

The background of the entire page is a black and white marbled paper pattern, featuring intricate, swirling, and cellular designs in white and light gray against a dark background.

RE-

Street Works

Édouard Levé,

Jan Steyn,

Mathieu Tremblin

Besançon

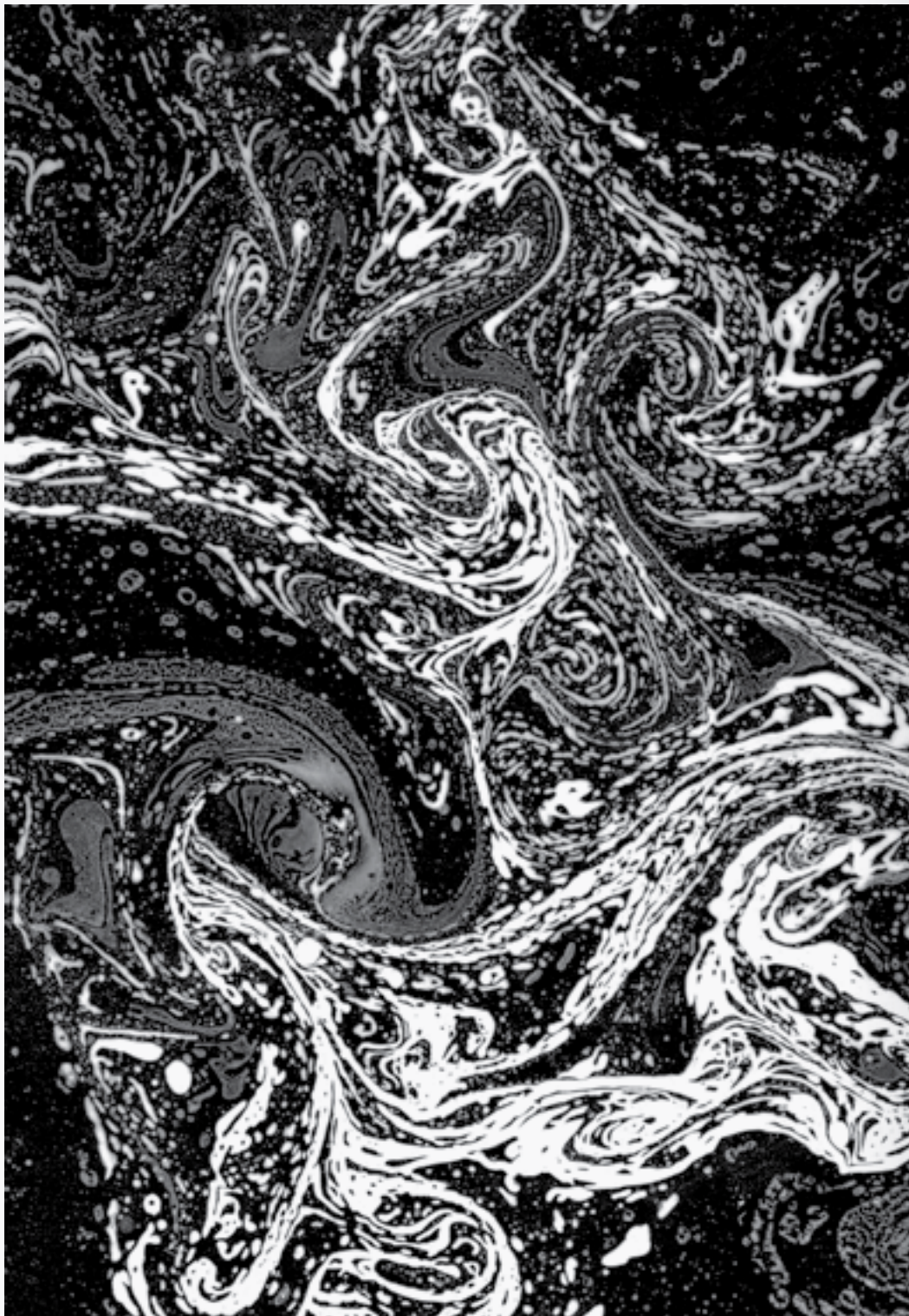
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EDOUARD LEVÉ
STREET
WORKS

TRANSLATED BY JAN STEYN

1. A fanzine compiles street works conceived of but not realized by Edouard Levé.
2. Man-sized aluminum mannequins are dropped at different heights from a crane. Metamorphosed by folds, they adopt the pose to which they are constrained by their new morphology.
3. A leather jacket made from a mad cow.
4. A house designed by a three-year-old is built.
5. A building is transformed into a cemetery. The rooms become vaults.
6. A house is built without the use of measurement. Each measure is intuitively estimated. The materials are contemporary and the banal style is that of mass-produced houses. At first blush, the house seems normal. Looking closer, one sees numerous errors. The partitions are poorly joined. The steps are poorly assembled. The flagstones are not parallel to the walls. These, along with the windows and the doors, are not set square. The roof is not watertight.
7. Fake drawings by artists from the early twentieth century are folded up and inserted into books in provincial libraries. The books are chosen for the coincidence of their dates of publication and the supposed dates of the drawings. At an undetermined date, a reader discovers the work. Not imagining that it might be a fake, since the usual motive for forgery—the financial enrichment of the forger—is not operative here, experts authenticate the drawing. The artist's body of works is augmented. Wrongly so.
8. A photograph of a man's face is cut down the middle from top to bottom. One half is kept protected from the light. The other is taped to the man's place of residence, exposed to the sun and elements.

One year later, the photograph is reconstituted by reassembling the two pieces.

9. A home décor magazine, instead of showing the swanky homes of the rich and famous, shows modest and banal houses. Everything about the publication is luxurious and of high quality: professional photographs, fine prints, glossy paper. The articles describe the history of the places, the origin of their construction, the way in which the ideas for decoration came to their occupants. Labels name the stores where the objects on display were bought and a rubric at the end gives their addresses.

10. A cameraman visits thirty Parisian galleries of contemporary art on the same day, capturing one frame for every step he takes. In one hundred and twenty-six seconds and two thousand two hundred and twenty-eight steps, we see six hundred works of art pass before our eyes, subliminally.

11. An imposing sculpture in the shape of a house is built using slabs of wood, joined together by bolt locks. Situated on the outside of the house, instead of securing it, the bolts make it more vulnerable: unlocking one would cause the structure to collapse.

12. A winter coat is made out of glowworms.

13. A camera on a slowly rotating pedestal is left, unmanned, in a public square. The strangeness of the device attracts passersby who, attempting to understand it, become unwitting actors in this slow panoramic sequence.

14. The body of a cat is covered with whistles emitting noise depending on the vehicle's pace. At a certain speed, they all sound off.

15. A man wears a headlamp that lights up a miniature disco ball suspended on a thread in front of his face. Bathed in this unique light, he dances at night to the rhythms of his own singing.

16. A pamphlet displays twenty-four photographs taken by an artist on a walk through the city, starting from his home. He chooses a metro stop at random. He takes the first exit. Once outside, he takes the second street on the left, the third on the right, again the second on the left, again the third on the right, and so on. If there are fewer than two or three streets, he takes the first possible turn. Every five minutes, he takes a photograph of what's right in front of him. The walk lasts for two hours.

17. Stage performances are played in a loop in the empty windows of a shopping center. Performance, normally the art of movement before an immobile audience, here comes to a standstill before a moving audience.

18. The image of a lambda-shaped acacia tree is printed on a museum's receipt slips.

19. Skylark-feather scarfs are designed for the staff of an embassy.

20. A matchstick scaffold is set alight.

21. A construction site shelter is set up in a public space. One of its sides is a window, behind which, two meters back, stretches a black flag with a hole just large enough to let a camera lens through. Outside, a motion detector is rigged to make the camera take pictures of whatever moves in front of it. The strange contraption attracts passersby. The prints are the size of the window. In some of the images, passerby stand face-on, their hands on the window blocking out the glare, their eyes looking straight into the lens, intrigued.

22. A labyrinth painted in skimmed milk on a museum façade is destroyed by bad weather.

23. Clay models of various sports balls are fired after being imprinted with a blow: foot on a soccer ball; racket strings on a tennis ball; strip of rubber nodules from a paddle on a ping-pongball; a handball thrown with one hand and caught with two; a basketball thrown with two hands; a squash ball pasted against a wall; a bowling ball rolled with one hand to the pins, which also leave their mark; a baseball thrown with one hand and struck with a bat.

24. On the third floor of a house, a large white tube comes out of the floor and returns to it, forming a parabola. The cross-section isn't round: it represents a falling man, arms and legs akimbo.

25. Sculpted in miniature inside a painkiller capsule, a galley points its bow toward the nadir.

26. A house is built using various elements. Doors, windows, stairways, roofs, and chimneys have different colors and surfaces. Asymmetrical in its structure, dissimilar in its details, incoherence is its style.

27. A video shows a sequence of shots filmed from within a car traveling between two villages: Angoisse [Anxiety] and Prozac.

28. Slides of photographs taken in public bathrooms are projected onto a wall covering it with sexual, comical, political, or racist graffiti.

29. Ivy is made to grow on the wall of an art center in the shape of a giant spider web.

30. *Accidental Art*. Photographs show rural or urban objects that aren't artworks but could be mistaken for them.

31. *Sunday*. The trash left in the street by people moving house on a Sunday is photographed, head-on, in color. Planks, bookcases, books, casserole dishes, ovens, refrigerators, washing machines, mattresses, clothing irons, clothing: the owners' worn-out privacy exposed to a random public of passersby.

32. A miniature remote-controlled helicopter is made to fly, at night, along the edges of a building. The helicopter's searchlight enters directly into the camera's lens. The shutter remains open for the duration of the flight. When the photographs are printed, the architecture is reduced to streaks of light.

33. Black adhesive letters are stuck to the leaves of a plant kept in a place with sunlight for several weeks. The letters are then removed and the plant exhibited. A text appears, tattooed onto its leaves.

34. *Acquaintances by Street*. A man waits at an entryway to a street for eight hours. If people of his acquaintance pass by, he photographs them. If none do, he photographs the place where he waited.

35. Two oak trees are planted three meters from one another. Once they reach a height of five meters, their crowns are attached and grafted together. They continue to grow, in the shape of a capital lambda.

36. A large outdoor mural is slowly unveiled piece by piece as the wind lifts off the individual flakes that cover it.

37. Conversations recorded in a city bus shelter are played in a country bus shelter, and vice versa. The speakers are hidden: the voices, played at the volume of normal conversation, seem to come from nowhere.

38. A man lives a week of his life following a schedule copied from datebooks that appear in adverts. He then writes up his actions in a seven-day diary, employing a neutral style.

39. Acting as a sort of three-dimensional Polaroid, a life-size plaster sculpture represents a fountain with vertical opaque jets.

40. A misty black ring against a white wall—trace of a motorcycle tailpipe.

41. A black cone is painted on the surface of a promenade. The cone begins ten centimeters away from a wall that has an artificial eye encrusted into it and ends sixty-five meters further on. Its area corresponds to the visual field wherein the human eye can focus on objects. Closer than ten centimeters, everything is blurred, further than sixty-five meters, everything is clear-cut, without having to focus. Adaptation is impossible in one case, unnecessary in the other.

42. Artists who are also bikers are photographed in a group.

43. Places are photographed by their reflections in spit bubbles.

44. The doors and windows of a house are replaced by outward facing mirrors.

45. A museum keeps works saved from artists' garbage bins. Discarded, incomplete, torn up, damaged, disowned.

46. Letters made from chromed metal, twenty centimeters tall, spell out their own tautology: "LETTERS IN CHROMED METAL."

47. An art center is temporarily transformed into an obscurity center—a place where things are experienced in absolute darkness.

48. Tracing paper is placed on the floor of a child-care center. At four o'clock, the shadows cast by toys that the children have left behind are copied in reddish purple.

49. The windows of a room are blocked from the outside letting no light through. A film of what could normally be seen through them is projected onto them.

50. A staircase turns back on itself like a twisted strap forming a U so that the person walking on it ends up upside-down.

51. The silhouette of a shooter is drawn in bullet holes on a wall.

52. Dropped from the thirtieth floor, a camera films its fall.

53. A man spits on paintings in museums without the guards noticing. His saliva dries but DNA evidence remains.

54. Dozens of small, identical toys are placed in the street. In a photograph, taken from a certain angle, a perspective effect sees their placement form a grid.

55. A giant's footprint in the meadow of a valley is visible from the surrounding hills.

56. A man who died of cold is sculpted in white marble. His contracted eyes communicate a terror contradicted by his mouth, which is tightened into a grotesque smile. His hair is spiky. His eyes, open, seem covered by opaque spots.

57. A salon built in a garden out of lard is worn away by sun, wind, rain, ice, birds, insects, and mice.

58. A distant music recalls three flutes. The accidental melody was recorded in one of ten shower stalls in a university residence, separated by long hallways and carried along by pipes, which the water pressure caused to whistle in harmony.

59. *Vertical Gardens*. The walls inside a house are covered with plants.

60. Plants grow on a structure that turns to follow the sun. Only one side is exposed to direct sunlight. Shapeless, the plants form a mass of leaves and branches confusedly turned in the same direction.

61. A wallet made out of reinforced steel.

62. A black serrated painting cuts, half way up, into a white wall. The area above and beneath the painting becomes the sharp and gigantic teething space of some fantastic animal.

63. Advertising photographs are reconstructed using expressionless models. The absence of slogans makes the message incomprehensible.

64. Stickers in the shape and color of street signs, each carrying the text "Anonymous Road," are pasted onto all the street signs in a given perimeter. Films and photographs document this nocturnal intervention and its diurnal result.

65. Ready-made: a camper van, its brand written on the back in large letters: "CHATEAU."

66. A political lobbying group aims to have zoo animals paid a monthly salary.

67. A metallic anthropomorphic robot runs endlessly on a treadmill, in a gym.

68. The walls of a public building are painted at night with a layer of absinthe.

69. Behind a truck is a trailer, inside of which is a car pulling a motorcycle that is fixed to a coffin on two wheels, the back of which is open, revealing its content: a bed partially raised to make visible a storage unit, a miniature kitchen, and a toilet, tucked away under the detachable mattress.

70. The development of an oak tree is directed so that it grows flat. The trunk and three principal branches are directed toward the cardinal directions. New branches are flattened or pruned. After thirty years, the oak tree occupies a vast circular terrain, without growing more than a meter in height.

71. A plastic mannequin stands upright facing its own shadow. At sunset, the model casts a horizontal anamorphic shape that is ten meters long, six times its own height.

72. A marble jealousy with Judas spyholes.

73. The daily sounds made by a family in a house are recorded. The family then moves out and the house is emptied. Only the marks made by their furniture on the floors and walls remain. In each room, the sounds made there while the house was occupied are played back.

74. Made out of transparent Plexiglas, the gutters of a house are transformed into aquariums for red fish.

75. Trees are pruned to resemble those of a different kind. An oak becomes a palm, a fit becomes a weeping willow, a bitch becomes a poplar.

76. A stream disappears into the earth in a French park where visitors throw flowers into it. Somewhere in a garden in New Zealand, is a spring where the emerging water contains the same flowers.

77. A trailer contains all that's necessary to put up a Center for Ephemeral Art: sheets of canvas, portable frameworks, a mattegray linoleum carpet, white partitions for expositions, black partitions for projections. The truck also carries works, and a mobile studio for creating pieces *in situ*. A catalog allows public or private sponsors to give their backing to already complete works, or to sponsor artists based on the description of their projects.

78. All the branches of a pine tree, save for those growing along two perpendicular planes, are trimmed. The tree acquires a geometric shape: four walls of branches meeting at right angles at the trunk. Seen from above, it's a cross.

79. Fifty people go on a protest march bearing placards and banners with nothing written on them. They march along the sidewalks in complete silence. The protest is filmed until it's broken up by the police.

80. A man makes a film, shot image by image, of a walk he takes, tracing out the contours of his face on the map of Paris.

81. Simulacra of large mammal carcasses, made out of pine branches, are left in the undergrowth of a park to be covered in moss, like ancient carrion transfigured by vegetation.

82. The façades of a house are removed: the structure and the roof are left intact, but the walls are stripped. A man lives there with his friends. The house's interior is visible night and day.

83. A fixed telescope is installed at a panoramic view, trained on one part of the landscape. Looking through the lens, the visitor sees, hung up three kilometers away, a large photographic reproduction of the panoramic view from that very point.

84. A building's architecture mimes its explosion.

85. The letterboxes inside an apartment building bear the names of famous dead writers and artists.

86. In public spaces, rather than the usual interdictions, authorizations are put up. Sing, whistle, sleep, seduce...

87. Spectators equipped with audio-guide headphones walk through a town along a path that leads them to urban objects that are commented on like artworks.

88. A woman makes distorted photocopies of the maps of the town she is doing the photocopying in.

89. Propositions are engraved on the walls of a building. Only those on the east-facing walls are true.

90. A house of smoke, its roof, doors, and walls made from curtains of smoke.

91. A house with its walls, furniture, and fixtures made out of white marshmallow, deteriorates as visitors lean against its walls, sit on its couches, handle its objects, scratch its surfaces, or eat them.

92. On a stormy day, a lump of clay is placed on a metal pedestal. Lightning, attracted by the metal, strikes the clay, shaping it. The clay is then fired and displayed on the same pedestal.

93. A website shows the architectural plans of an embassy for extraterrestrials.

94. After publishing a fanzine that describes street works conceived of but not realized by Edouard Levé, Mathieu Tremblin invites readers to reproduce and freely distribute it.

"A fanzine compiles street works conceived of but not realized by Edouard Levé."

