



The Eye doesn't do it all !

Nicolas Claris has spent so much time next to photographers he was hiring, to document the brochures he was designing, that, sometimes, I felt his eyes made the sound of a camera trigger!

As a perfectionist, he started by working on finding the best points of views, then he worked on using the photographers at the best time of the day, then he worked on the lighting of the interiors he asked them to photograph. Later, he methodically learned how to post work on the photos, how to qualify them, how to use the computer to digitally optimise the pictures he had to work with.

And digital pictures arise.

And an evidence, too.

Facing the lack of enthusiasm of most professional photographers for the digital cameras, Nicolas Claris made the first step: he purchased debts and a new occupation. He thatched on the Web, he questioned manufacturers, sellers, users, he studied the technical instructions, read and read again the warnings, he took the time to fit out himself in details. Then he went out to take a few pictures. And as if a third eye was born on his face, he was a Photographer. Without groping, without pretension, without hesitation, without fear, without vanity, without a doubt, he was a Photographer. With talent, with knowledge, with

pleasure, with creativity, with seriousness, with jubilation too, he was a Photographer.

Perfectionists amaze me or get on my nerves. With Nicolas Claris, I found out one could eventually like them!

On his pictures, one can read a true concentration toward the subject, a real will to embellish it, an unquestionable envy to approach it. The sharpness, the brightness, the balance, all show an immense love. In the originality, in the unexpected, in the points of views, lie a raising pleasure. But the work never shows; that is all the force of his photos, that are never violent, always alive, where from emanates the serenity of those artists who know.

Yet, I know that he works more every day to improve his production.

Yet, I have seen him trim a small imperfection that him only could see, on such an enlarged part of a picture that I could not tell what it represented.

Yet, I can feel that every report is better than the one before.

Yet, he is a perfectionist.

But an unpredictable perfectionist makes it all different!

Bruno Belmont  
CNB Lagoon Wauquiez  
Groupe Bénéteau



Nicolas Claris' view of yachting

If photography is an art, it is no less a craft, particularly if, like Nicolas Claris, we choose to focus our lens on the sea, the boats and more precisely on the yachting world.

For this youngster growing up in the Suquet neighborhood of Cannes amid fishermen and yachtsmen, his fascination for sailing guided him to becoming a professional skipper. This passion drove him to take command of the legendary schooner, Lelantina. But another early passion lead him to work as an assistant fashion photographer more than 30 years before. Sailing charters, deliveries across the Atlantic and racing have given Nicolas a professional perspective from behind the classic Nikomat that he used.

Player and witness to the fantastic evolution in yachting since the early '70's, Nicolas Claris, decided to create his own agency in 1993 in collaboration with his wife, Marine, whose talent for lay-out and paste-up helped open the doors to success. By doing so, this ocean photographer accepted the task of scanning thousands of photos taken by other photographers for the brochures and catalogues that he published. With humility, Nicolas knew how to present the work of others and later he undoubtedly benefited from this unique

opportunity. Extremely aware of technological progress, Nicolas and Marine took a long moment to decide to abandon using film and switch over to digital photography. That was in 2001, and ever since they have established themselves and the quality of their work.

Nicolas was one of the photographers confident in this new technology, which today has become an indispensable tool for his craft both as professional and as an artist. His most recent commission, with his Canon at 12 millions pixels, will certainly remain one of his best memories. It was the challenge between the CNB 104', "Only Now" with a pendulum keel and the Class J "Velsheda" during this years "Voiles de Saint Tropez".

With the exposition of 14 photos by Nicolas Claris at the Paris Boat Show, the Fédération des Industries Nautiques (FIN) give deserved homage to a remarkable photographer of our time who showcases shipyards and their suppliers.

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