

The Last Beta Mountains 2020.

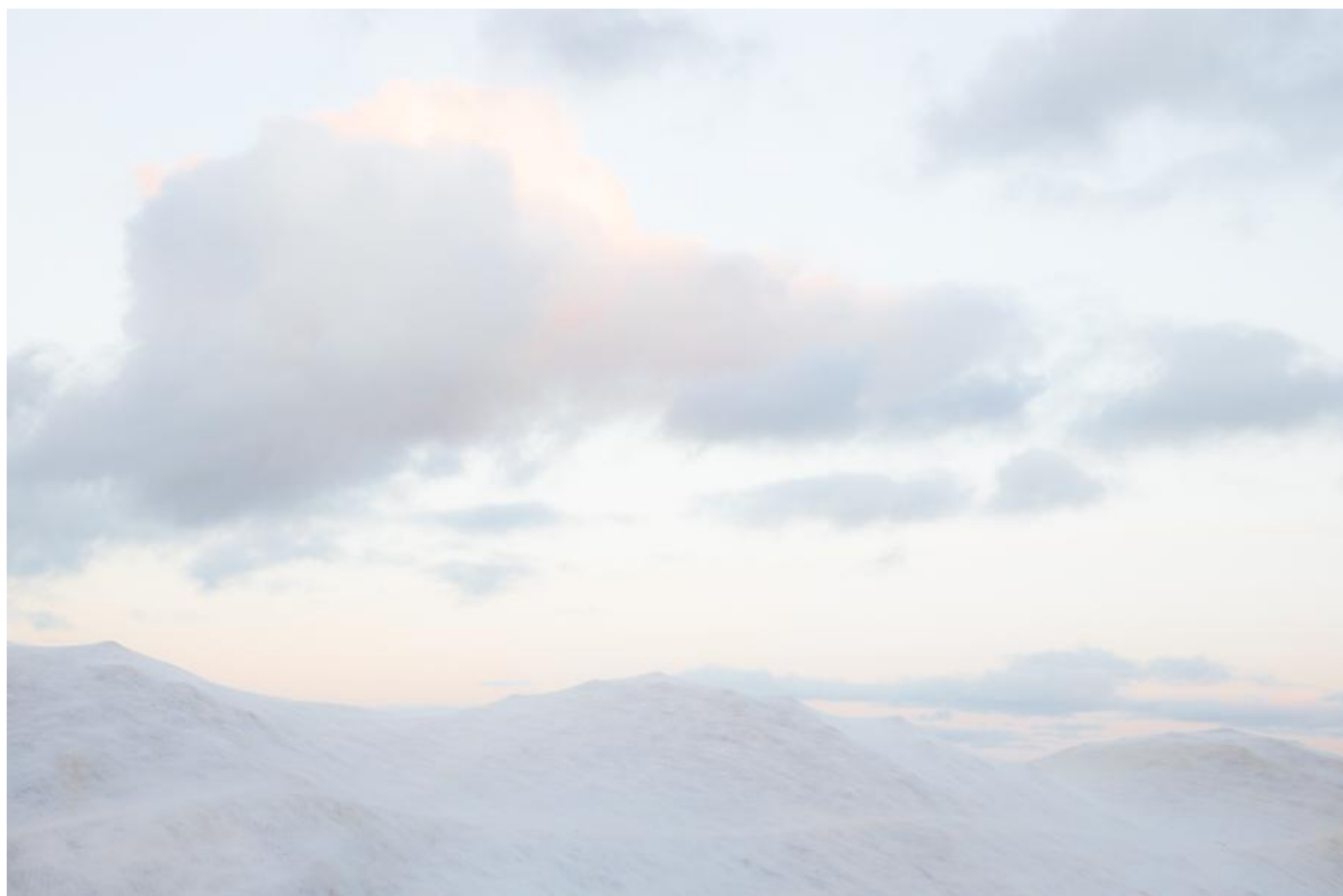
The Last Beta Mountains. These are not the Carpathians, nor the Appalachians, nor the Appennines or even the Pyrenees. The images of these mountain ranges were shot in Normandy, France. The journey is real, even if distances are short and altitude is low. In the Caen plain, sugar beets (*beta vulgaris*) are harvested each winter. Stored along country roads and lanes, they are covered up with white tarpaulins to protect them from frosts and bad weather; these ephemeral, nine feet high mountain ranges then wait for farmers to convey them to the Cagny refinery to be turned into sugar. Unfortunately, this is probably the last season that this will happen after the decision was made to shut down the factory in 2020, leading to a large number of redundancies and the likely disappearance of their industry for local beet farmers. End of the road.

Retrospectively, I discovered Yuji Hamada's remarkable series "Primal Mountain".

There too the perception of reality is disturbed by the representation that man makes of it, that of Hamada resulting from his own in(ter)vention, it is here the random and ephemeral result of the work of man and of earth.

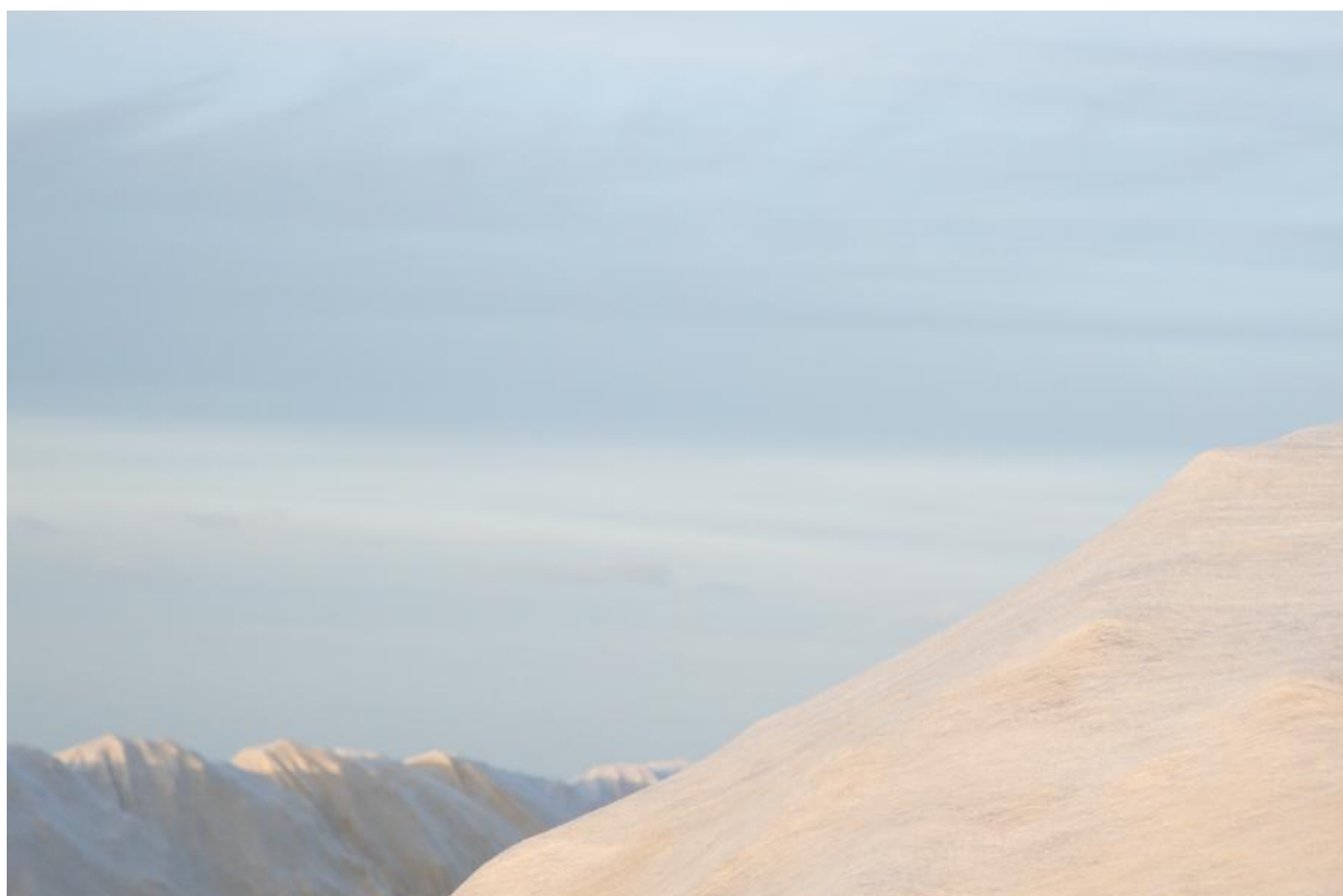
Premonitory, these photos also resonate as a social and economic alert of a coming shipwreck, in 2023 the closure of two other refineries was looming.

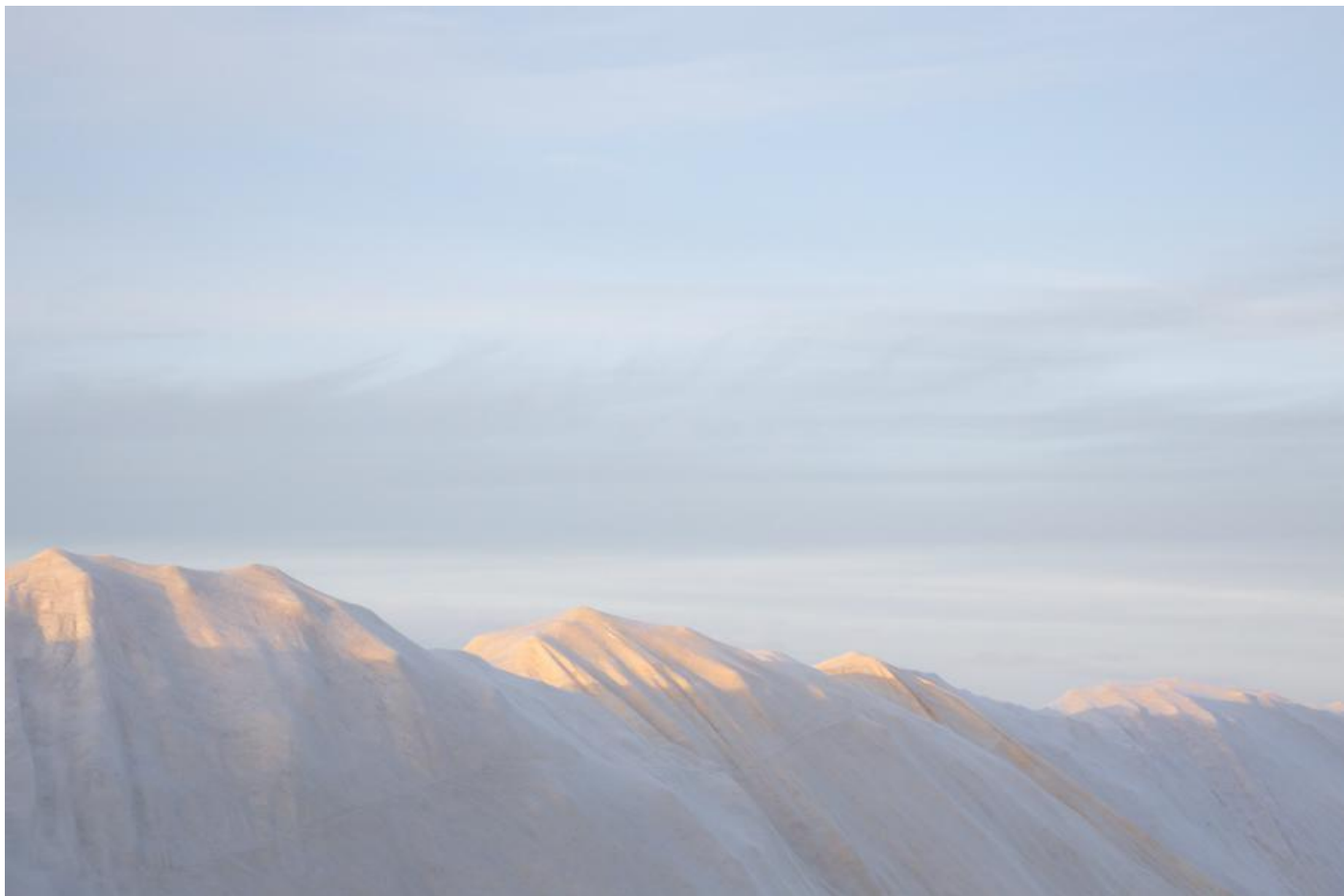












G rard Boisnel

Born in Le Havre (France) in 1957.

Stage photographer for Citizenjazz magazine, whose team I joined in 2012.

2022: Jazz World Photo 2022 finalist and traveling collective exhibition.

2021: Collective exhibition and publication, Coutances, "40 years of Jazz sous les pommiers ".

2019: 11th edition of the Med Photo Fest in Catania (Sicily): "300  in the shade" / Finalist of Jazz World Photo 2019 and traveling collective exhibition.

2018: Exhibition at the Lux Caen Cinema on the occasion of the Italian week: "300  in the shade" / Collective exhibition Festival PAN! :Jazz.

2017: Exhibition Festival PAN! : Jazz / Finalist Jazz World Photo 2017 and traveling collective exhibition.

2014: Jazz Journalists Association finalist for photo of the year 2014.

2012: Exhibition at the Nancy Biennale: "300  in the shade" / Collective exhibition Festival Photo Elements "The elements"

2007: Biennial Phodar Exhibition (Bulgaria): "Star views"