

galerie du jour agnès b.

# Erik Kessels

As Far as You Can See

January 30, 2026 → March 15, 2026

Place Jean-Michel Basquiat, Paris 13

# Erik Kessels

## As Far as You Can See

January 30 – March 15, 2026  
In collaboration with RVB Éditions

**Opening with the artist on Thursday, January 29th 2026; 6-9 p.m**

**agnès b.** and **La Galerie du Jour** present *As Far as You Can See*, the first retrospective in France devoted to Erik Kessels' publications. The exhibition brings together nearly three decades of editorial production and features around a hundred works, including *Incomplete Encyclopedia of Touch* and *MAN*, recently published by **RVB BOOKS**.

Artist, publisher and leading figure in contemporary thinking on vernacular photography, **Erik Kessels** seeks to reveal the narrative, aesthetic and anthropological significance of images produced by amateur photographers. He is more interested in the stories contained in the images than in the photographs themselves. His work explores how these photographs, often seemingly mundane, bear witness to shared gestures, rituals and behaviours that are part of the visual history of societies. In this way, he highlights photographic trends and certain universal behaviours that transcend borders and eras.

A methodical collector, Kessels gathers images from auctions, archives, the Internet and flea markets. By reappropriating images from family albums, collected sets and anonymous collections, he offers a new interpretation that renews their intelligibility. This gesture highlights forms of repetition, staging, or incongruity that would otherwise have escaped attention. Through this approach, the artist contributes to preserving a visual memory that has been weakened by the rise of digital technology and the gradual disappearance of physical photo albums.

Originally presented in Milan at the Commerce bookshop and gallery, this exhibition has been greatly expanded to offer a comprehensive overview of Erik Kessels' visual, editorial and photographic research.

The works are accompanied by artworks and installations that extend their themes, inviting the public to explore the complexity and richness of this collection.

***As Far as You Can See*** questions the place of images in our societies, their circulation, their interpretation and the role they play in constructing our individual and collective representations.

La **Librairie du Jour**, designed in dialogue with the **Galerie du Jour** since its creation, will offer for sale a selection of books by Erik Kessels featured in the exhibition.

A hand is visible in the upper right corner, reaching out over a pool of clear, blue water. In the foreground, a laptop is partially visible on the right, and a white shirt with pink and purple stripes is draped over the left side. The water's surface is rippled, and the overall scene suggests a person is about to interact with something in the water.

PRESS IMAGES



*In almost every picture #8*

© Erik Kessels



*In almost every picture #7*

© Erik Kessels



*Jump Trump*

© Erik Kessels & Thomas Mailaender



*In almost every picture #15*

© Erik Kessels



*In almost every picture #11*  
© Erik Kessels



*In almost every picture #10*  
© Erik Kessels



*In almost every picture #1*

© Erik Kessels



*Incomplete Encyclopedia of Touch*

RVB BOOKS

© Erik Kessels



*Empty Chair*  
© Erik Kessels



*In almost every picture #9*

© Erik Kessels

A photograph of a swimming pool with clear blue water. In the upper right corner, a hand is visible, reaching out of the water. In the lower right corner, a silver laptop is partially submerged, and a white towel with pink and purple stripes is draped over the edge of the pool. The text 'ABOUT THE ARTIST' is centered in the middle of the image.

ABOUT THE  
ARTIST



**Erik Kessels** is a Dutch artist, designer and curator, and since 1996 Creative Partner of the international communications agency KesselsKramer in Amsterdam and London.

His practice explores the vernacular through reappropriation and editorial experimentation, and he has published over one hundred books of found and re-edited images. He is also co-founder and editor of the magazine *Useful Photography*, and author of the international bestseller *Failed It!*, presented in 2016 as a major exhibition at the 47th Rencontres d'Arles.

Kessels has produced and curated numerous exhibitions, among them *Loving Your Pictures*, *Use Me Abuse Me*, *24HRS of Photos*, *Album Beauty*, *From Here On* and *Unfinished Father*. Between 2017 and 2023, a mid-career retrospective of his work was shown in San Francisco, Turin, Düsseldorf and Budapest, and he recently presented work at SFMOMA. Kessels has collaborated with artists including Marlene Dumas and Ryuichi Sakamoto, and is regularly invited to speak internationally about his approach to visual culture and photographic archives.

In recognition of his influence, he received the Amsterdam Prize of the Arts in 2010 and was nominated for the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize in 2016. Time Magazine has described him as “a visual sorcerer” and Vogue as “a modern anthropologist,” reflecting the critical attention his work has received.

He is currently engaged in *Europe Archive*, a long-term art project exploring vernacular photography across the continent. Since 2012, he has collaborated closely with the French publisher RVB BOOKS, with whom he has released seven monographic publications among his most significant works.

A hand is visible in the upper right corner, holding a book. The book is positioned over a pool of clear, blue water. The water's surface is slightly rippled, and the book's cover is partially visible. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor setting. The word "INFORMATION" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

# INFORMATION

# ABOUT LA GALERIE DU JOUR AGNÈS B.

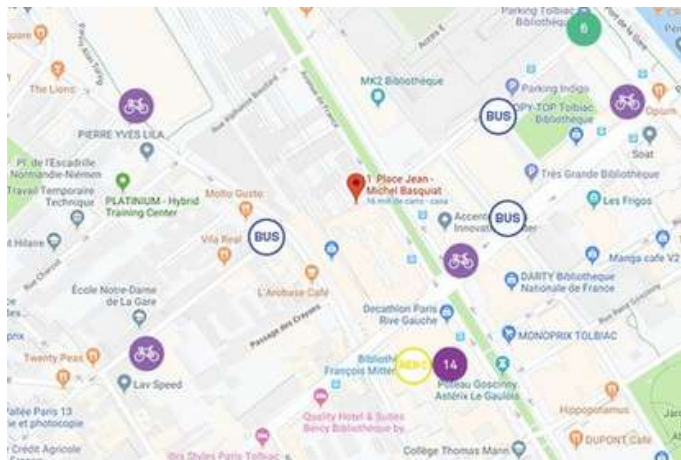
After its creation in 1983 on rue du jour, next to the historic agnès b. boutique, and twenty years of activity on rue Quincampoix, galerie du jour is now located on the first floor of La Fab. in the 13th arrondissement of Paris. Five exhibitions a year take place in a modular space of around 200m<sup>2</sup>. Through its exhibition and sales activities, the gallery continues to discover and support French and international artists.

## ACCESS

Galerie du Jour / La Fab. - Place Jean-Michel Basquiat - Paris 13e

Wednesday to Saturday 11am - 7pm / Sunday 2pm - 7pm

-  Ligne 14 Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
-  Ligne 6 Chevaleret
-  RER C Bibliothèque François Mitterrand
-  Lignes 25, 61, 62, 71, 89, 325
-  Vélib' rue Paul Casals, rue du Chevaleret



## CONTACTS

### PRESS

Catherine & Prune Philippot - Relations Media E-mail:  
cathphilippot@relations-media.com Phone: +331 40 47  
63 42

### COMMUNICATION

Marina Belney-Ruiz - La Fab.  
E-mail: marina.belney@agnesb.fr  
Phone: +336 98 98 07 16

### GALERIE DU JOUR

Stéphane Lapierre  
E-mail: stephane.lapierre@agnesb.fr



galerie du jour agnès b.

6-10 PLACE JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT  
PARIS 13E



@galerie du jour

website

