

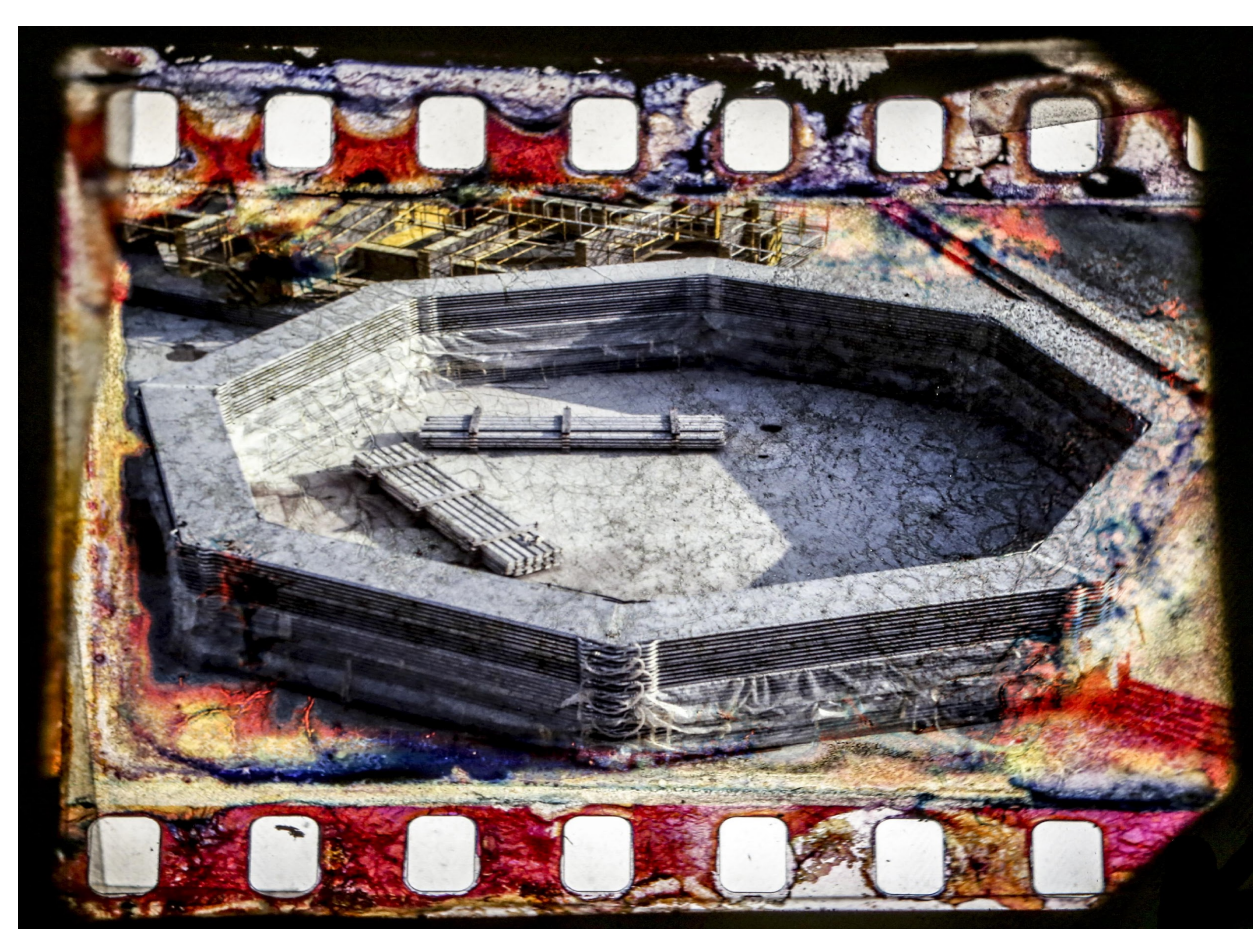
## The VolMeur collection

Matteo Volpi & Jean-Yves Le Meur



### Who is the artist behind VolMeur's artwork?

Time transformed a number of 35 mm slides into contemporary artwork. A few hundred photographs taken in the 1980s during the construction of the Large Electron-Positron Collider at CERN were poorly stored and became damaged. After cleaning and digitisation, the “decayed” slides have reemerged as pieces of art. CERN is one of the largest and most prestigious scientific laboratories in the world. Its vocation is fundamental physics, the discovery of the constituent parts and laws of the universe.



### How was the photographic material transformed?

The gelatin binder of photographic film is an emulsion of light-sensitive chemicals (silver halide), colourants and collagen tissues. These tissues are made of proteins coming from the skin or bones of animals, usually cows. They provide food to microorganisms in the surrounding environment. To cut a long story short, enzymes travel through the cell wall, breaking the protein so that the tiny subunits are absorbed into the cell, which then clones itself. Their proliferation is only possible if they are stored in hot, humid environments (above 65% relative humidity).

### What is the future of the CERN mould?

We decided to exhibit and sell a selection of images using the most resistant long-term technique, by printing them on “Chromaluxe®” aluminium sheets under the Subligraphie® label. This sublimation process brings the inks to a gaseous state in order to “melt” them onto the aluminium sheets with a pressure of 6 bar and at a temperature of 200°C.



A maximum of 30 copies of each image will be printed. The sale of these prints enables the CERN Digital Memory project to continue with the preservation of CERN's history. It also reminds us of the importance of preserving our heritage using best practice!

