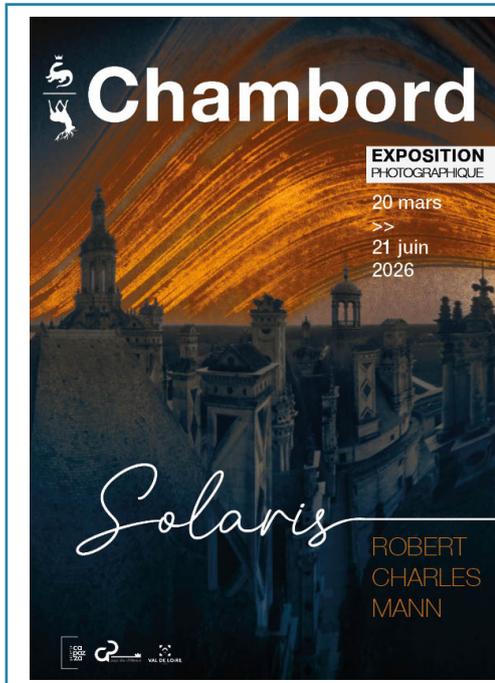


Robert Charles Mann - *SOLARIS*

Photographic exhibition from March 20 to June 21, 2026



From March 20 to June 21, 2026, the Domaine national de Chambord will present a new exhibition by photographer Robert Charles Mann (born in 1960). The result of a residency at Chambord, *SOLARIS* features some forty surprising photographs.

A fan of pinhole photography, Robert Charles Mann spent six months installing several cameras on the heights of the castle and forest estate. The result captures the daily course of the sun from the winter solstice to the summer solstice: between abstraction and scientific observation, the photographs offer an almost cosmic view of Chambord.

The exhibition thus offers a rare experience: that of a historic monument observed not in a single moment, but over time.

■ Exhibition from March 20 to June 21, 2026

■ Press preview on Thursday, March 19, 2026

During the 1990s, photographer Robert Charles Mann made a radical choice: to abandon the use of lenses and work exclusively with his handmade pinhole cameras. Following in the footsteps of the *camera obscura*, the ancestor of the modern camera, the pinhole camera has no optical lens. Light passes directly through a tiny hole and fixes the image onto photosensitive paper.

As part of a residency at Domaine national de Chambord during the winter of 2024, Robert Charles Mann installed forty-three pinhole cameras in the park and in the highest parts of the castle. Pointed toward the sky, these primitive cameras remained in place for six months from the winter solstice on December 21, 2024, to the summer solstice on June 21, 2025, capturing the daily trajectory of the sun amid the natural and architectural elements that make up each image created.

After collecting all the pinhole cameras, Robert Charles Mann immediately scanned the light-saturated negatives and digitally reworked them to reveal all their nuances. The resulting image is called a solargraph. It is not a montage but rather the result of a single, long exposure, revealing the arcs of light traced by the sun's path. The prints in the *SOLARIS* exhibition are made on aluminum with archival pigments.

While the result is reminiscent of early 20th-century pictorialist photography, Robert Charles Mann's works bear witness to a unique encounter between ancient techniques and a contemporary approach, offering a new perspective on the relationship between the château, the sun, and the passage of time.



Image from the *SOLARIS* exhibition presented at the Domaine national de Chambord from March 20 to June 21, 2026, Étang des Bonshommes
© Robert Charles Mann, courtesy Galerie Capazza

The forty or so photographs resulting from this lengthy process, which are of unprecedented beauty, will be exhibited in the château from March 21 (spring equinox) to June 21, 2026 (summer solstice). An explanatory video on the installation of pinhole cameras at Chambord, taken from a documentary on the photographer currently being made by Géraldine Gallinari and Thibault Forestier, will accompany the exhibition.

SOLARIS is a rare exploration where primitive photography, contemporary techniques, and architectural heritage come together.

Biography of Robert Charles Mann

Born in 1960 in the United States and a resident of Chaumont-sur-Loire for several years, Robert Charles Mann has been passionate about photography since he was a child.

In the 1980s, the quality of his work as a printer was noticed by the greatest photographers in Los Angeles and New York (Herb Ritts, Helmut Newton, Peter Lindbergh, Dennis Hopper, and Mary Ellen Mark). In two decades, he produced more than a million prints. In 1989, with an international reputation in this field, he moved to France.

Contrary to the overabundance of images linked to new technologies, Robert Charles Mann has chosen to take his time and focus on rarity, mainly using pinhole cameras and their unique aesthetic. This economy of means, combined with patient digital work to enhance colors, gives rise to mysterious, poetic photographs, several of which are on permanent display at the Miraval studios in the south of France. Robert Charles Mann is represented by the Capazza Gallery.

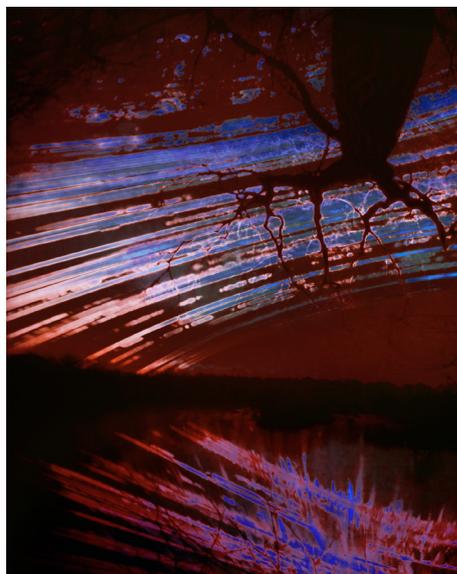


Image from the *SOLARIS* exhibition presented at the Domaine national de Chambord from March 20 to June 21, 2026, Étang de la Faisanderie
© Robert Charles Mann, courtesy Galerie Capazza



Image from the *SOLARIS* exhibition presented at the Domaine national de Chambord from March 20 to June 21, 2026
© Robert Charles Mann, courtesy Galerie Capazza

About the exhibition

- The exhibition was co-produced with the Capazza Gallery.
- The exhibition is accompanied by a book available for purchase at the castle gift shop.
- Press preview on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

Domaine national de Chambord

Chambord has been inspiring admiration and fascination around the world for over 500 years. Listed as a French historic monument in 1840 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981, it is one of the most stunning Renaissance buildings and the largest enclosed park in Europe, covering 5,440 hectares.

The second most visited castle in France, Chambord welcomes over a million visitors a year.

Owned by the French state since 1930, the Domaine national de Chambord is a public industrial and commercial establishment under the supervision of the ministries of culture, agriculture, and the environment, and under the high protection of the French president. The establishment was incorporated into the Grand Parc de Rambouillet by decree of the Council of State on June 1, 2018. The Board of Directors is chaired by Philippe Donnet. Since January 2023, the public institution has been headed by Pierre Dubreuil.

Practical information

- The exhibition is included in the admission ticket: full price €21; reduced price €18.50; free for visitors under 18 and under 26 who are European Union citizens.
- The exhibition is located on the second floor of the château.
- Opening hours:
 - March 20 to 27: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
 - March 28 to June 21: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Last admission ½ hour before the château closes
- Reservations at [chambord.org](https://www.chambord.org)

Domaine national de Chambord

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