

Risking the Other Side of Worlds, Hearing the Light

In 2026, I was invited by the M28 association and SUN/SUN publishing to undertake a project at the USIP in Montpellier, a secure psychiatric unit. This residency was born out of a desire to cast a sensitive gaze upon these places of confinement and the people who inhabit them, while also opening up questions about what the psychiatry of the future might look like.

After a first week of observation in July 2026, during which I took numerous photographs, I led poetry workshops with patients in August.

It felt particularly powerful, symbolically, to bring poetry into this place of confinement. To read texts to the patients, to allow words to circulate, resonate, and sometimes evoke an emotion, a memory, or a thought. And then to invite them, in turn, to write. To put their pain into words.

These workshops gave rise to voices, fragments of thought, and sometimes deeply personal texts, offering another way of apprehending the world, moving through it, or writing it.

In the face of an institutional psychiatry that is becoming increasingly medicalised, particularly due to a lack of human and financial resources, and that is subject to ever more stringent security regulations—sometimes forcing caregivers to devote more time to screens, procedures, and paperwork than to human relationships—I feel that it is more necessary than ever to restore a human and sensitive connection.

A connection that could itself become a possibility for healing and repair.

This presentation offers a glimpse into the first stage of my residency at the USIP in Montpellier, within the secure psychiatric unit.

Through my photographic work, but also through the words written by the patients, I seek to cast a sensitive gaze upon these individuals and these spaces of confinement.

I linger on a hand caressing a praying mantis, on a gaze that seems to carry us towards the clouds, on hands intertwined with flowers. Gestures, presences, fragments of bodies or landscapes—as if words could become images, and images, in turn, could bring words to the surface.