

ROBERT MORAT GALERIE

Christian Patterson

*1972, Fond du Lac, USA

Christian Patterson (*1972, Fond du Lac, USA) lives and works in New York City. His working method is a highly conceptual, narrative-driven approach, often involving intense research, archival digging and extended, concentrated time working in the field and his New York studio. Photographs remain the heart of Patterson's work, but they are often accompanied by other mediums – anything from drawings and paintings, to readymade objects, shot gun-blasted paper boards, or sound played through telephones.

He began his serious pursuit of photography in 2002, when he traveled to Memphis, Tennessee and worked closely with artist William Eggleston, subsequently publishing his first monograph in 2005, *Sound Affects*, a series of color photographs paying tribute to both Memphis and Eggleston. The works were featured in solo exhibitions at galleries in Memphis, Cologne, New York, Paris, San Francisco and Hamburg.

After five years researching and retracing the path of the true crime story of Charles Starkweather and Caril Ann Fugate, Patterson published *Redheaded Peckerwood* (MACK) in 2011. A book that takes the form of a visual crime dossier including Patterson's photographs made in several different styles, archival photographs, documents and objects. The book received wide critical acclaim and won the Rencontres d'Arles Author Book Award. Solo exhibitions were held at museums and galleries in Chicago, Hamburg, Berlin, Los Angeles and Cleveland.

In 2015, Patterson published *Bottom of the Lake* (Koenig Books), named after his hometown of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The work deals with themes of place, identity, memory and time. The experience of the book and exhibition are added to and expanded by an interactive object – a blue rotary-dial telephone that plays audio recorded by Patterson in Fond du Lac, alongside audio performances written by Patterson and performed by a cast of friends, fellow artists, voice actors and comedians. Solo exhibitions were mounted in Athens, Berlin and Toronto.

In 2013, Patterson became a Guggenheim Fellow. In 2015, he was the winner of the Vevey International Photography Award. In 2018, he was nominated for *Immersion*, a photography commission of the Hermès Foundation.

In 2024, Patterson is publishing his next major project, *Gong Co.*, a monumental memento mori to the decline and decay of a family-owned grocery store in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, from which the book takes its name. Patterson first encountered the store in 2003, when it was still open for business but seemingly stuck in time, its shelves scattered with

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long-expired products. Over the next twenty years, Patterson diligently documented the store's slow disintegration. In 2013, its doors were closed, with its contents left inside. Patterson continued to access the store until the day it was gutted in late 2019. The work will be realized as an artist book, photographic exhibition, and immersive installation.

Selected Exhibitions

2025	"Gong Co.", Robert Morat, Berlin, Germany
2024	"Gong Co.", L'Appartement, Images Vevey, Switzerland
2016	"Gong Co.", Festival Images, Vevey, Switzerland
2016	"Bottom of the Lake", CONTACT Photography Festival, Toronto, Canada
2015	"Bottom of the Lake", Athens Photography Festival, Athens, Greece
2014	"Redheaded Peckerwood", Transformer Station, Cleveland, USA
2013	"Redheaded Peckerwood", Redheaded Peckerwood, Rose Gallery, Santa Monica, USA
2008	"Sound Affects", Kaune-Sudendorf Gallery, Cologne, Germany
2007	"Sound Affects", Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, USA
2006	"Sound Affects", Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York City, USA
2005	"Sound Affects", Power House Gallery, Memphis, USA
2003	"Another Time, Another Place, and You", Southside Gallery, Oxford, USA

Prizes

2016	Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize (Nominee)
2015	Paris Photo-Aperture Foundation Photobook Award (Shortlist)
2015	Vevey International Photography Award
2013	John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship
2013	Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize (Nominee)
2012	Recontres d'Arles Author Book Award

Residencies

2023	James Castle House, Boise, USA
2010	Light Work, Syracuse, USA
2009	Art Farm, Marquette, USA
2009	Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska City, USA

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2007 Lincoln Arts Council, Lincoln, USA

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Publications

“Gong Co.“, TBW Books & Éditions Images Vevey, 2024

“Gong Co.“, self-published, 2024

“AP CP BL – Ahorn Paper 1, Christian Patterson, Bottom of the Lake“ Ahorn Books, Berlin, Germany, 2016

“Bottom of the Lake“, Koenig Books, Cologne, Germany, 2015

“Fond du Lac Telephone Directory“ self-published, 2014

“Lost Home Super Labo“, Tokyo, Japan, 2013

“Bottom of the Lake“ TBW Books, Oakland, USA, 2013

“Redheaded Peckerwood“ MACK, London, UK, 2011

“Redheaded Peckerwood“ self-published, 2010

“Sound Affects“ Edition Kaune, Cologne, Germany, 2008

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