

New York, N.Y.

The work *New York* is immense. It is not only a work that consists of many parts, a dozen, but it also consists of various preparatory works that integrate a gaze: a look at the sky, and also a look at the city, a gaze upon the sky, the blue, the infinite. It is very simple. It is a view without a window, but implies our desire to achieve freedom, to attain openness, to simply be in direct relation with the infinite.

So I began with one photo, then several photos, then combined them, set them off - centre, reassembled them and used the openings, the openings between the buildings to look at the sky. One cannot do otherwise in New York City than to see the sky as enormous canyons, and when you look with your nose in the air, you lose your footing. So when I frame the architecture in a photographic image by looking at the air that way, the architecture loses its footing, and then all I find is upside down buildings with their tops in the air, losing their gravity and therefore joining with the azure of the sky, the infinity.

The upside down buildings of New York, with their tops up side down, became Star Wars space ships. The architecture became an architecture of war, in space perhaps, but war just the same.

So, I tried a thousand and one ways, and for architecture the solution was to find a pyramid.

The street corner in shadow became a pyramid through the framing of the photograph.

I nailed them to the wall with a hammer and nails, and that created an overlapping, several layers, which in turn became architecture, a construction.

It is perhaps with the events in New York that happened not long ago, with those collapsing buildings, with those explosions, that one may understand today what is meant by the photographic gaze that I wished to convey by looking at New York. It is the explosions that are visible in my work. I think these explosions are part of the photographic gaze, of the scientific gaze, and I would be very happy if people became aware of it. Photography – before anything else, before being something of beauty, a beautiful image, before being a witness to the situation here or there in the world – is first a way of being in the world, and that remains terrifying.

