

The Blindest Man The Blindest Man



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104 Pages
64 Photographs
11 Hidden clues
1 Golden owl

'The Blindest Man'
by Emily Graham

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104 Pages

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Photographs by Emily Graham

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1 . . . O p e n i n g e d out in a tone that meant that bird, la chouette, the owl, so APPEAR ON THE FIRST MAP. IF THEY we would really be wrong if we that they could communicate and WERE CASTLES, THEY COULD AP-
 "With a little trick" Max said. had the crazy idea of giving her warn themselves that a danger was PEAR ON THE FIRST, ON THE SEC-
 a gift like that. " coming, sometimes it was soldiers OND OR ON ANY MAP! (THIS IS ONLY from the king that were going to AN EXAMPLE). I CAN'T SAY ANY-
 (This is true at least for the 530 Bourges which appears im- (V H) take the boys to the war, which THING MORE! FRIENDSHIPS - MAX
 mediately as the nose on the figure and the eye of the Gal- they did not like very much as they were revolutionary wars."
 lic rooster in the center 3 . . . 9. Bois des Vincennes, Paris
 of the map of France. Cocorico! the charade will 1 = 530 P s e u d o n y m :
 not have lasted half an hour: 3 = 470 - C a t h e d r a l F u n a m b u l e
 Opening means the place to start 5 = 600 -History of France A person who walks or performs on a
 the game (according to Max) first 7 = 420 -Pere Ubu rope stretched between two points
 age = baby, first half = 9 = 650 at some height above the ground; a
 baby, in phonetics, B is my Colour wavelengths / order of clues tightrope walker; a funambulist.
 First, My Second and Third THERE IS NONE MORE BLIND THAN 6. Max Valentin / Régis Hauseu
 seeking their way say...) THE ONE WHO DOES NOT WANT TO SEE
 (Y C) First sleepless night: Example: the year has 365
 April 23, 1993 Earth (Terre) days, so
 2014 (exact date?) This village, he knows it in-365 must be replaced with
 2. Nîmes, South of France We first met in Paris, at Les Sa- side out, he knows not only T, the initial for Earth (Terre),
 lons de l'Hôtel des Arts et all the people, but he also the year on Saturn is 10,752 days,
 January 2, 1994! ! ! Métiers. Later, he told us of the knows all non-marked trails. 10752 therefore should be replaced
 It's Sunday. Josette is already Musée des Arts et Métiers, which At the time, hunters, fish- with S, and thus initial Saturn
 in the kitchen, François has just he suggested we may like to visit ermen, farmers, and even right now...
 risen and he, a package in hand, with him at a later date. It's shepherds who came to the moun- To help us, visually repre-
 has come to celebrate a birthday: considered one of the oldest tech- tain pastures called him sending the solar system, and
 mine. Being born on January 2 is con- nical and industrial museums in by his first name: Régis. those who had already found the
 venient because everything is cel- the world and holds many ingen- He was rich in all this oth- order of riddles, the riddle 600
 ebrated simultaneously: Christmas ious inventions. Among its colle- er knowledge, those which above was referring to the
 New Year and then ..! I could tion is an original version of the made him an eternal child use of initial letters while
 also have called myself Basile Foucault pendulum (a device named of the country. It was his the title comes from the sky light
 to save an Alka Seltzer tablet. after French physicist Léon Fou- most prized possession, his orientated the view from the sun
 cault, conceived as an experiment pendulum, his source, his and the planets.
 to demonstrate the Earth's rota- center of gravity and his philosophy.
 tion), the original model of Lib-
 I always try to guess the con- erty Enlightening the World (the He had just seen the canary-yel- 10
 tents. The shape of the package Statue of Liberty) by Frédéric Au- low Fuego of the former shepherd
 is an indication just as valuable guste Bartholdi, some of the first who had retired to the ham- At Carignan take the orthogonal.
 as the hand that hands it to you or planes (Clément Ader's Avion III, let below and it was no sur- To find the Spiral with four cen-
 the happy face that accompanies it. Louis Blériot's Blériot XI...), prise that he heard her tres, 560,606 measures, it is far.
 Sometimes, a clearly expressed re- and Blaise Pascal's Pascaline call back to her dog, Dracu-
 gret of the style "it's difficult (the first mechanical calculator). la - the terror the wolf's. A spiral with four centers is a
 to find a gift idea for you..". It is The day is full of digressions. The former shepherd was geometric figure, and a particular
 true that since I quit smoking, whereby he finds opportunities to hardly surprised to see type of spiral, because there are
 tell us of stories he wishes to Régis at a time when most many others : Archimedean, loga-
 tell. One is of the oldest con- hikers descend. They greet- rithmic, Fermat, Galilean, hyper-
 Among the wrapped bun- tinal weather observation post ed each other from too bolic, Fibonacci, etc. In three
 dies, François's clear- in Paris, Parc Montsouris, which far away for the sound of dimensions, a spiral can be a heli-
 ly has the shape and weight has been in operation since 1872, the gear in his backpack to alert lix, or even give a solenoid or
 of a book. "I had trouble find- the park built in the Haussman the shepherd to the real purpose of a coil (in physicists). It is a
 ing it, it's blue but I'm rebuilding of Paris, constructed this evening getaway. decorative spiral. It is neither
 sure you'll appreciate it." on the site of a quarry. Anoth- (V H) a Fibonacci spiral nor an Archi-
 These words that accompa- er was a story of a meteorolo- medean spiral although it can be
 nised François' gesture, reas- gist who measured the weather by considered an approximation of
 sured me this time about the creating paintings or sketches 7. Phonebooth the latter. Here are some refer-
 pleasure I could have to of the day's conditions. He fre- ence documents unearthed by the
 read a children's story (be- quently mentions TinTin, Treasure Or ? So is my second O and chouetteurs: the spiral in an en-
 cause in my head, the slightly Island, and tales of adventure. U is my third . my Fourth cyclopedia (Source: PapyMax).
 square format and the thin- draws : air, phonet- The four quarters of the Ionic vo-
 ness of the book had orient- ic R is my fourth . My lute in Vitruvius: Ten Books of
 ed me well). Knowing more or 4. Cyan, Ceret, France Fifth is rage, but without Architecture , Book Three, page
 less the state of the son's fi- protest follows my Fourth : 102 (Source: PapyMax). Monglane's
 nances, it couldn't be a 1 = 530 rage in R and G follows the Ro- page presenting a spiral found by
 rare or old book... But I'm 42.4860° N, 2.7488° E man alpha A, then G is my fifth . Velo in the Petit Larousse of 1978.
 exaggerating, it's already good to My Sixth , the limits of (Source: WikiChouette)
 know that it was a book and I had not L o u t e : ETERNITY is hidden , so
 ventured until now to guess E is my sixth . My Seventh ,
 the color of a tie from the "It started as some- standing , spits his venom . S ll. Elisa
 characteristic shape of the thing else to think about..." is my seventh.
 p a c k a g e . "
 From here a direction
 Intrigued, I look at François From this there a distance 8. Cover, Paris
 again and the light that shines in 33 cm
 his eyes reassures me about What to do with this measure Summer in Paris when every-
 the correctness of his one has left the city. upéry. Elisa was in her camper-
 choice. "I went to four van, set up to stay the night.
 bookstores to find one, everyone 5 . QUESTION No 32 OF 1996-10-20
 is tearing it up" he tells me
 with the look that I know so well, "If you are driven by your im- TITLE: SENTINELS "I have seen, ok. But I have to
 which significantly increases agination you might be just a - - - - - prove. You see. Why do that. Why
 the value of the gift. dreamer that every night pro- To clarify my point, if the that place. Why? That holds the
 The tape eventually gave way. The duces different dreams. Some sentinels are the gates of many question. And I have to think
 book is very blue and immediately are very enigmatic but I'm not Paris, wouldn't you say not and prove that. And then I find.
 I only see the owl that adorns the sure they're very connected that they "appear" on the map Slowly, Slowly I find. Why he do
 cover and the very promising title. with the project or the author. on the pretext that Paris is that? Why on that place? Why that?
 A hunt or treasure. On target ! on the map? thank you. arthur Why that? Why that? Why that?
 François had hit the nail on the head! For me this is a little synonym - - - - - What is the way? Is it on other
 Josette, obviously, discovered of les chouans - the farmers who, THE GATES OF PARIS APPEAR ON SOME things? Yes, many place in France,
 the thing: "It will occupy you (during the French Revolution), MAPS, ARTHUR. AND IF THE SENTI- many. That may change all the
 for a while!" she had blurt- were imitating the sounds of the NELS WERE MOUNTAINS, THEY COULD France. He change all the France."

THE BLINDEST MAN

In 1993 an author buried a golden sculpture—the Chouette d’Or (Golden Owl)—and released a book with eleven allusive clues as to its whereabouts somewhere in France. Nearly 30 years later, many continue to search for the treasure which remains unfound. Over a period of three years, artist Emily Graham, photographed those pursuing the treasure in their potentially futile quest, whilst collecting research and ephemera. The resulting images, combined with documentation on the search—texts, correspondence and maps— form her new book *The Blindest Man*.

The clues as to the whereabouts of the Chouette d’Or comprise of text and paintings and have lead a large number of searchers across the landscape of France. The game was designed to last two or maybe three years and searching for the treasure became a common pastime in France. The author—who was originally anonymous—is now dead, and only the truly committed continue to search against a tide of rumour, misinformation and re-herrings clouding their investigations.

Scientists, doctors, retirees, and artists all continue with elaborate calculations and theories as to the location of the cache. Each have their own “zone” in which they scan the landscape, drawing conclusions from snapped branches, the contours of maps, and shadows crossing the land. Some are inspired to continue for challenge of code breaking, others for philosophical reflection, an adventure or a way of experiencing and seeing, a lens through which to look.

In *The Blindest Man*, Graham’s photographs reflect the mysterious clues of the hunt. Elusive and unexplained symbols occur throughout, such as a peacock on a hillside, markings on a wall, a spiral staircase leading into the sky—all left open to interpretation by the viewer. There is a sense of both implied narrative and pursuit with images of roads and paths which lead out of sight and a phone just off the hook. The motif of ‘unseeing’ recurs throughout—a man peering through a hole in the wall, a face obscured by dabbled sunlight and an eyeball in the palm of a hand. Graham’s photographs are presented alongside documentation around the search. Fictions and facts, combined with conjecture, collectively presenting the contradictions of a pursuit that has no answers and no end.



EMILY GRAHAM

Emily Graham (born 1983 in UK; lives and works in London) is an artist working primarily with colour photography. Her practice often deals with elusive subject matters; a search for the unknown, a psychological state, the act of communication and interpretation. She is interested in creating a loose, expressive form of documentation that leaves room for subjective interpretations, embracing the suggestive and metaphorical potential of photographs. She gained her BA (Hons) in Photography at the University of Brighton, and completed her MA in Photography at the University of West England with Distinction (2019).

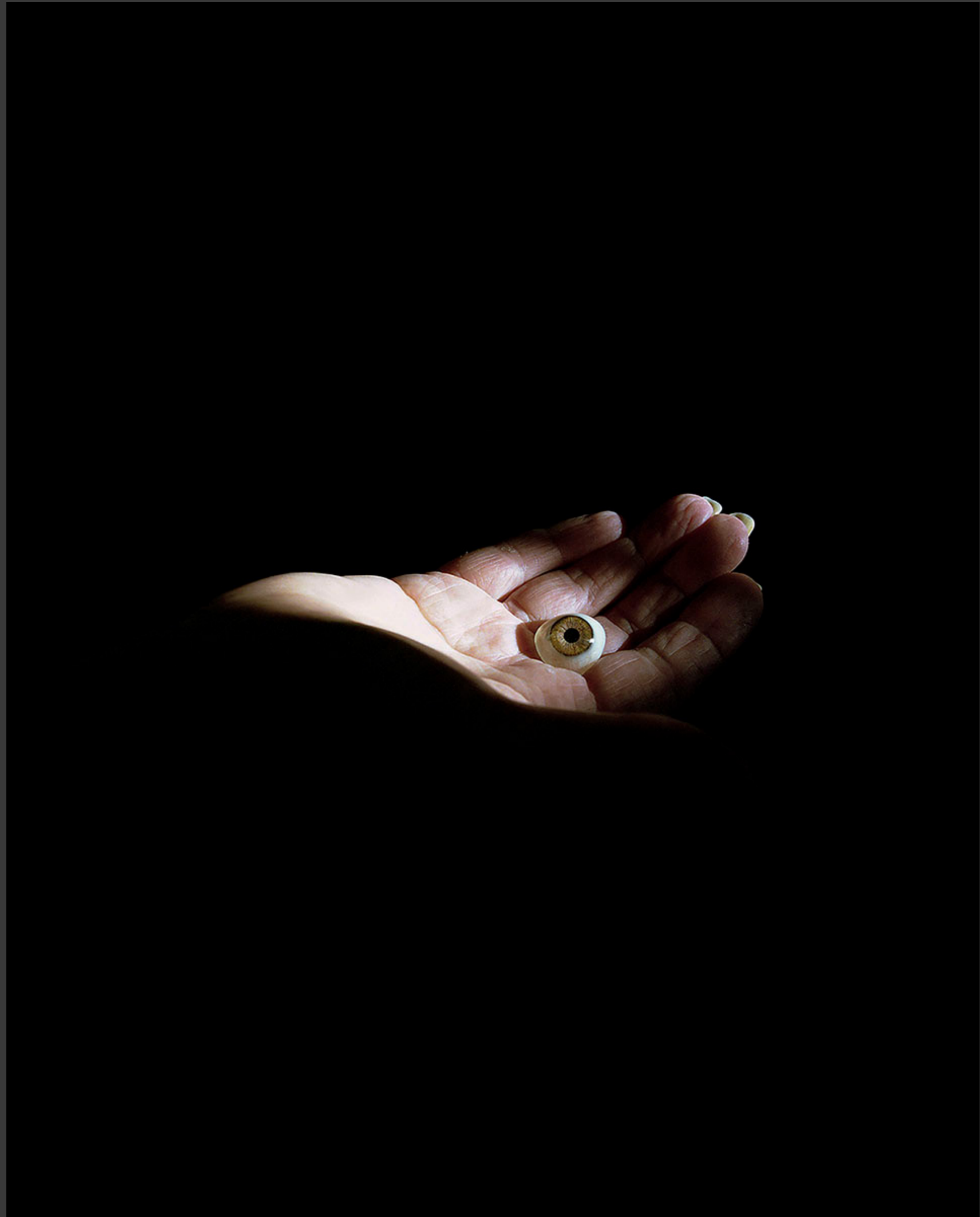
Her work has been recognised by various awards including: Magenta Foundation Flash Forward Award 2017, Genesis Imaging Postgraduate Award 2018, Brighton Photo Fringe Open Solo 18 (Shortlist), British Journal of Photography's International Photography Award 2019 (Third Overall), and most recently as Jury's Choice in the Prix Virginia 2020. She was selected for Futures Photography Platform 2021, recognising talent in contemporary photography across Europe. Her work has been exhibited nationally & internationally, including at Format Festival 2019 (UK), Pingyao International Photography Festival (China), at Houston Centre for Photography (USA), Landskrona Foto 2020 (Sweden), and Melkweg Expo (Netherlands), amongst others.



... AND SOME ... I TITLE ...
... KNOW WHAT THE ...
... THERE WILL ... ALSO ...
... START TO ...



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