

Assistants

Photographic studios are a crossroad for all genre of future photographers.

When you work as an assistant, you meet people coming from art schools, fashion world, cinema industry but also people with no obvious link to photography.

I took the portrait of Samia and Arnaud at the famous Rouchon photographic studio in Paris in 2010. The following year, I extended the series to other assistants by meeting them while they were working in other parisian renowned studios.

This collection of photographs has the setting/working decor in common but represents the wide variety of personalities who brought it to life.

Jean-Romain Pac



« I wish to study in Paris and work in the USA as a fashion photographer. Currently I attend a college in the city of Le Havre with a major in photography. »

Samia, 18



« I have worked for two weeks at the Pin-up fashion studio in Paris. It is a microcosm, a universe with its own rules. Many photographers are very hard at work but, during a shooting I had the

chance to assist Peter Knapp who reconciled myself with this world : it's possible to be talented, be kind with the team while still staying professional. »



« Fashion appeals to me, so does nude photography. In five years, I see myself as a young fashion and beauty photographer, working in freelance. »

Emmeline, 22



« At the end of the “troisième” (middle of the secondary school in France), I applied for an internship in this studio as I was in a photographic section at school.

In a couple of years, I see myself attending a make-up academy to work in the fashion industry. »



« Definitely, what I learnt from working in a studio is that I will never be a photographer. It's so a personal approach that I cannot imagine fulfil commissioned work, see my creativity being reduced, force myself to the profile of commercial photography. I prefer to follow my photographic activity aside, without being paid for it. »

« After being a photographer-assistant in rental studios, I realized that I really didn't want to work in fashion neither in commercial photography. Being outside for covering sports events and being in the field suits me better. »

Alizée, 18





« From my Lorraine native region, I used to analyse every single photograph in the magazines without having any idea of how they were made. Now that I am

in Paris, I discover all the secrets of photographic shootings and see the photographers at work... Sure, now I stay here! »

Charlotte, 22

« The work of a photographer has more things in common with an orchestra conductor than a craftsman. »



« I work full-time as a dedicated photographers' assistant for the “Le Petit Oiseau Va Sortir” rental studio in Paris. In five years, I wish to be a music or advertising photographer. »

Vincent, 24



« I studied graphic design and used to be a graphic designer. So I always have been sensible to photography. I am still continuing my work as a freelancer but since one year I work also

as an assistant for different fashion photographers to become a photographer as well.

Currently I live in Paris, my roommates have left the flat for travelling all around the

world and we have planned to meet together in one year in New York to begin a new life and fulfil our dreams. »

Arnaud, 25



« I was a computer-scientist until last year. I left my job to become a photographer.

Fashion is a strange world : it is not as disconnected from reality as we might think. It's a working world, an all-the-time happy and working community with short-term aims.

I was really surprised by the fact it seems impossible to work alone in

this universe. You must work in team with an art director, a stylist, a hairdresser, a make-up artist, digital and light assistants,... Working as a photographer in fashion industry is a process who implies countless people and where compromises become a survival kit! It's way too far from an artistic approach. »

Jean-Romain, 27



« Working in a photographic studio is a rewarding experience. It's always strange to face a huge commercial photograph printed in a station in which we participated! »

« Now, I discover the journalistic sector by working for a photo magazine. At the same time, I keep a photographer-assistant activity as well as being a photographer. »

Juliette, 21



« I have discovered a pretty closed world, even secret a little bit : photographic studios. I was on various sets, fashion shootings, still life,... I liked fashion in studio, it's like a big theater, as the *comedia dell'arte* where you can be infuriated and in a flash everything changes and it's

off again! The music at full blast. All the photographer's assistants running mad... »

« I like to observe people, their movements, their OCDs, their way to talk. That's probably why I feel closed to snapshot photography where people don't say

“ok now I have to be serious” or “if I place myself like that it will be nicer no?”.

I'm looking for something unpredictable. Something honest. »



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