

In the context of this exchange, a Québec artist can reside for a two month sojourn in one of the nine studios included in the Atelierhaus Salzamt international artists residency space in the City of Linz and an artist from Upper Austria can take advantage of a creation residency of the same duration at the SPOROBOLÉ centre, in Sherbrooke.

Residency exchange

CALQ
Atelierhaus Salzamt
dieKUNSTSAMMLUNG
KULTUR
S I Linz

Artist
residency ex-
change

Québec

and
Upper Austria

Charles-
Frédéric
Ouellet

Context and idea

My projects often take shape within a disturbance of the real. It's a fieldwork where I engage with reality, situations, and events that shape or had shaped our world. The centre of my process is most often what might be literally characterized as investigation work: I travel to gather raw materials. This visual practice takes form through investigative processes that gather, decipher, and visually transcribe and represent real-world situations.

How to disappear

For the past years, I found myself working on issues of geopolitically sensitive territories and places that were subject to destabilization. I began by examining forms of surveillance and sousveillance used to monitor a range of situations. This residency was a valuable opportunity to conduct hands-on research on the subject, and begin building a body of work that resonates in a seismographic sense with the events currently reshaping our world. Once a matter of assembling proof of the visible, it has become process of monitoring individual behaviour. And today, the subjects of surveillance themselves create the trace of their actions. In this project, I was interested in what lied hidden within the visual material I have collected. Which is the very essence of the concept of veillance: to see what has been hidden, proactively and preventively.

The public space is a fascinating place where everything unfolds and all is possible. We are simultaneously exposed and invisible, our actions at once individual and collective. This space reveals our existence, a mirror of our lifestyles. As I was photographing and observing different type of situations in the streets, my interests began to shift towards other horizons. I began to question the idea of invisibility and the desire to disappear.

November 2023



Charles-Frédéric Ouellet

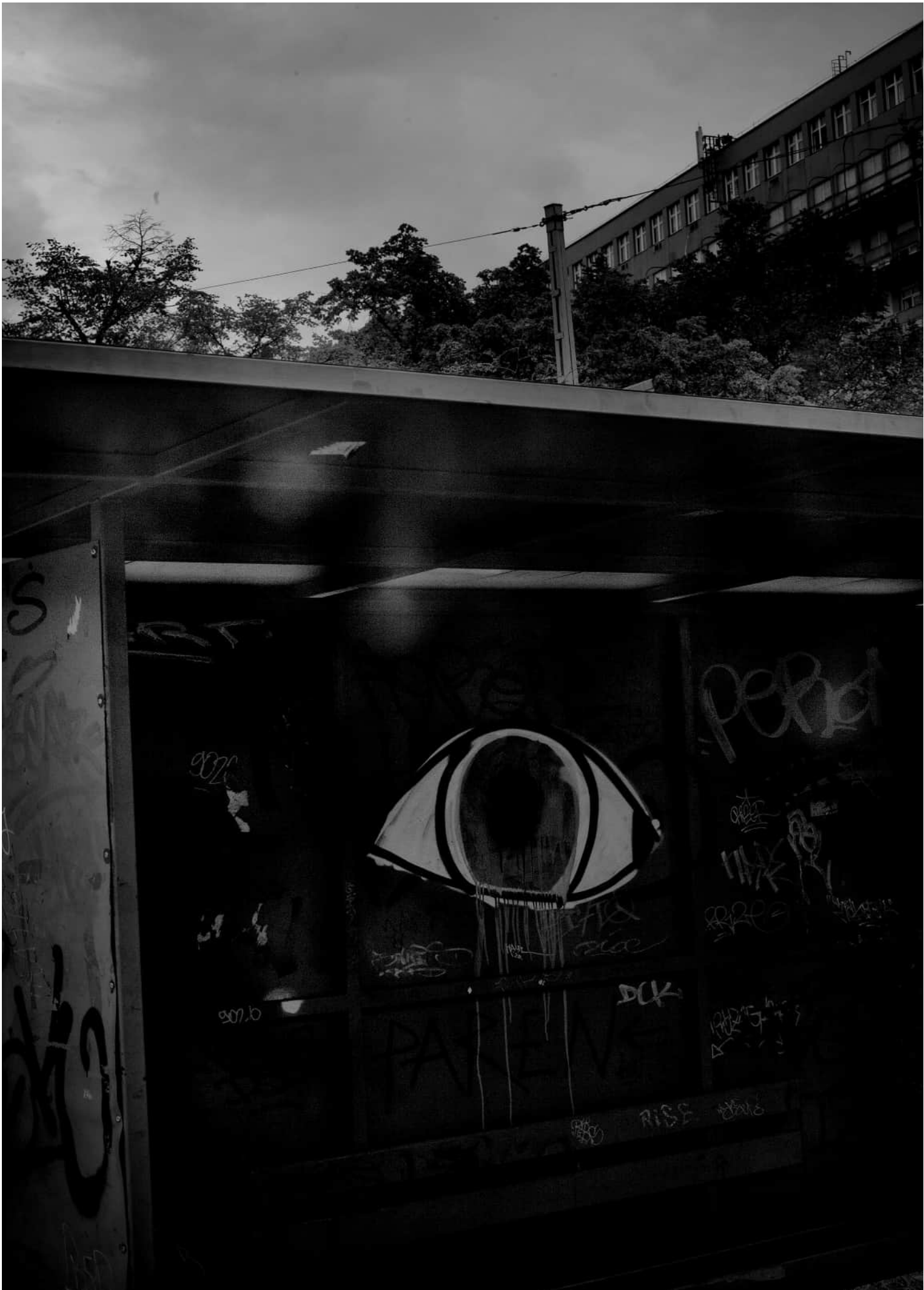
The residency

Linz was an ideal location for activating this research into the notion of veil-lance. This residency was intended to open up a new line of research into the study of territories and the power relations they maintain. At the time of writing the proposal, I felt a certain urgency to tackle the subject. I therefore wanted to concentrate on developing this new corpus of images and deploying it in the form of a publication.

The first month of the residency was devoted to shooting in several locations. These included Prague in the Czech Republic, Budapest in Hungary and Vienna. My research also led me to photograph in and around Linz, a place of significant importance in my research.

Disappear
Here













Kőbányai út



GECCO

Kőbányai út /
Könyves Kálmán körút





















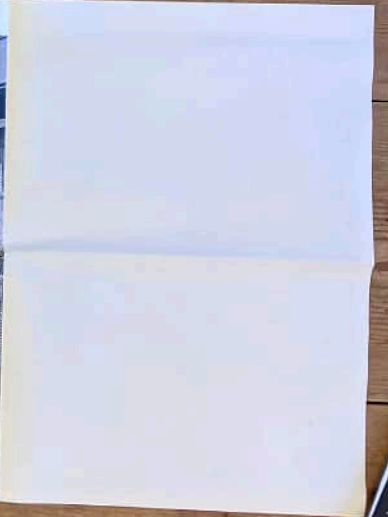
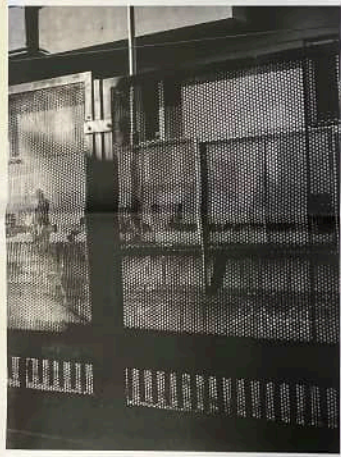
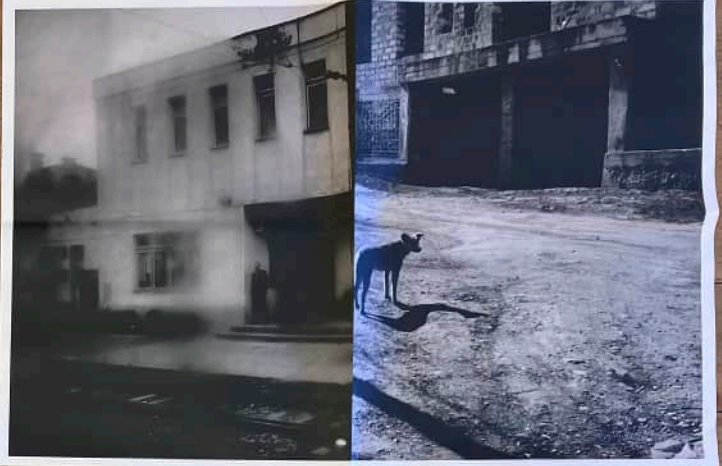
Open studio

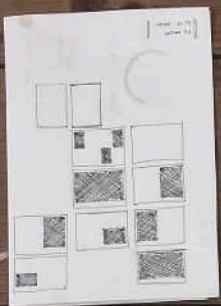
On October 31, at the end of the residency, I presented the culmination of my research.

Although this project was the beginning of a much broader research into the immersive side of my practice, it enabled me to evaluate certain avenues of reflection. Among other things, I worked on deconstructing certain reflexes related to my posture as an observer in photography. I began to consider other forms of visual documentation within my practice.

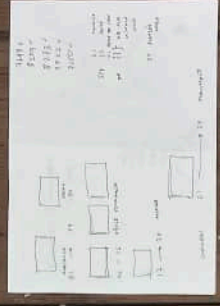
At the end of the residency, I presented a publication in the form of a journal, a copy of which was donated to the archives of the Kunstsammlung and Atelier Salzamt.



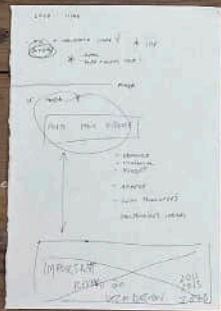
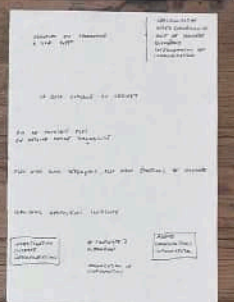
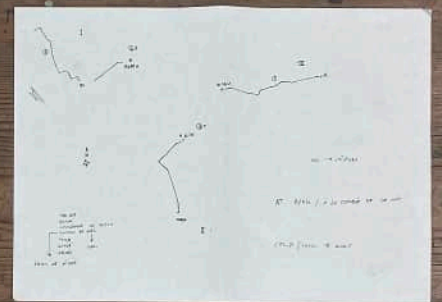
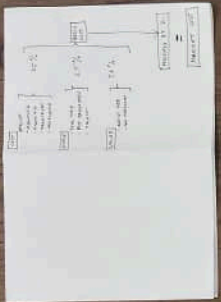
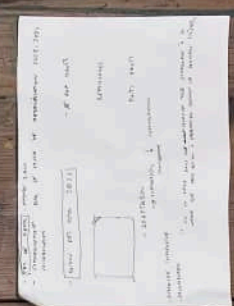




Handwritten notes and diagrams. Includes a small diagram of a circle and some text.



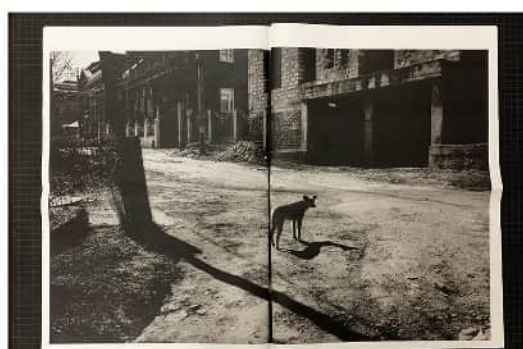
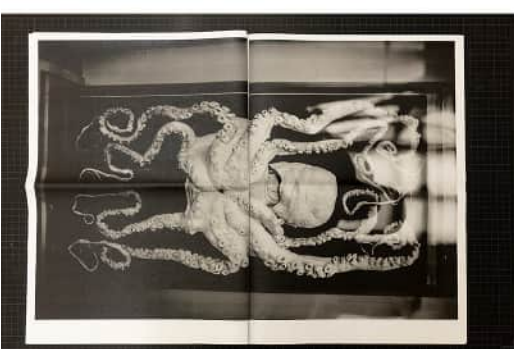
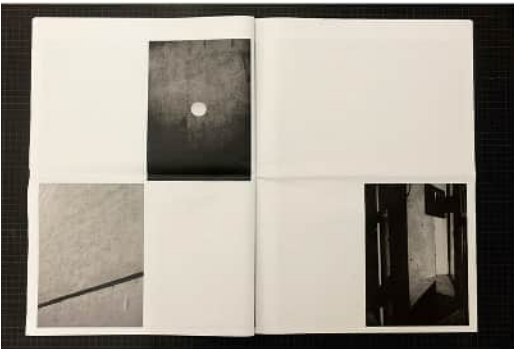
Handwritten notes and diagrams. Includes a small diagram of a circle and some text.



Handwritten notes and diagrams. Includes a small diagram of a circle and some text.

Handwritten notes and diagrams. Includes a small diagram of a circle and some text.





Bio

Charles-Frédéric Ouellet is a Chicoutimi native who lives and works in Quebec City.

He uses photography to examine representations of memory, historical sites, and identity. At the confluence of documentary and fictional approaches, his work grows out of field work exploring the interconnections between physical spaces, displacements and the construction of the collective imaginary. His work takes multiple forms including conventional photography, video, installation, and artist books.

He has published four photobooks, most recently with Filigranes Éditions. His work has been exhibited in more than fifteen galleries and artist-run centres in Quebec (Galerie Lacerte, VU, Espace F, La maison de la littérature, La Bande Vidéo), Scotland (Street Level Photoworks), and France. Charles-Frédéric Ouellet has been awarded grants from the Quebec and Canada arts councils, and his work is held in multiple private and public collections.

charlesouellet.ca

charlesf_ouellet@hotmail.com

+1 418.527.3876

358, 13^e rue
Québec, Qc
G1L 2K8
Canada