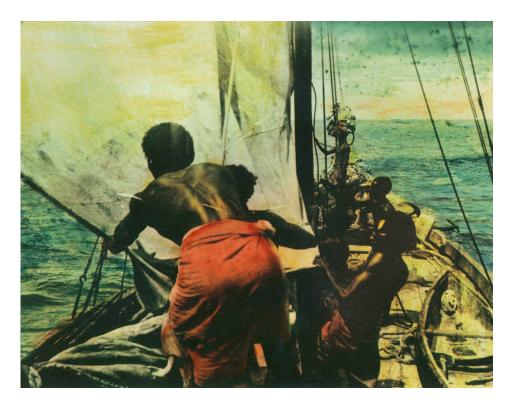
HENRY DE MONFREID

África

Michel Soskine is pleased to present the second exhibition of **Henry de Monfreid** (1879-1974).

Born in France, son of a bohemian painter, George-Daniel de Monfreid, he frequented artists such as Amaillol, Gauguin and Matisse.

Adventurer, writer and photographer, he was also a spy who published a large number of books, including "Secrets of the Red Sea", published in Spain by Bassarai.



Henry de Monfreid. Maneuvering aboard the Moustérieh, 1930

At the age of thirty, Henry went for the first time to **Africa** (Abyssinia, on the Red Sea), becoming "officially" a coffee trader and arriving in Ethiopia where, enraptured by the colonial life, he joined the natives and learned their language.

In practice, he smuggled weapons, hashish and pearls and was imprisoned several times.

Exhibited for the **second time in Spain**, the exhibition will include 25 black and white photos colored and printed in 1978 using the Fresson process.

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Amazed by all his discoveries, de Monfreid portrays a multitude of harsh and terrible scenes of executions, arms or slave trade. As well as pearl fishermen, natives, smugglers, landscapes, coasts or camps, street scenes in most of his reports: Ethiopia, Yemen, Red Sea, Djibouti...

All this is not only a portrait of pain in a very specific **historical moment** but a unique **journalistic document**.

His passion for photography in the 30s and with the arrival of the 24x36 format, becomes even more evident when he acquires a Leica, revolutionary for its manageability and quality of its lens and with which he will make most of his reports.

De Monfreid died at the age of 95, leaving a great legacy as a result of the use of his freedom.



Henry de Monfreid. Chancalla makes the milk come, 1930

HENRY DE MONFREID. Africa

From December 15, 2022 to February 11, 2023

Opening: Thursday, December 15

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