

Franck Christen (1971) seems touched by grace as if the fairies of photography were leaning over his cradle.

If one can judge by the photos in this book, here is someone who obviously and in spite of his youth has already developed a visual signature. Whether the subject is portraits, still lifes, or landscapes, his photos are immediately identifiable as belonging to him. All of them carry the same elegance, the same refined cleanness in which everything is brought to the essential, without sound of fury.

Classic, out of fashion, Christen does not run after chimeras, doesn't listen to sirens but remains faithful to his vision of things and composes images that enhance his purpose.

His treatment of the portrait is without the slightest device, in the simplicity of natural lights and settings. When we recognize one of his models, we see him or her well beyond the mere representation of his or her features. A pout, a smile, a look or a position make the model familiar to us.

Let there be no mistake: this impression of softness and harmony implies constant risk-taking and challenges to his technique.

*Alain D'Hooghe
Conseiller artistique 2001 de la Fondation CCF pour la Photographie*