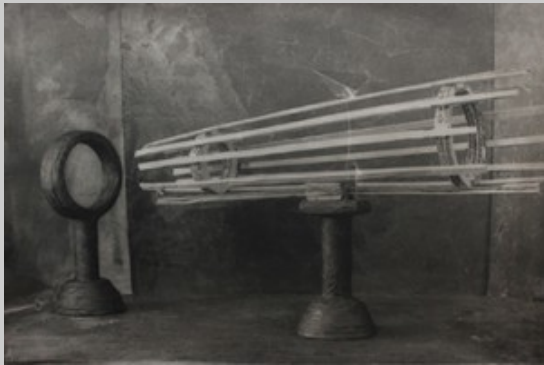


Le chien noir

Jean-Michel Fauquet



"What are the objects that Jean-Michel Fauquet's dark photographs disclose ? Pursuing the umbilical metaphor, I want to say that they are birth images, or rather, images about origins, so they at once appear both very old and close to a violence at the beginning of things. This is why they seem uncanny, because, like the photographs themselves, they seem to partake of opposites, of deep uncertainties. The mechanical instruments, which all seem ominous, if not overtly violating, appear so old and unfamiliar that their functions are lost to the past, and yet we recognize, or even remember them. They seem to have originated in a time when science was in its infancy and its potential for destruction or salvation was unknown. Again, very much like the early spirit of photography.

Likewise the most commonplace things, like a coat over a chair or stairs, are severed from context and rendered new, unfamiliar, monstrous, and old, all at once. This is an archaic experience below or beyond the level of history, not exactly archetypal but always *there*. It scarcely matters that the photographer has organized the whole scene, made it all up. It isn't really him, after all, but something less personal, more demanding." From Lyle Rexer, in "Positive into Negative", *Jean-Michel Fauquet*. *Kairos*, Haim Chanin, 2007.

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