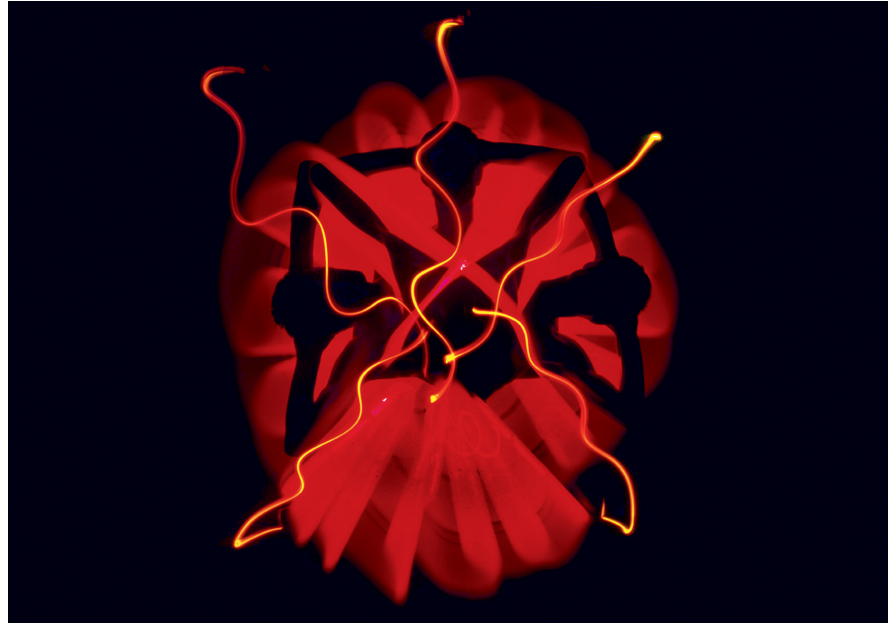


CHANETTE MANSO

CHANETTE MANSO

Used as logo on  
business card and  
promotional flyer.



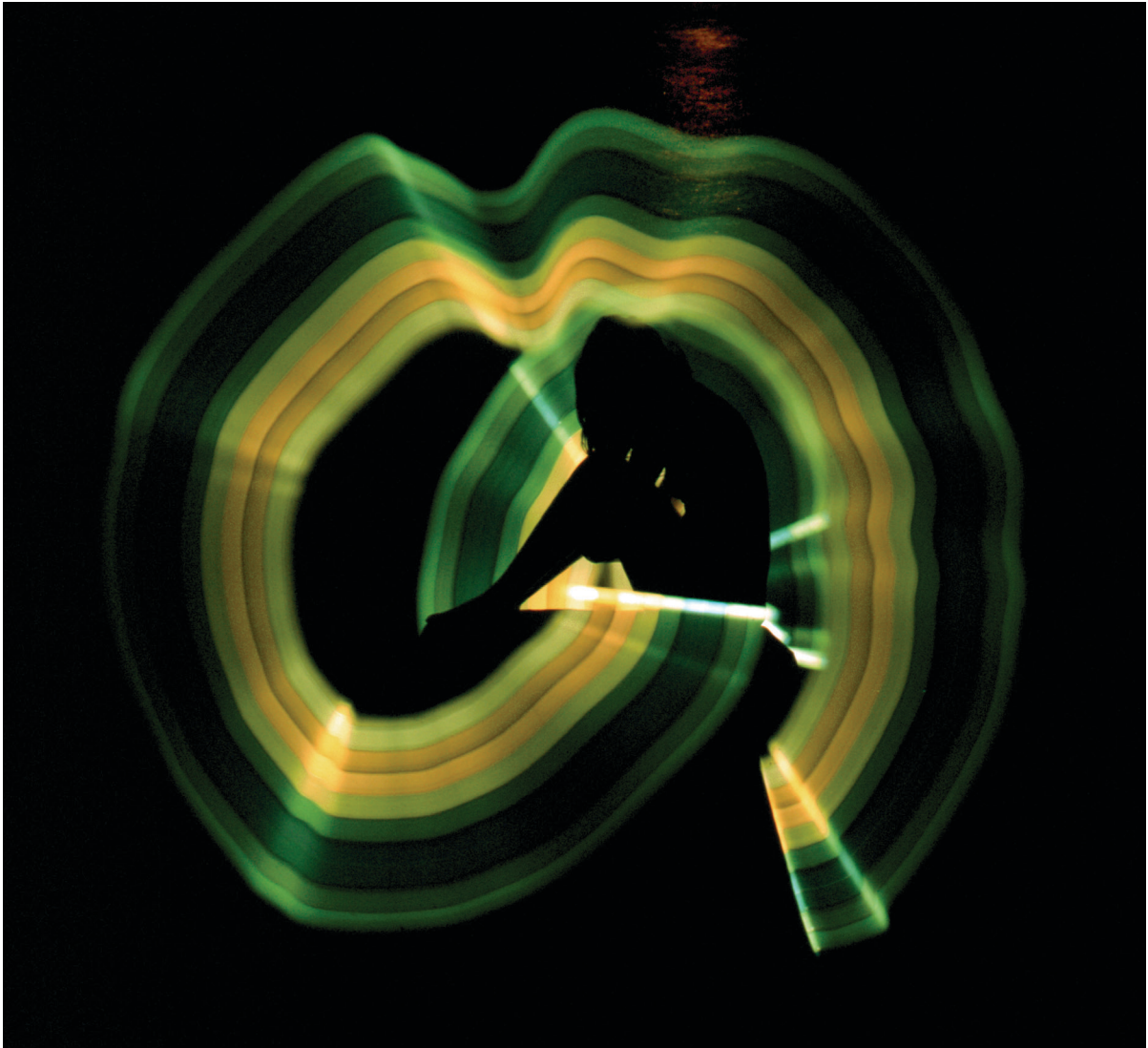
Let me briefly explain this technique before I elaborate on what I like to express with it. A model holds still in a dark place while I swirl sticks of light around in space. The camera's shutter remains open to allow the drawing with light to imprint an image. The viewer is immediately brought into the motion and may even retrace from beginning to end the strokes of my light wands. Light painting is a medium leading into a new art movement, in which I am an established member.

I use light painting as a means to my expression because of the magical aspect it has with time-lapse. Being able to see a long moment in one shot enables me to bring light to the unseen, like emotions and other abstract concepts that defy the essence of time and space. Where photography is used mostly for reproducing and documenting the concrete world, I confront its very nature.

Keep in mind that all these images were done with a professional film camera, enormous preparation, and years of skill building, bringing me to new techniques of light expression with each inspiration. You will recognize and can follow the evolution of my work through these four series, all made in the South of France. Previous work is documented in my San Francisco collection (*Matter of Light, Photographs by Chanette Manso, 2010.*). Even after years of passionate and diverse work, I remain satisfied and excited about my artistic drive to bring insight, newness, and pleasure to art lovers.

*Manso captures lights in motion to create time-less images.*





“Echo”

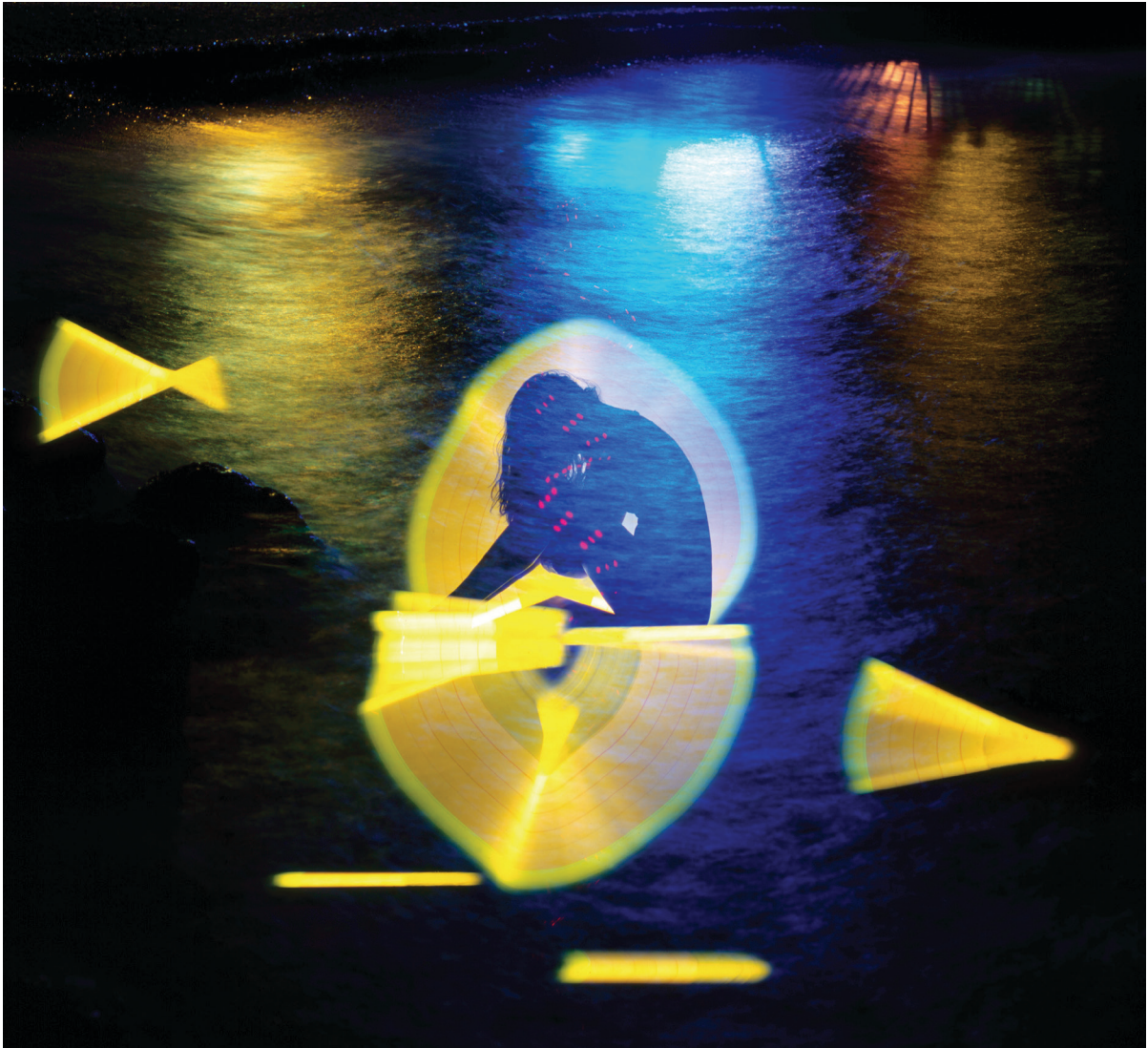
*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006

## Renaissance series

The Renaissance Series was shot outdoors, in the heat of the summer nights of 2006. Renaissance is rebirth. You might ask, why address reincarnation, when in one lifetime we can experience several renewals or a sort of starting over? In my symbolic language of light swirls, I re-imagine or re-image the process of an adult woman going through a mid-life transition.

Each image of the series was sketched out previously on paper, like a storyboard. Notice a female figure as streaks of light shape the symbolic stages of her rebirth from incubation to delivery. After taking a five-month painting course, I chose to work at clearly distinguishing the background from the main subject. What's unique about these images is the impression of a flat surface instead of a three dimensional one. The trick was how to get two images to become one using only my film camera and no computer.

Despite a broken arm that summer, expressions of light flowed from me like streaming water from a natural source.



“Embryo”

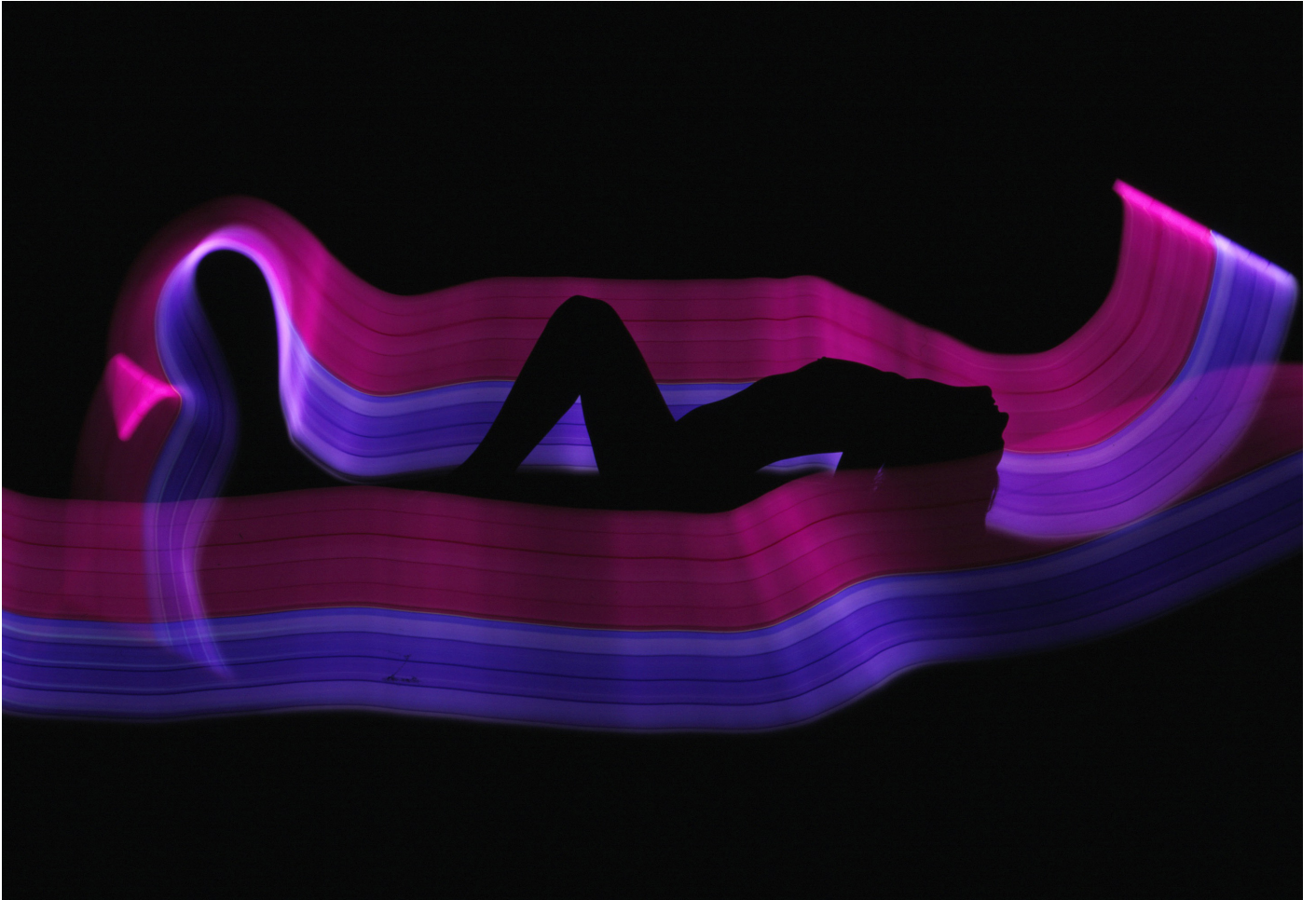
*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006





"Ocean Child"

*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006



“Delivery”

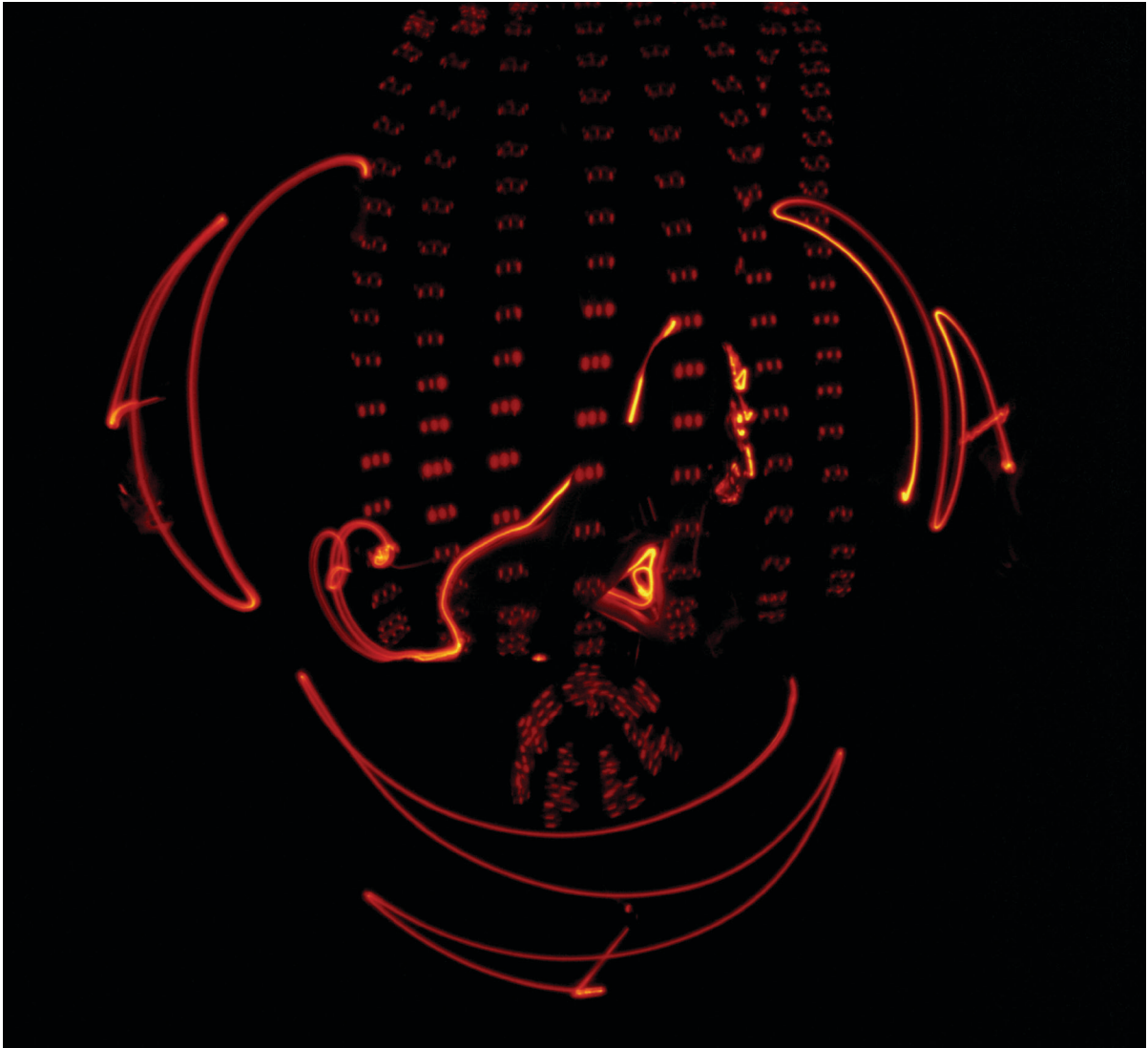
*Silver Print*  
60 x 30 cm - 2006





“Out”

*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006



“Incubation”

*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006

## Light house series

In the Lighthouse series, I wanted to photograph a popular icon as well as use the light it produces. The series is an astonishing example of how I selected to integrate a given environment, the Mediterranean seaside and its existing lights with my own light figures.

At night, boats light their way into the harbor reflecting the sea's ripples and waves as patterns in my composition. Planes flying toward the Nice airport leave trace lines in the sky. The dotted ones come from blinking lights, sometimes at the tail of the plane. My light figures give a floating effect in contrast to the well-anchored seascape. In some images, you can spot two persons fishing off the stone pier where the lighthouse stands. My abstract light representations of flowers and insects are a nod to the lighthouse as a beacon of male fertility.



“Dusk light”

*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006

While I was running around in a large parking area waving my light sticks to draw these figures I noticed from a balcony, neighbor kids waving flash lights towards me, like a lighthouse towards a ship at sea.



“Twilight”

*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006





“Red Zone”

*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006



“Water Lilies”

*Silver Print*  
40 x 30 cm - 2006

## Spirit of Dance series

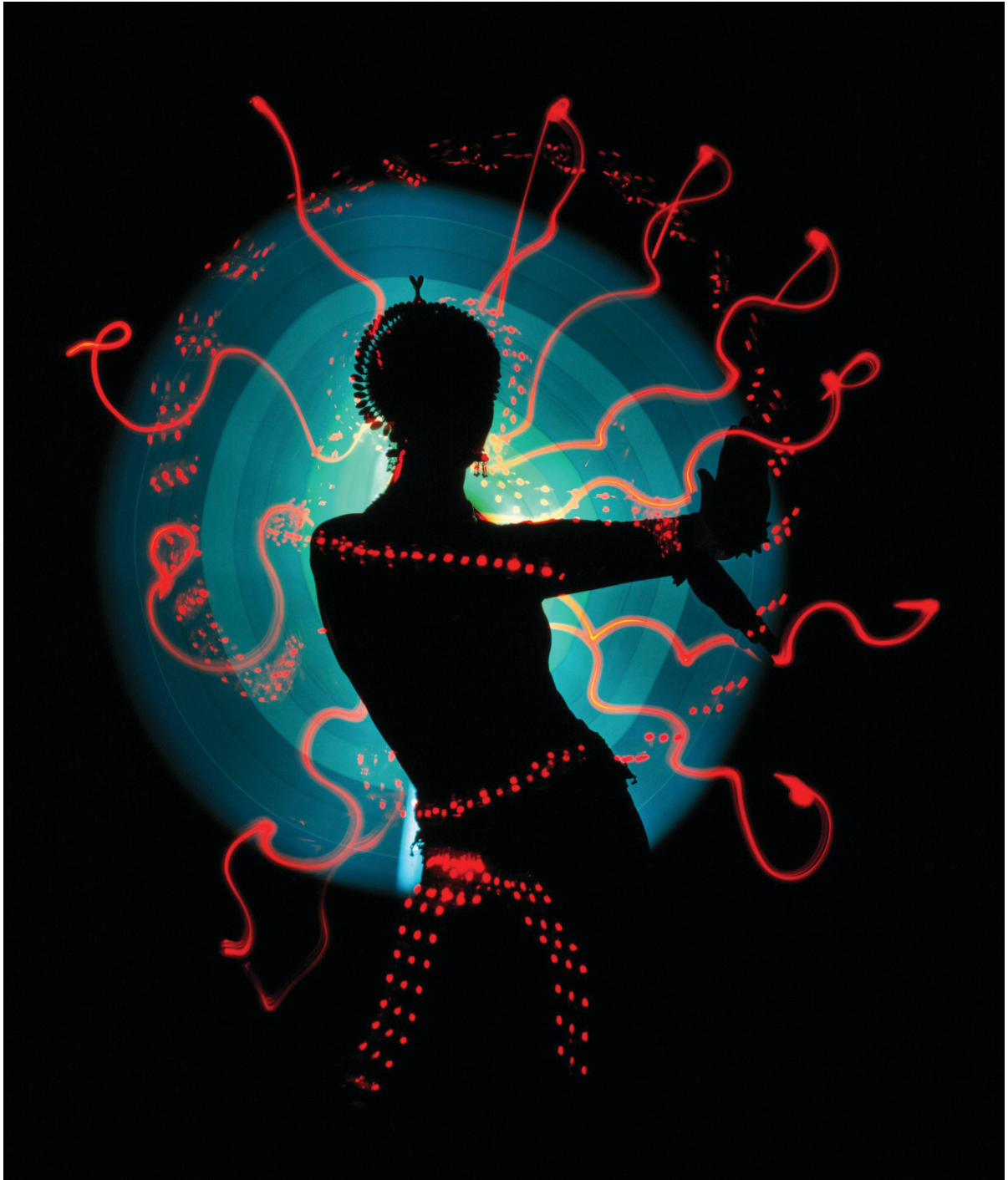
This short but captivating series focuses on the beauty of dance and the feminine spirit. I chose two ethnic dances that I find portray these aspects well. The first being from India and the second being from Egypt.

Indian icons being one of my reoccurring themes, I worked with a dancer living in Grasse, the South of France, who specializes in Indian dance. She held different poses of Shiva and Vishnu (Hindu gods) while I twirled lights into ribbons and mandalas behind her.

Having been passionate about belly dance since childhood, I wanted to capture the fluidity of this ancient middle eastern dance. Working with a Moroccan model helped to grasp symbolically a feel for the orient. The exotic slithering gestures of this popular art form are expressed here with undulating serpentine lights.

Repeated dance movements lead me to the next series and to push the dimensions of my artistic language.

During one of the dance series, a video was shot of me demonstrating my light painting, that can be viewed on [chanettemanso.com](http://chanettemanso.com).



“Shiva”

*Silver Print*  
30 x 40 cm - 2006





“Gripping”

*Silver Print mounted on dubond*  
90 x 60 cm - 2009



“Slipping”

*Silver Print mounted on dubond*  
90 x 60 cm - 2009





“Serpentin”

*Silver Print mounted on dubond*  
120 x 80 cm - 2009

## Inkblot series

The Inkblot series demonstrates how I magically combine human shapes with light movements to reveal a form of abstraction.

Lots of basic body movements shape symbols and thus are an important part of my visual vocabulary. Sometimes I stumble upon new symbols, the way I started double and multiple poses of the model in one shot. Tracing the light behind each position enabled me to create this series of faux symmetry that came to resemble the psychological tests by Rorschach.

In these photography shoots, the female model strikes two opposite positions, where parts of her body mesh together making an unexpected shape. The male model poses up to three times to illustrate the components of a movement. And so, these last few years have brought me to a new level in using light painting as the actual matter, transforming the human figure into mere elements of apparent empty space.

Say, it a mask? Are those wings? One viewer can ask another what they see in this picture to compare, to discuss, and to identify personal visions.

The Inkblots series being done on film, the results were always a fruitful surprise, like when unfolding the paper of actual inkblots.



“Fish”

*Silver Print mounted on dubond*  
60 x 60 cm - 2007



“Ink Blot 6”

*Silver Print mounted on dubond*  
60 x 60 cm - 2007



“Ink Blot 7”

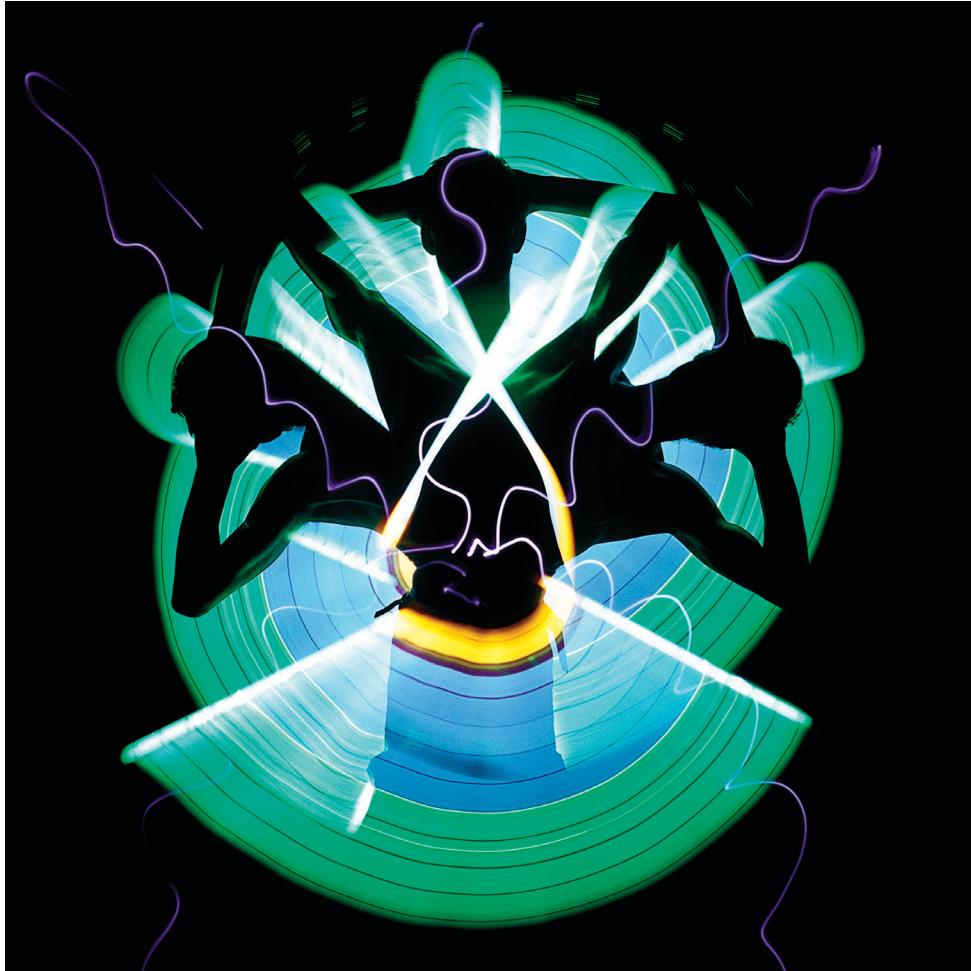
*Silver Print mounted on dubond*  
120 x 80 cm - 2007





“Ink Blot 4”

*Silver Print mounted on dubond*  
120 x 80 cm - 2007



“Ink Blot 2”

*Silver Print mounted on dubond*  
60 x 60 cm - 2007

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 Inkblots, La Rétine Argentique, Marseille
- 2011 Explose, La Mer Veilleuse, Marseille
- 2007 Renaissance, Vendredis de la Poissonnerie  
Grasse, South of France
- 2006 Renaissance, Atelier André R  
Mandelieu, South of France
- 1992 Photofolie I, Espace du Pont Louis Philippe,  
Paris. Sponsors : French Ministry of Culture,  
French National Center of Photography,  
Kodak, TV 2, Association of International  
Photography (API)

## Festivals

- 2010 Nuits du Sud, Art Competition  
Vence, South of France
- 2004 Boom Festival, Portugal
- 1999 Burning Man Festival, Nevada

## Group Exhibitions

- 2010 Galerie Art C2, Vence, South of France
- 2009 Palais des Congrès , Grasse, South of France
- 2004 Gallery NB Viborg, Gallery NB Roskilde  
Denmark, Personne dans la montagne
- 1999 Burning Man Permanent Collection, Nevada
- 1997 Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Museum,  
San Francisco, Low-rider Art
- 1995 Bay Guardian Exhibit and Auction,  
San Francisco, Moon over Bay Bridge
- 1993 Palais de Tokyo Museum, Paris, Photofolie II  
Sponsors : French Ministry of Culture,  
French National Center of Photography,  
Kodak, TV 2, Association of International  
Photography



*Manso in South of France Studio  
2010*

