

Riccardo Paratore
Joyeux Tropiques
December 16, 2016 - January 29, 2017
Opening reception
December 15th 7pm
Marbriers 4
Rue Jean-Antoine-Gautier 18
1201 Genève

Over the past six months Riccardo weekly spammed me with pictures of teens -- none appearing to be over the age of sixteen -- in candidly shot scenes around high schools, shopping malls, athletic fields, and boarding school cafeterias.

This exhibition includes a selection of palm-sized black & white prints lifted from Riccardo's voyeuristic personal portfolio. Presented in large passepartout frames, this particular series is the result of his recent creepy gonzo-anthropological investigation into one of the most prestigious boarding schools in the world, Institut Le Rosey, on Lake Geneva.

As a series of photographs -- three appropriated from Rosey student instagram accounts, three shot by Riccardo whilst investigating Rosey campus, and one scene restaged in a Frankfurt mansion -- their potential hashtags might include: boredom, crass covetousness, distinction and class critique, daddy issues, jealousy, cultural capital, pre-paedophilic reality check, addiction slavery, structural mobility, soft porn.

*The broken violins mounted below the photographs are an embellishment, symbols of educational discipline, and a reference to Arman and Armleder -- presumably the kind of artistic backdrop of these teens. The exhibition title, *Joyeux Tropiques*, is an inversion of *Tristes Tropiques*, the highly reflexive anthropological memoir by Claude Lévi-Strauss. A track by Jean Luc Ponty (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyzvKETI5b0&feature=youtu.be>) is playing on repeat behind a small door screwed to a much too large door frame, aiming to enhance the confused nostalgia.*

The appearance of a class firewall prohibited further observations.

Reece York