
Sophie Calle

19 November 2021 – 17 April 2022

The Centre Pompidou Málaga is showcasing almost forty years of creation by French artist Sophie Calle, born in Paris and based in Malakoff, with an original exhibition that reviews some of her favourite themes: love relationships, absence and loss.

The exhibition opens with the series entitled *Le Mari* (The Husband, 1995) which recounts Sophie Calle's relationship with her ex-partner, Greg Shephard, with whom she made the film *No Sex Last Night*, a diary of their trip across the United States in 1992. The film is projected in the Auditorium.

L'Hôtel (The Hotel, 1981-1983) presents another side of Sophie Calle as she slips into the skin of a chambermaid and reveals the private lives of strangers without their knowledge. With the series entitled *Douleur exquise* (Exquisite Pain, 1984-2003), the artist returns to a difficult romantic break-up she experienced in 1984, which she compares with accounts of suffering by anonymous people.

The visit concludes with *Souris Calle* (2018), one of her latest works, presented in Spain for the first time. The artist uses video and a music album to relate the loss of her cat *Souris* (that is translated as Mouse and Smile) and the void created by its absence.



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Les Autobiographies, 1995. *Le Mari* series (detail). 9 gelatin silver prints diptychs. Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris

The Autobiographies ***The Husband series,*** **1995**

The series entitled *Le Mari* (The Husband) is part of a broader project, *Histoires vraies* (True Stories), which Sophie Calle publishes in book form since 1996, and which she re-edits and enriches regularly. The nine panels combining text and photographs relate the artist's relationship with Greg Shephard, her ex-husband, in chronological order. Each panel recounts a phase in their story, from their first meeting to the divorce, constructing a narrative that is sometimes dissociated from the images and thus cultivating the ambiguity between truth and fiction.

The Hotel, 1981-1983

On 16 February 1981, Sophie Calle succeeded in being employed as a chambermaid in a hotel in Venice. For three weeks, she examined the traces of the sleeping and private lives of its occupants. The colour photograph of each room is associated with a text that resembles a police report, enhanced with personal reflections and illustrated with black and white photographs. The photography and the investigation are brought together in an attempt to represent reality. "I observed the details of lives that remained unknown to me", the artist wrote to define this feeling of ambivalence between revelation and the impossibility of grasping the essence of other people, even in the intimate details of their private lives.



L'Hôtel, 1981-1983 (detail). 7 diptychs and a presentation text written by the artist. Chromogenic prints, gelatin silver prints. Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris



Douleur exquise, 1984-2003 (detail).
 9 diptychs, embroidered texts on linen panels
 and photographs.
 Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'art
 moderne, Paris

Exquisite Pain, **1984-2003**

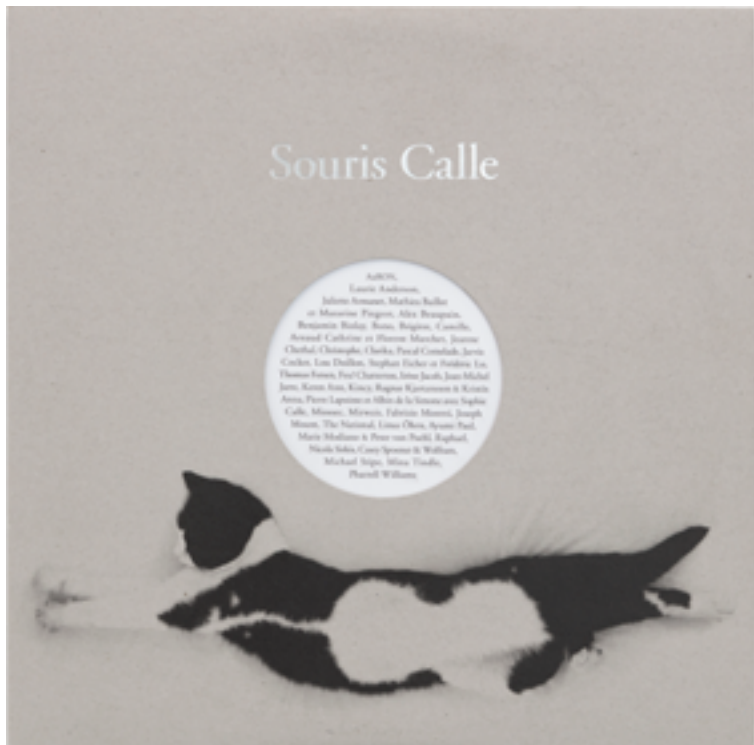
Douleur exquise (Exquisite Pain) recounts a romantic break-up experienced by Sophie Calle, in the manner of an investigation. She began the series in 1984 and finally completed it in 2003 for her retrospective exhibition at the Centre Pompidou. Fearing a renewal of her pain, she waited nearly twenty years before immersing herself in this memory. The work is a veritable catharsis that contrasts Sophie Calle's testimony with the words of anonymous people in response to the question "What day did I suffer most?" She thus presents an intimate portrait of her pain, which is dissipated progressively as her embroidered texts disappear little by little, in parallel with the pain of other people, reminding us that suffering is part of the human condition.

Souris Calle, 2018 (video)

Following the death of her cat *Souris* (that is translated as *Mouse and Smile*), Sophie Calle made a series of works based on images of the feline. This video shows *Souris* playing among the stuffed animals that the artist collects in her house in Malakoff, near Paris. Sophie Calle recounts the seventeen years of life shared with her cat. She describes its personality, their habits and the void created by its passing. In a tragicomic style, the artist questions how she relates to the death of loved ones.



Souris Calle, 2018. Video HD, 4' 25".
 Courtesy Sophie Calle and Galerie Perrotin



Souris Calle, 2018. 33 rpm vinyl. Standard edition.
Courtesy Sophie Calle and Galerie Perrotin

***Souris Calle*, 2018** (album)

Souris, Sophie Calle's cat, breathed its last on 26 January 2014. While in the artist's home, singer Camille murmured her song "She Was" in the cat's ear. Sophie Calle then decided to make an album dedicated to her absent cat. The result is a work of 40 songs by French and international singers such as Bono, Laurie Anderson, Pharrell Williams, and the artist herself.

Projection in the Auditorium: *No Sex Last Night*, 1995

In 1992 Sophie Calle embarked on a road trip in the United States with Greg Shephard, the man she loved, travelling from the East Coast toward the West Coast on their way to Las Vegas. They planned to be married there, although their relationship was falling apart. The film shows the interwoven points of view of the two protagonists as they film each other in the course of the three-week journey in their Cadillac and in the many motels where they stopped. "We each speak almost exclusively to our camera, because our relationship had deteriorated to the point that we no longer spoke to each other. Lack of dialogue, lack of technique, it all came from there."



No Sex Last Night, 1995. 35 mm digitized film, colour, sound, 76 min.
Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne, Paris

Sophie Calle was born on 9 October 1953 in Paris. Her father, Robert Calle, was a doctor and art collector. Since her childhood, she has made regular visits to the Camargue in the south of France, from where her father's family originated and for which she has always harboured a special affection. In the early 1970s, she left France to travel around the world. Upon her return in 1979, she began to shadow strangers in the street in an artistic gesture that gave rise to her first project, *Suite Vénitienne*. In 1981, she moved to Malakoff

just south of Paris and set up her studio in a disused factory which she shared with artists Christian Boltanski and Annette Messager.

Her retrospective *M'as-tu-vue*, held at the Centre Pompidou in 2003, reinforced her reputation among the general public. In 2007, she represented France at the Venice Biennale and has had numerous exhibitions around the world. Sophie Calle is also the author of several books including *True Stories*, which has been translated into six languages.

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Listening to the album

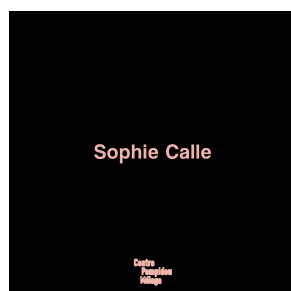
Souris Calle

All the songs of the album *Souris Calle* are played in a loop throughout the exhibition. They are also available for free on Spotify by scanning this QR code.

Clickable link on the digital version:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/0HjgRWxLkuX6wxKsUjeZhl>

Catalogue



Sophie Calle

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Price: 25€

Alongside the exhibition

Discover all our activities (tours, workshops, events...) on our website: centrepompidou-malaga.eu

Guided tours

The mediation team offers you guided tours to discover the works from the exhibition, in an active and sensitive way.

Individuals

Visit in Spanish included in the price of the ticket. Inscription on the same day at the reception.

20 people maximum.

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Groups

From a group of 25 people. In Spanish, English and French, by prior reservation:

educacion.centrepompidou@malaga.eu

Information

Opening hours

9.30 a.m. to 8.00 p.m., every day

Ticket offices close at 7:30 p.m.

The museum is closed on Tuesdays (except holidays and days before holidays), 1 January and 25 December

Prices

Temporary exhibitions: 4€, concessions: 2.50€

Semi-permanent exhibitions: 7€, concessions: 4€

Semi-permanent and temporary exhibitions: 9€, concessions: 5.50€

Contact

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