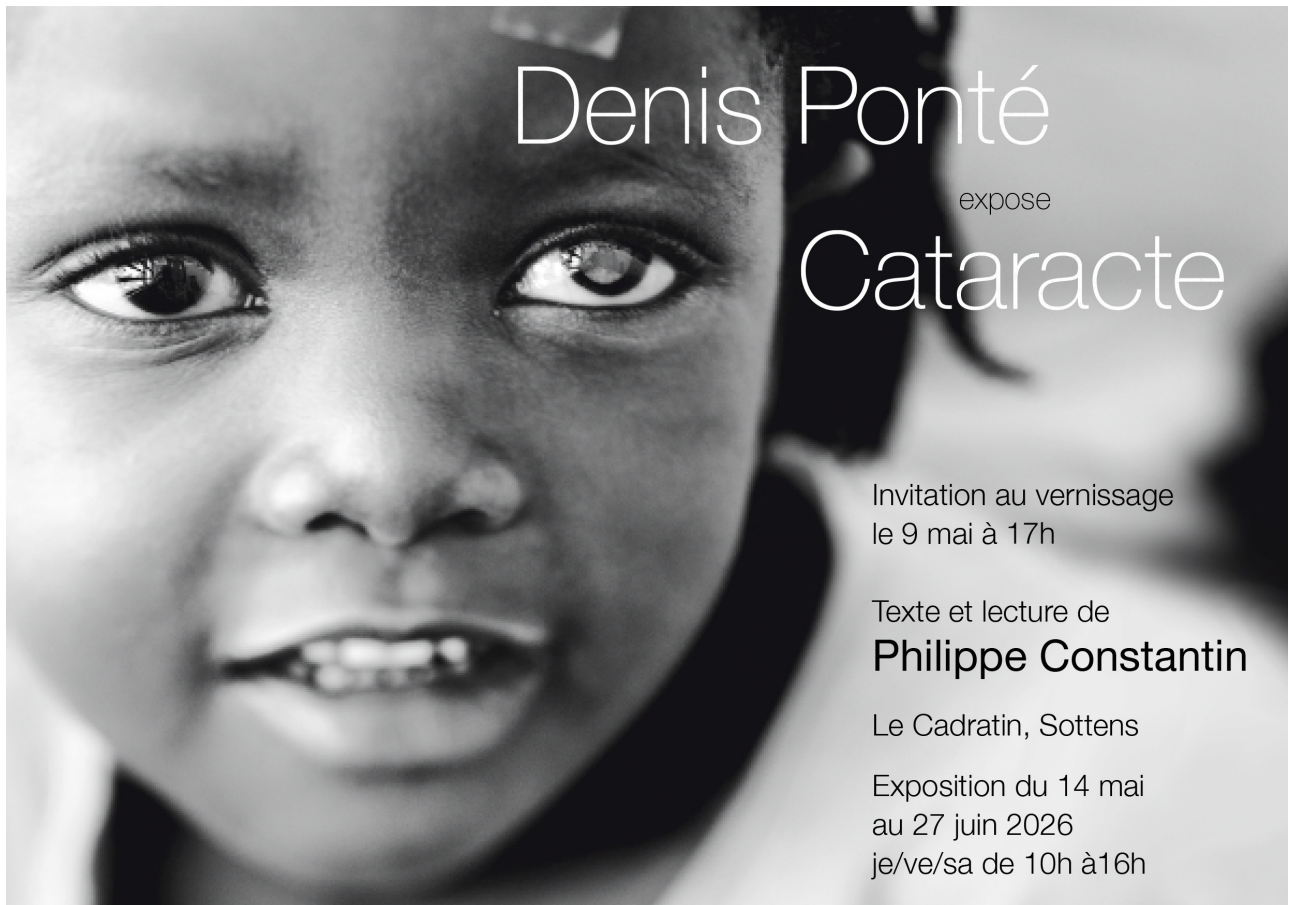


Le Cadratin
presents
C a t a r a c t

Photographs by Denis Ponté
Text by Philippe Constantin



Opening Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 5:00 PM
Reading presented by Philippe Constantin

Exhibition from May 14 to June 27, 2026
Thu/Fri/Sat from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Entre deux nuits

Special edition printed in typography at Le Cadratin
Unpublished work by Philippe Constantin

National broadcaster
Route de Peyres-Possens 29, 1062 Sottens

P R E S S K I T

Cataract

Photographs by Denis Ponté

Text by Philippe Constantin

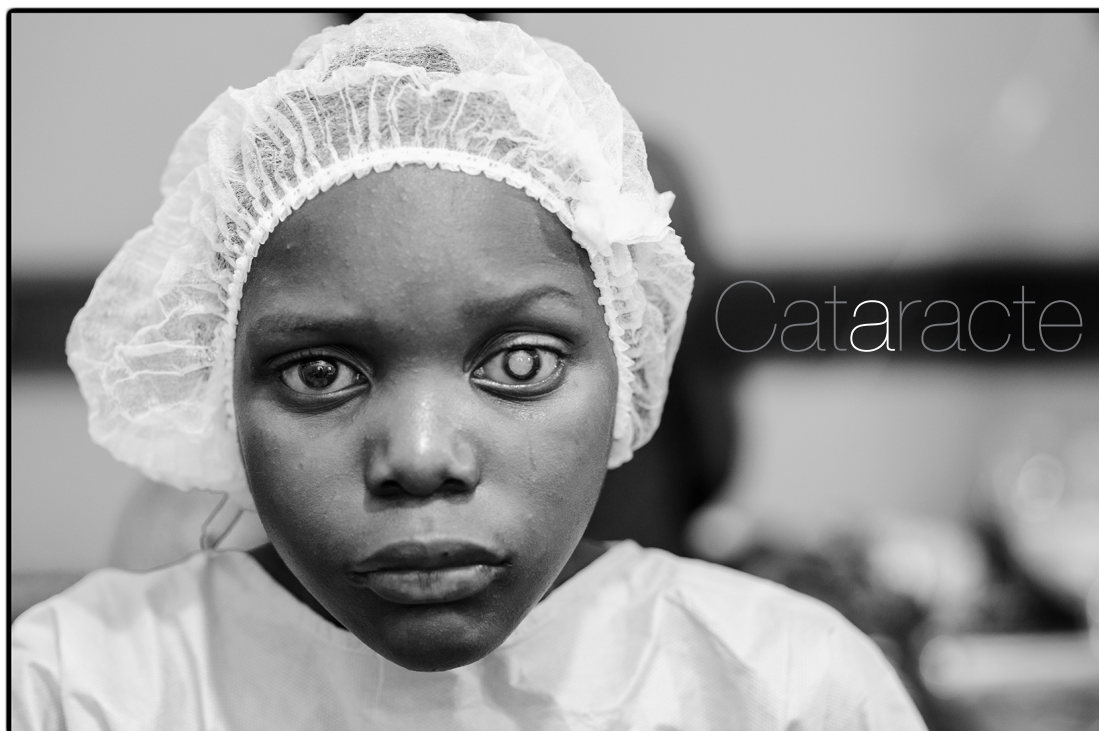
An exhibition, two books, that invite us to see differently, to take our time, and to contemplate fundamental human realities, such as the large-scale cataract surgery campaigns in Mozambique, which provide not only sight but also the opportunity for thousands of people to live fully.

According to the World Health Organization, nearly half of the 94 million people with cataracts worldwide do not have access to surgery that could restore their sight. In 2023, UOSSM decided to take action by funding its first major cataract surgery campaign in Mozambique. In just ten days, 836 women, men, and children regained their sight.

The committed photographer Denis Ponté closely followed this mission. His lens does not capture suffering, but the precise moment when it fades away to make room for hope – a bandage removed, a gaze reborn. His images are collected in a book published by Slatkine Editions, accompanied by a text from the writer Philippe Constantin.

During the opening, he will present and read **Entre deux nuits**, a poetic meditation on light through the ages, in resonance with Denis Ponté's photographs.





Cataract

Photographs **Denis Ponté**

Cataract was presented at the ON/OFF Festival in Arles in 2023, at the Leica Galerie in Geneva, and at the Fundació Bancaja in Spain, in collaboration with Swiss-Group in Geneva. These exhibitions help raise awareness among a wide audience about humanitarian challenges while providing a visual immersion into this essential mission.

Cataracts, a scourge affecting young and old alike in Africa, were at the heart of an ophthalmological surgery campaign carried out by the NGO UOSSM in Mozambique. This project was documented by the Geneva-based photographer Denis Ponté, whose extensive knowledge of Africa, gained through numerous reports, was confronted with a reality as unimaginable as it was harrowing.

Four volunteer doctors from the NGO UOSSM carried out up to 60 surgeries daily under particularly difficult conditions. In addition to the interventions, local staff and doctors received training, and the local medical team handled care before and after the operations. Despite challenges related to outdated infrastructure, power outages, and intense heat, the campaign was remarkably effective, with no failures to report.

Denis Ponté captured with great sensitivity not only the deteriorated operating rooms but also the unwavering determination of the medical staff. His photographs go beyond the technical aspects to reveal a profound human dimension, through a series of portraits of the operated patients that add emotional depth to the visual documentation.



In less than ten days, 836 people—including young children for whom early intervention is essential for brain development—benefited from these treatments. At the same time, the training of local doctors was integrated into the project, ensuring a lasting impact beyond the initial campaign.

A book was published by Éditions Slatkine in 2025 to document this humanitarian project. Co-edited by Denis Ponté, Philippe Constantin, and Éditions Slatkine, the volume is available in French and English. It brings together Denis Ponté's photographs and Philippe Constantin's poetic text.

The forewords are signed by Mr. Thierry Apothéloz, Mr. Alfonso Gomez, and Dr. Raphaël Pitti, with an afterword written by UOSSM (Union of Relief and Medical Care Organizations).

This book aims to preserve a visible record of the joint efforts and to raise public awareness of the humanitarian situation in Africa, while highlighting UOSSM's commitment.



This book and the exhibition **Cataract** provide a valuable opportunity to document and preserve the crucial humanitarian work carried out in Mozambique. Denis Ponté's striking photographs and Philippe Constantin's poetic text, supported by UOSSM, aim to raise public awareness of the vital issues of this mission and to mobilize resources for future projects.

The Bibliothèque Braille Romande and Livre Parlé—a service of the Association for the Welfare of the Blind and Visually Impaired in Geneva—have adapted the texts of the book **Cataract** into Braille.



Biographies

Born in 1964, Denis Ponté is a photographer driven by strong convictions. Several of his works bear witness to this: *Left for Dead*, *Au bord du monde*, *Histoire de vivre*, *Face à elle*, and more recently *Homo artifex*. It is therefore no surprise that he has a particular passion for portraiture, whether in the studio or on location during his travels. In addition to his own photographic projects, he undertakes institutional commissions and shares his expertise at the Société Genevoise de Photographie (SGP) and at the University of Geneva, among others.

Born in 1964 in Geneva, of diverse origins, Philippe Constantin explores the lives of others to narrate or reinvent them, in words and images, through a poetic approach intertwined with his own autobiography.

Alongside his artistic work, he collaborates on the programming of several festivals, including *Les Aubes Musicales* and *Poésie en ville*. Co-founder of the Association *Poésie ambulante*, he is a consultant for the PEN Club and a curator of photographic exhibitions. He also participates in the coordination of cultural projects and serves on the editorial board of the *Journal des Bains*.

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