

The limits of France, the limits of a territory

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Artist statement

Since the Schengen Agreement, implemented by France in 1995, and which provide for the free movement of persons and goods within the borders of the signatory countries of the area, the boundaries of my country have become vague.

It became for me, over time, a broken line, and a porous, blurred area.

The first Arab revolutions from April 2011, with his Tunisian migrants landed on the Italian coast, and the Schengen agreements modified in a hurry, remind me of these notions of boundaries and the actual existence of these limits.

I can then represent me gradually a mental map of France.

However, the contours remain imprecise.

I then need to approach these lines, go to the edge of the territory.

The very fact of position myself on the frontiers of France helps me to redefine its contours, and remind me of their existence.

This wonders me about the real limits of a territory (natural, legal ...), its interior, exterior, and the possibility of crossing them.

Then, how to make sensible and perceptible, with image, this sensation of "the end of the end" and the existence of these limits?

Go to strategic places on French border (some border crossings, the extreme point of continental France and its "international tripoints" ...), and understand these limitations.

Record, through photography, from these positions, the different points of views, inside and outside and say "Here I am on the edge of the territory."

Technical Data :

Extreme points of continental France:

This list includes only the territory formed by the mainland of France (excluding islands).

- North : Bray-Dunes, Nord ([51°04'18"N 02°31'42"E](#))
- East : Lauterbourg, Bas-Rhin ([48°58'02"N 08°13'50"E](#))
- South : Puig de Coma Negra, Lamanère, Pyrénées-Orientales ([42°19'55"N 02°32'00"E](#)) (*August 2011*)
- West : Pointe de Corsen, Plouarzel, Finistère ([48°24'46"N 04°47'44"O](#))

International tripoints : (intersection of three land borders of countries)

This list includes only the territory formed by the mainland of France (excluding tripoint France / Brazil / Suriname).

- France / Belgium / Luxembourg : [49°32'47"N 05°49'07"E](#) (Town of Mont-Saint-Martin)
- France / Luxembourg / Germany : [49°28'10"N 06°22'02"E](#) (Town of Apach, Moselle)
- France / Allemagne / Swiss: [47°35'23"N 07°35'21"E](#) (Town of Huningue, Near Bâle, on the Rhin river)
- France / Swiss / Italy : [45°55'23"N 07°02'40"E](#) (Town of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Mont Dolent)
- France / Spain / Andorra :
 - East side: [42°30'09"N 01°43'34"E](#) (Town of Porta, near *Portella Blanca*) (*August 2011*)
 - West side: [42°36'13"N 01°26'30"E](#) (Town of Auzat, pic de Médécourbe) (*August 2011*)

