



APRÈS STRAND

BERTRAND CARRIÈRE

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PHOTO

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For the past several years the photographer Bertrand Carrière has been exploring places associated with memory and the traces of time inscribed in the landscape. His most recent project, *Après Strand*, continues on this work.

Captivated by the famous American photographer Paul Strand's exceptional images of the Gaspésie region in 1929 and 1936, images unjustly little-known by the general public, Carrière decided to retrace the master's steps. With these photographs as his only guide, he attempted to uncover the mutations to the landscape that had taken place over this eighty-year period and to imbue himself with the same spirit that animated Strand during his two sojourns in the Gaspésie. During the six weeks of his tour of the peninsula in the summer of 2010, Carrière went from village to village, exploring the land and connecting with its inhabitants.

In the images he brought back from the region, Carrière adopts Strand's vision of photography and the landscape. He has absorbed the master's lessons—his great sense of light and a direct and frontal approach to his subject. Intentionally avoiding copying Strand, however, Carrière adds a layer: a reading of the time and memory of the landscape. Like Strand, he is interested in landscapes that have been reworked by human hands and in vernacular architecture. The sea is also omnipresent, like a backdrop, rising up behind buildings, at the farthest reaches of a field or at the end of a road. To this view of the land, without pretence and far from classical images of the Gaspésie, is added a series of portraits of people Carrière chanced upon.

Bertrand Carrière's landscapes bear a dual memory: that of his depictions, through Strand's images, and that of the inhabitants who shaped them, hardily and patiently.

FM _Translated by Timothy Barnard

