

# Curriculum Vitae: Matteo Volpi

## Contact

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## Education

I am an independent photographer with a varied range of skills. All of my education was based in particle physics and it culminates with my Ph.D in 2010. But since I was a kid my passion for art has always remained.

I have been practicing photography from a young age and started with my manual Olympus made in the 70s. During high school I took photography classes in the dark room and have continued to print and develop images in my own dark room since. I have strong dark room skills and a broad experience in film development. Not satisfied with conventional photography, I started to explore with multimedia techniques.

In 2000 I started to use digital cameras. Since doing so I have come to appreciate the potential and diversity allowed by digital cameras. However, I continue to think in analogue. This gives my photographs a style unique and particular to me. During my photography career I have presented many exhibitions and won awards. I was also the official photographer for Mishima, a well-known Spanish rock band.

For few years I was one of the residencies at the Food Court in Melbourne. The Food Court is an exhibition and Arts project space for emerging and established artists, located in the Docklands in an abandoned Food Court (<http://the-food-court.net.au>). I had my own photo studio, including a dark room, inside a old industrial fridge. I was also running workshops about analog and digital photography.

Nowadays I am running a new project at CERN called VolMeur. Founded in 1954, CERN is located on both sides of the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva. It was one of the first organizations on a European scale and now has 22 Member States. The digitization of its important audio-visual and photographic heritage began in 2016. Alongside around 450 000 perfectly preserved photographic snapshots, a few hundred slides illustrating the remarkable construction of the electron-positron collider (LEP) had been forgotten. Poorly preserved, they had been deteriorating for thirty years before being found as part of CERN's Digital Memory project.

After they were cleaned and scanned, these "disintegrated slides" turned out to be incredible artistic images. They are now the VolMeur collection.

## Projects

### 2016-2019 Creation of VolMeur collection

It is by a strange coincidence that CERN, the famous European laboratory for particle physics where the properties of matter are being observed, finds itself the repository of an unexpected and unintentional artistic treasure whose genesis rests precisely on the transformation of the matter. For about thirty years, on the margins of some 420,000 perfectly preserved photographic clichés, dozens of slides illustrating the construction of the electron-positron collider (LEP) were abandoned and suffered the onslaught of moulds. Thus, bacteria have happily proliferated by slowly feeding on the protein gelatine covering the plasticized surface of the films (collagen). On some images, traces of the original photography remained visible while on a majority of them the shapes and colors were altered in a chaotic, spectacular, artistic way. A biological remix.

Today we are very honored to reveal these mould masterpieces from CERN, the result of a fascinating collision perhaps a collusion between physics, chemistry, biology and art. The exhibition is currently in New York at the Material For The Art, but it will be back to CERN for the open day (15th of September). The project is part of CERN photography heritage, no profit and it is self-financing (official VolMeur web page). This CERN Art Collection is printed on Chromaluxe aluminium plate, using the Sublignographie process. A special press at 6 bar allows the materials to be brought to a temperature of 200 degrees to sublimate the inks in the metal. Guaranteed for 200 years. The resulting chemical reactions left a chaotic swirl of colours and textures reminiscent of an abstract painting. I've tried burning and freezing, and I use yeast and beer to create mould. It makes a nice effect, and I almost reproduce these colors and textures. On 2016 Jean-Yves LeMeur and my self (alias VolMeur) we created the project and we builded the collection that is nowadays parts of art CERN heritage.

### **2016 Analogue camera and B/W darkroom workshop**

At the moment I am running the second analogue photography workshop open to everybody. No experience using analogue film or developing in a darkroom is required. The goal of this workshop is to teach people to photograph with film and to develop and print. Basically the A to Z of darkroom photography. You can see the success of the last workshop at the link below about the final exhibition (darkroom workshop).

March-April: solo exhibition at the Hash Specialty Coffee and Roaster (CBD Melbourne).

May: first prize for a theme at PhotoMarathon Melbourne. PhotoMarathon is a photography event with a difference - over the course of nine hours, entrants are provided with nine themes that they have to capture in nine images.

June-July: solo exhibition at Lentil as Anything, Footscray.

### **2014 ARTEMISIA**

Projects is a collaboration between artist Matteo Volpi and curator Catherine Mulhall. Drawing on creations from over twenty years of Volpi's artistic practice, ARTEMISIA mixes photography, painting, installation art and exhibition design to create a holistic relationship between curating and art practice. More details of the projects including the exhibitions are shown at this link <http://artemisia1753.wix.com/artemisia>. Personal exhibition at the Testing Grounds (testing-grounds exhibition).

### **2015 Fringe festival**

Official photographer of the Scenes on the Yarra workshop for the Melbourne Fringe festival (fringe festival).

Feck:Art finalist on September exhibition (feckart). I also participated to numerous exhibitions in the Melbourne area.

### **2013 Make Your Mark**

We are a group of independent artists with a varied range of cultural backgrounds. Each of us uses different media to express ourselves and comment on aspects of the contemporary world. We came together to create a multi-disciplinary art space, creating an invitation to the audience to become part of the exhibition by making art using materials and techniques that felt right for them. The group was running from 2013 to mid 2014, and regularly organized exhibitions and performance art including musical, spoken word, dramatic and free expression sessions. More info at: Make Your Mark

**Most important links**

- VolMeur collection, for more details volmeur@cern.ch or contact us via the dedicated website <https://volmeur.web.cern.ch>
- Videos of the secret of dark room workshops: industrial fridge darkroom, film developer, photogram print and film print.
- I have created a web pages where you can find all of my work. The web page shows my paintings and the pictures taken before I left Europe for Australia. At that link you can find my experiments with film and color. Also portfolios documenting towns, weddings and gigs. As mentioned before, I was the official photographer for the rock band, Mishima (??Mishima info) before moving to Australia.  
At the same link you can see a collection of the pictures taken in the last two years. Due to my job I have travelled a lot around the world. On this web page you can find pictures of the most beautiful scenes, from the Grand Canyon in Arizona to the geysers in New Zealand. A big section of the web page is dedicated to the VolMeur collection and how we can reproduce the mould effects on new slides.
- In 2009 one of my pictures was selected as the picture of the month in a famous Spanish blog (Mirada blog link)
- First and third prize in the competition "Les quatre saisons de Geneve"  
(link to the price)

**Software Knowledge**

Over the years I have learned to use Linux, Windows and especially Mac environments. Through reconstruction of signals produced in the detector, I have acquired deep familiarity with Python and C++. I am also proficient with Photoshop. Image reconstruction from raw data.

**Languages**

Italian : native.  
English: good.  
Spanish: fluent.  
French: working knowledge.  
Catalan: working knowledge.

**Miscellaneous**

Australian permanent resident visa.  
International and Australian drive licenses.  
Sports: football, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.  
Other: doctor in high energy physics, I'm part of the team that discovered the Higgs boson at the Large Hadron Collider (link to the article).