

# Swimming in the black sea

Philippe Guionie

Andreï Kourkov



In Turkey, the cardinal points are indicated by colors: Ak, white for the South Kara, black for the north. Thus, the Mediterranean Sea, White Sea, turns into Black Sea at the Bosphorus Strait. And it is precisely here that Philippe Guionie chosen as a starting point for *Swimming in the Black Sea*. Conducted between 2004 and 2012, the series was inspired by *Kéraban-le-Stubborn*, a Jules Verne novel recounting the tribulations of a wealthy Turkish merchant, Kéraban refuses to pay a tax imposed by the sultan unexpectedly to cross the Bosphorus and Constantinople decided to join by going around the Black Sea. This romantic story is an underlying theme in this contemporary take on the Black Sea. Photographer gradually detaches to form a subjective visual poem with bright colors. From the nearby Mediterranean, pierce the sweet life and the southern accents, but this "wandering around a sea that is hardly seen" is so subtle that it is equally at history with a capital H the more contemporary events.

The photographs in Georgia were conducted in 2012 as part of a photographic residence established by the Tbilisi Photo Festival.

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