



For Immediate Release  
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**Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture  
presents**

# **Sophie Calle** *Missing*

**curated by Ars Citizen**

**on the San Francisco Waterfront this Summer  
June 29, 2017 – August 20, 2017**



Sophie Calle, *Voir la mer* (detail), 2011

© Sophie Calle / Adagp, Paris, 2017, Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, Fraenkel Gallery and Perrotin

SAN FRANCISCO—Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC) is pleased to present “Sophie Calle *Missing*”, a large-scale exhibition curated by Ars Citizen of the French artist Sophie Calle, featuring four of Calle’s most prominent projects.

“*Missing* is a challenging and insightful exhibition. It engages with the landscape and architecture of our campus.” says FMCAC Executive Director Rich Hillis. “We are excited for the opportunity to feature Sophie Calle’s work.”

Evelyne Jouanno, Ars Citizen Director and Curator adds: “We are immensely thrilled to bring Sophie Calle to San Francisco for this exceptional project. She is a major artist in contemporary art and we are starting a new chapter in her special relationship with the Bay Area, where her legendary career began almost forty years ago. Calle’s work continues to be extremely impactful. Especially today, when in the midst of rapid change and global crisis, our search for meaning and permanence has never been so obvious.”

Conceived as a journey across the historic and scenic FMCAC campus on the San Francisco waterfront, *Missing* gathers Calle’s iconic projects spanning the last decade: *Rachel Monique*, *Take Care of Yourself*, *The Last Image*, and *Voir la mer*. This corpus also offers a comprehensive approach of the artist’s recurring concepts reflecting on absence and its relationship with other universal themes: disappearance, rupture, abandonment, loss.

Unveiling through a narrative of intimate stories, both personal and collective, *Missing* emphasizes the analogy of mother and sea (“mère” and “mer” in French), while proposing a reflection on the universal concepts of disappearance, loss and absence, central in the artist’s work and exploration.

***Rachel Monique*** (2007)—Installed in the former U.S. Army Chapel, the poignant and poetic multimedia installation features the personality and final moments of Sophie Calle’s mother.

***Take Care of Yourself*** (2007)—Located in Gallery 308, *Take Care of Yourself* documents 107 women interpreting a break-up letter Calle received from an ex-lover. This body of work was originally created for the French Pavilion of the 2007 Venice Biennale.

***Voir la mer*** (2011)—In the Firehouse, which offers a stunning view of the San Francisco Bay, viewers will experience the film installation featuring residents of Istanbul, Turkey, seeing the ocean for the first time.

Also displayed in the Firehouse, ***The Last Image*** (2010) is a series of photographs and texts that portrays the last visual memory of blind people.

*Sophie Calle: Missing* at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture is the first milestone of a long-term commitment undertaken by Ars Citizen with Calle throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

In concert with the exhibition, Ars Citizen is curating parallel programs in partnership with leading San Francisco Bay Area cultural and educational institutions. They will include a conversation with Calle at FMCAC; a screening of Calle’s film and video works at UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) with a conversation between the artist and Lawrence Rinder, Director of BAMPFA; a presentation and book signing with Calle at City Lights Bookstore; a Sophie Calle film anthology at San Francisco’s Roxie Theater; and a project about the exhibition by students at Lycée Français of San Francisco. On the occasion of the event Fraenkel Gallery will also present a special exhibition by Sophie Calle at FraenkelLAB. Additional events and details to come.

***Missing* by Sophie Calle will be open and free to the public from June 29, 2017 through August 20, 2017.**

#### **About Sophie Calle**

The French conceptual artist Sophie Calle (b. Paris 1953, lives and works in Malakoff, France) has exhibited

extensively around the globe since the late 1970's. For almost four decades, she has produced a singular body of work merging image and text and revealing a narrative approach that eliminates the frontiers between intimate and public, fact and fiction, art and life. Highly autobiographical, her art and exploration embrace the universal and challenging concept of absence. Her projects are elaborated by creating a vast system of echoes and internal references, allowing us to read them today not as a simple accumulation of titles but as connected chapters of a total and absolute artwork.

Sophie Calle has exhibited at leading international museums including in the United States at the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York. A retrospective of her work premiered at the Centre George Pompidou in Paris in 2003, and toured to museums in Berlin and Dublin. In 2007, she was the official representative of France at the 52nd Venice Biennale. Sophie Calle was the recipient of the 2010 Hasselblad Award for photography and the 2017 ICP Infinity Award.

### **Sophie Calle and the San Francisco Bay Area**

*Missing* and the related programming add a new chapter to Sophie Calle's special relationship with the San Francisco Bay Area. In the late 1970's, her career began when she photographed the words "Mother" and "Father" engraved on headstones in the Bolinas cemetery. Calle had been wandering the world for several years looking to find meaning for her life, when chance led her to the house of the photographer Ilka Hartmann in the small community of intellectuals and artists north of San Francisco. Calle's relationship with California and the United States has never stopped. From the early 1980's onwards, her work has been widely exhibited in American galleries and museums while Calle successfully created site-related projects like *Los Angeles* (1984), *No sex last night* (1992), and *Journey to California* (2003). More recently, Sophie Calle acquired a burial plot in the Bolinas graveyard where she took her first photographs.

### **Exhibition Organization**

Presented by Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture  
Curated by Ars Citizen  
Production: ARTER, Paris / arter.net, @arter\_agence

### **Partners**

The French Consulate General of San Francisco  
Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the US  
UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)  
City Lights Booksellers & Publishers  
The Roxie Theater  
Paula Cooper Gallery, New York  
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco  
Perrotin Paris  
Eleanor Coppola and Francis Ford Coppola Winery  
Paxton Gate

**About the Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture**

A decommissioned military installation converted into a nonprofit cultural center in 1977, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture has long been host to a lively mix of arts, educational and cultural programming. Each year, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture provides over \$2 million in support to local arts organizations, enabling groups to produce diverse and innovative art works at the historic waterfront campus. With a nearly four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture is now focused on reinvigorating its programming and amenities to better engage the evolving and dynamic Bay Area creative community. Central to this new vision is the commissioning and presentation of adventurous and unconventional art works best realized in nontraditional or historic settings.

Visit [fortmason.org](http://fortmason.org) for more information.

**About Ars Citizen**

Ars Citizen is an independent art-commissioning and curatorial platform committed to advancing production and diffusion of contemporary art and ideas. Founded and operating in the San Francisco Bay Area, a center of global influence, Ars Citizen brings the excellence of major international contemporary artists to local leaders of culture, education and innovation. It aims to commission, produce and promote some of the most significant works of our time, while generating thoughtfully conceived related programming including exhibitions, lectures, debates, workshops, publications and archives. Ars Citizen values long-term commitment, networking synergy and global dialogue and seeks to resonate with the contemporary world, its complexity and pressing challenges.

Ars Citizen is an initiative and nonprofit organization founded by the San Francisco-based French curator Evelyne Jouanno who has been working with the global contemporary art community for the last 20 years. Ars Citizen is co-run with Marie Martraire and Jeanne Barral, and is supported by an international advisory board composed of experts in the wide range of contemporary culture.

Visit [arscitizen.org](http://arscitizen.org) for more information.

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