torino: Shit and Die, curated by Maurizio Cattelan, Myriam Ben Salah and Marta Papini at the Palazzo Cavour in Turin (Italy). Hugo Vitrani is a member of the 2015-2018 advisory committee for public commissions. He looks after the artistic direction of the Ateliers Fantôme, which produces silkscreen prints in Paris.

<http://www.hugovitrani.com>

Thibault Choay / CLASSIC Paris

Thibault Choay wrote for 90BPM and La MJC before founding CLASSIC, a label covering book publishing, exhibition curation and art consulting. Since 2010, he has published art books and curated several exhibitions: Va au Diable (2010), a group exhibition accompanied by an eponymous book; D.F.W - Down for Whatever for Arts Le Havre - a contemporary art biennial (2012); a dual exhibition and eponymous publication, Aren't the Greatest Shitty, by Peter Sutherland and Misha Hollenbach; a solo exhibition and interview book Devoration with Fuzi UV-TPK; a co-publication of the catalogue 3 Projects by Asger Carlsen with Galerie Olivier Robert; and, more recently, 60°43' Nord by Molécule, a book-album retracing the musical adventure of the artist in the North Atlantic, in partnership with label Mille Feuilles, a project that led to collaboration with Bleu de Paname and Ed Banged Records.

<http://www.classic-paris.com>

Twice :

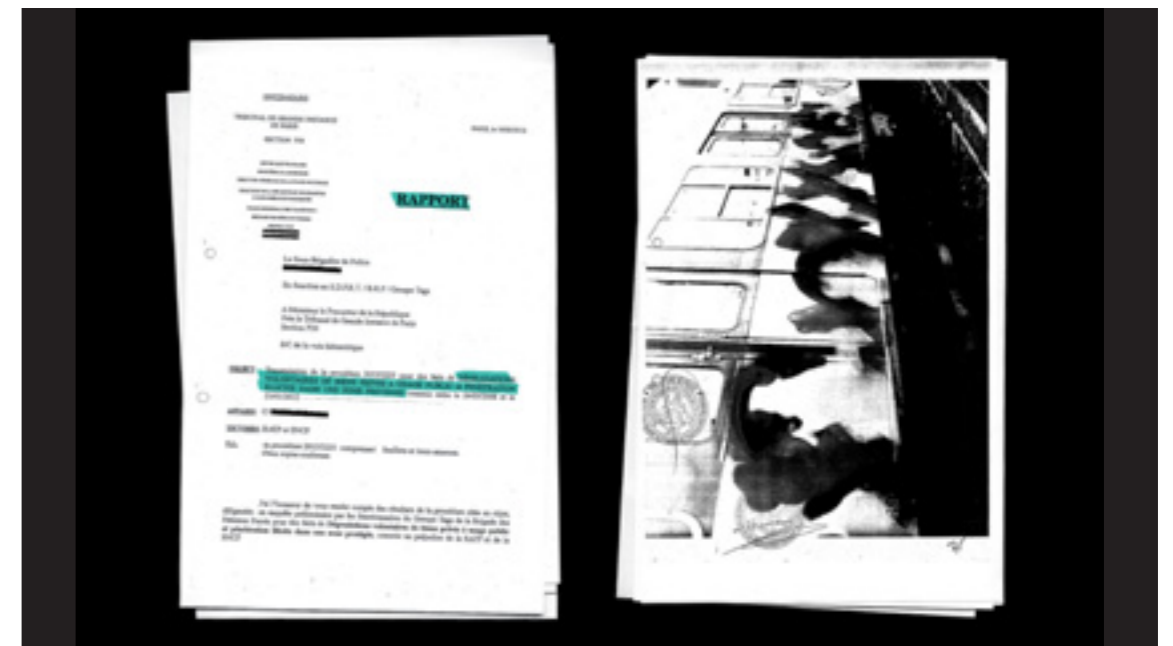
Twice is an art direction and graphic design studio founded in Paris in 2010 by Clémentine Berry and Fanny Le Bras. The duo is active in music, fashion, art, events, and explores the object in all its printed forms. Twice has worked with, among others, Léa Peckre, Baleapop, La Gaîté Lyrique, Contraintes, Roch Armando, Jan Van Eyck Académie, Universal Music, Polydor, Barclay, la Maison de l'Amérique latine, Blue Note, Rothschild, Milk Magazine, Tod's, Badits...

<http://www.wearetwice.com/home>

Thierry Lévy :

Thierry Lévy became a lawyer recognised by the Paris bar in 1969. He has written in numerous press outlets and published several works about penal law and criminal proceedings (L'Animal Judiciaire, Grasset, 1975; Le Désir de Punir, Fayard, 1979; Le Crime en Toute Humanité, Grasset, 1984; Justice Sans Dieu, Odile Jacob, 2000 ; Éloge de la Barbarie Judiciaire, Odile Jacob, 2004 ; Nos Têtes sont Plus Dures que les Murs des Prisons, Grasset, 2006 ; Plutôt la Mort que l'injustice. Au Temps des Procès Anarchistes, Odile Jacob, 2010). A law, politics and philosophy graduate, he studied at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. Former First Secretary of the Conference of Pupil Advocates of the Paris Bar, he chaired the Observatoire International des Prisons (2000-2004).

<http://www.thierrylevy-associes.com>





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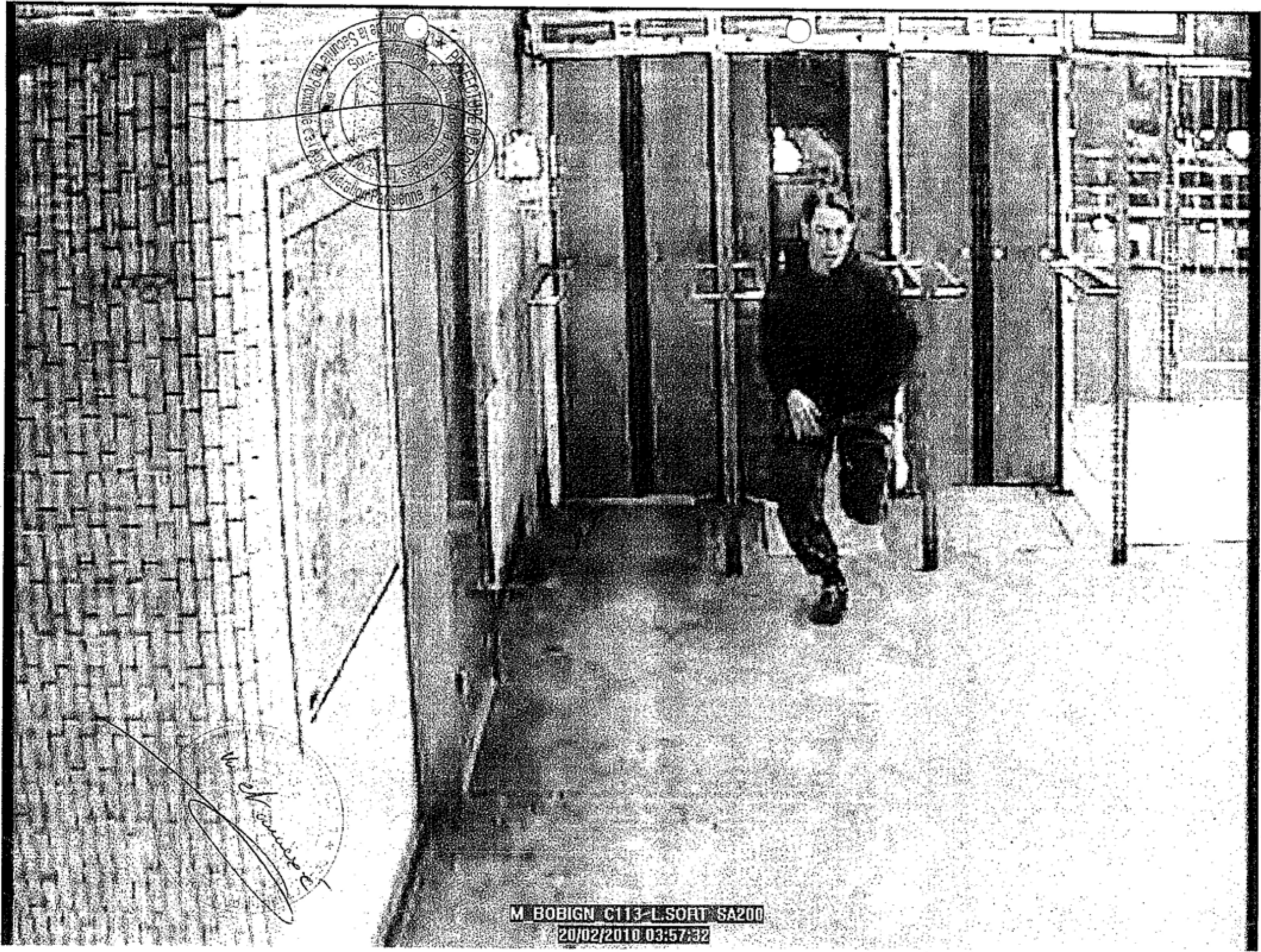




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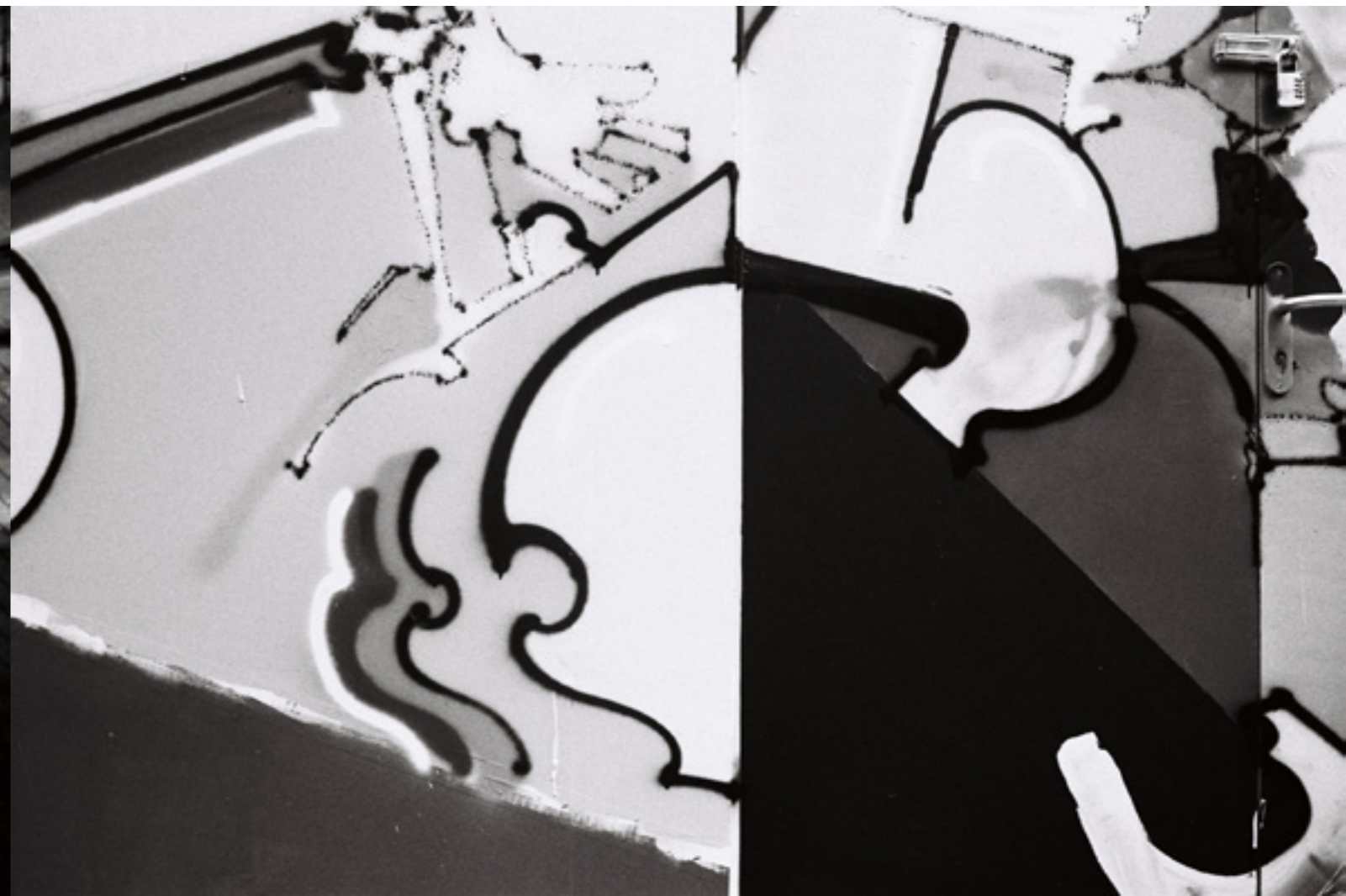




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