TEMPLON

Press release
October 20, 2026

PIERRE ET GILLES

rose pour toi, rose pour moi

November 7 - December 30, 2026

Opening on Saturday, November 7, from 12 pm to 8 pm
Book signing on Saturday, December 12 at 4 pm



Lady Macbeth (Camille Cottin), 2026, unique hand-painted inkjet photograph printed on canvas, frame by the artists, 151,7 x 111 cm – 59 ¾ x 43 ¾ in. Photo © Pierre et Gilles.

Pierre et Gilles mark fifty years of artistic partnership with *rose pour toi, rose pour moi*, an exhibition of some twenty portraits created over the past two years. To celebrate this occasion, *Pierre et Gilles: Five Decades*, a major monograph looking back on half a century of work, is being published by INSIGHT Editions.

Having met in 1976, photographer Pierre Commoy and painter Gilles Blanchard have been partners in life as in art. They very quickly forged a shared artistic language, singular in kind: photography and painting merge on a single canvas to yield symbolic, idealized portraits. Their painterly intervention lends each image its radiance and saturated color, in the manner of the earliest photographic retouching, when color was applied by hand, and makes every portrait a unique piece. Each work is born of a long process of staging: sets, costumes, props, and lighting are all designed and handmade in the artists' studio just outside Paris. The studio thus becomes a theater in which the setting tells the story of its sitter, sometimes famous, often anonymous or close to the artists, but always transfigured.

With *rose pour toi, rose pour moi*, Pierre et Gilles continue their exploration of how contemporary icons are made. Sacred figures, stars, pop creatures, fictional characters, and friends of the artists come together in a world where reality tips into the realm of dreams.

> "Pierre et Gilles, by contrast, do not seek to impose a narrow view of the world. They interrogate society through the fantasies that circulate within it. Their work begins in reality but approaches reality through dreams – dreams wich, Freud tells us, operate through condensation and displacement. With Pierre et Gilles, photography becomes a psychic process."[1]

Fashion designers, DJs, actors, drag queens, models, and friends of the artists rub elbows with figures drawn from sacred iconography, maritime imagery, the oneiric, and the baroque. The exhibition reveals the full breadth of their world, from popular devotion to pop culture, and presents previously unseen works including *Lady Macbeth* (Camille Cottin), 2026, *Maria Magdalena* (Lolly Wish), 2026, *L'Étoile noire* (Ebony Osaz), 2026, *Saint Carlo Acutis* (Martin Tournebize), 2026, and *Vive moi – Hommage à Renaud* (Renan Prevot), 2025.

The monograph published by INSIGHT Editions brings together the work of Pierre et Gilles for the first time according to a thematic classification. Each section opens with an introduction by Laura-Ève Lambert and is enriched by texts from figures such as Édouard Louis, Sylvie Vartan, and Amanda Lear, as well as by anecdotes from those who have stood before the artists' lens.



Pierre et Gilles
Five Decades
INSIGHT Editions
Publication date : November 4, 2026
500 pages
€75
ISBN: 978-1-972686-08-9

Biography

Internationally acclaimed, Pierre et Gilles have shown their work in numerous institutions around the world. Major exhibitions include a retrospective at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris in 1996, followed by presentations at the New Museum in New York in 2000, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Shanghai in 2005, and the Jeu de Paume in Paris in 2007. In 2017, a large-scale retrospective, *Clair-obscur*, was presented at the Musée d'Ixelles in Brussels and then at the MuMa in Le Havre. In 2018, they exhibited at the K Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul. Two major exhibitions were devoted to them in 2019: *La Fabrique des idoles* at the Philharmonie de Paris, and *Le goût du cinéma* at the Centre d'art La Malmaison in Cannes. In 2022, their work was the subject of *Troubled Waters* at the Spritmuseum in Stockholm. In 2023, the exhibition *Over the Rainbow* at the Centre Pompidou dedicated an entire section to their work and archives. In 2025, Les Franciscaines in Deauville staged a major solo exhibition, *Mondes marins*, and the same year they presented their first exhibition in Mexico, *La construcción del símbolo*, at the Museo Franz Mayer in Mexico City.

Their work belongs to numerous public and private collections in France and abroad, among them the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Musée national d'art moderne – Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Pinault Collection, the Maison Européenne de la Photographie, and the Art Gallery of South Australia in Adelaide.

In fall 2026, their work features in several international group exhibitions, including *Trop mignon ! L'art du bonheur* at the Louvre-Lens, *Mythos* at the Kunstsammlungen in Chemnitz, *High Tide* at Musea Brugge in Bruges, and the Bangkok Art Biennale 2026: *Angels & Mara*.

They have been represented by Galerie Templon since 2014.

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1 Laura-Ève Lambert, *Pierre et Gilles - Five Decades,* (INSIGHT Editions, 2026), p. 11..