

PROJECTS PERSONAL

Sarah Carp



TAP IMAGES FOR LARGER VIEW

The notions of memory, territory, family and what it means to be human run through Sarah Carp's lyrical project about her Irish roots



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Sarah Carp, who is based in Lausanne, Switzerland, began working on her project *Roots* in 2003. Exploring the notion of territory, she visited the town of Glendarragh (Glen of the Oaks) in Dublin, close to Newtownmountkennedy in County Wicklow, and the family she had living there.

"My grandmother, who was Irish, lived here for a few years before emigrating to Switzerland. I wanted to immerse myself in her story through photography. In this rural part of Ireland, life is in rhythm with the elements. Places are inhabited with unusual objects and characters look as though they have come from a tale. The surrounding countryside is wild and mystical, and gives the impression of holding the secrets of life."

Carp worked on the project for some time, but left it to one side, returning to it in 2009 after the death of her brother Henri. She finished the project in December last year. "I felt I needed to return to Ireland to renew my strength and start creating again," she says.

The project brings together a mixture of portraits, interiors and landscapes through which Carp tells her stories. The people in her images are family members or local residents and become like characters in a story; the landscapes and interiors tell the story of the place. "Every series I do is constructed like a puzzle, without a clear-cut aesthetic logic," says Carp. "Nature and 'being human' are always present, and the images are created instinctively. I have sensations and emotions I try to convey. I photograph what is going on and what interests me with complete subjectivity."

The images, produced across several journeys, touch on the notion of absence and memory. Shooting on a Rolleiflex, Carp photographed during the winter – an aesthetic decision as much as an expressive one. "I photographed at this time so the colours and atmosphere would resonate with contemplation and self-reflection," she says. "An image such as *Fallen Pears*, for example, evokes a sense of renewal – a new breath of life." BJP

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