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OLIVIER RICHON (b.1956, Switzerland)

Olivier Richon's photographic work proposes a reinterpretation of the still life genre and a reflection on the object as sign. He uses a large format camera to quote genres and other images, also using animals as a recurrent subject that complements the stillness of objects. The camera is commonly a metaphor for the eye. Richon proposes that the camera is also a metaphor for the mouth: a devouring eye or a drinking eye that absorbs its subject to turn it into an image. Here photographic practice is located within a contemporary notion of allegory that considers the images as a script and a rebus, where meaning and signs are accumulated, in the same manner as objects are represented as an accumulation of signs in the Flemish still life.

Olivier Richon was born in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1956. He studied at the Polytechnic of Central London and graduated with a BA (Hons) in Film and Photographic Arts in 1980 and a Masters of Philosophy in 1988. His work has been exhibited internationally since 1980 including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the Musee d'art moderne de la ville de Paris; Museum Folkwang, Essen; the National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto; the Brooklyn Museum, New York; The National Gallery of New South Wales, Australia; and Tate Britain, London. He is currently professor of Photography at the Royal College of Art, London.