



Image: Unknown author, Dawson City, Yukon, Canada, 1898 (detail). From the book *The Klondike Quest: A Photographic Essay, 1897-1899* by Pierre Berton, 1997.

MÉLISSA PILON (MTL)

*L'instant-monument**

research residency

August 4 to September 12, 2020

presentation

Septembre 10, 2020 at 5pm
Online booking

www

melissapilon.com

LA CHAMBRE BLANCHE is pleased to welcome MéliSSa Pilon in research residency from August 4 to September 12, 2020. A presentation of her work will take place on September 10, 2020.

For the past five years, Pilon has collected images of crowds that she finds in books, magazines, newspapers and photographic archives. These images of gatherings come from various contexts and offer a unique reading of the photojournalistic image. It is a work on the reappropriation of crowd photographs, sometimes fragmented and recomposed, so as to emphasize the patterns, textures, movements of bodies and gazes in the image. It is a direct relationship to the gaze on human regrouping that is privileged in this research where archives become as much as sensitive textures as documents.

Across time and spaces, certain patterns seem to reappear in variations of what could be one and the same crowd. The individual and the collective meet and intertwine in the blur, high definition, compression, identity and its disappearance. A hymn to the gathering that prompts our gaze to once again take the time to observe and go out to meet ourselves and the other.

In the pursuit of this work, of which the archive is the core, Pilon will feed her iconographic base from LA CHAMBRE BLANCHE's archives. Her research project will also be open to moving images, digital media and writing texts.

MéliSSa Pilon graduated with a master in graphic design from Werkplaats Typografie in the Netherlands where she specialized in photojournalism and image culture in the context of graphic design. Her work questions the expressive limits of images as a way of representing the world and the impact of their mediation on our daily lives. Through the poetic narrative, the photographic essay and the exploration of the archives, MéliSSa deploys the practice of a visual writer. Her production, which takes the form of independent publications and exhibitions, is positioned in relation to time and the metalanguage of newspapers. Her practice of graphics, especially in publishing, reconciles structural rigor with a palette of minimalist and subtly powerful gestures. She is one of the typographic detail specialists in Quebec. Her work is irrigated by the desire to bring to life images that pierce habits and the heart.

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Source LA CHAMBRE BLANCHE
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* Inspired by Vincent Lavoie, *L'instant-monument : du fait divers à l'humanitaire*, Montréal, Dazibao, 2001, 203 p., « Les études ».



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