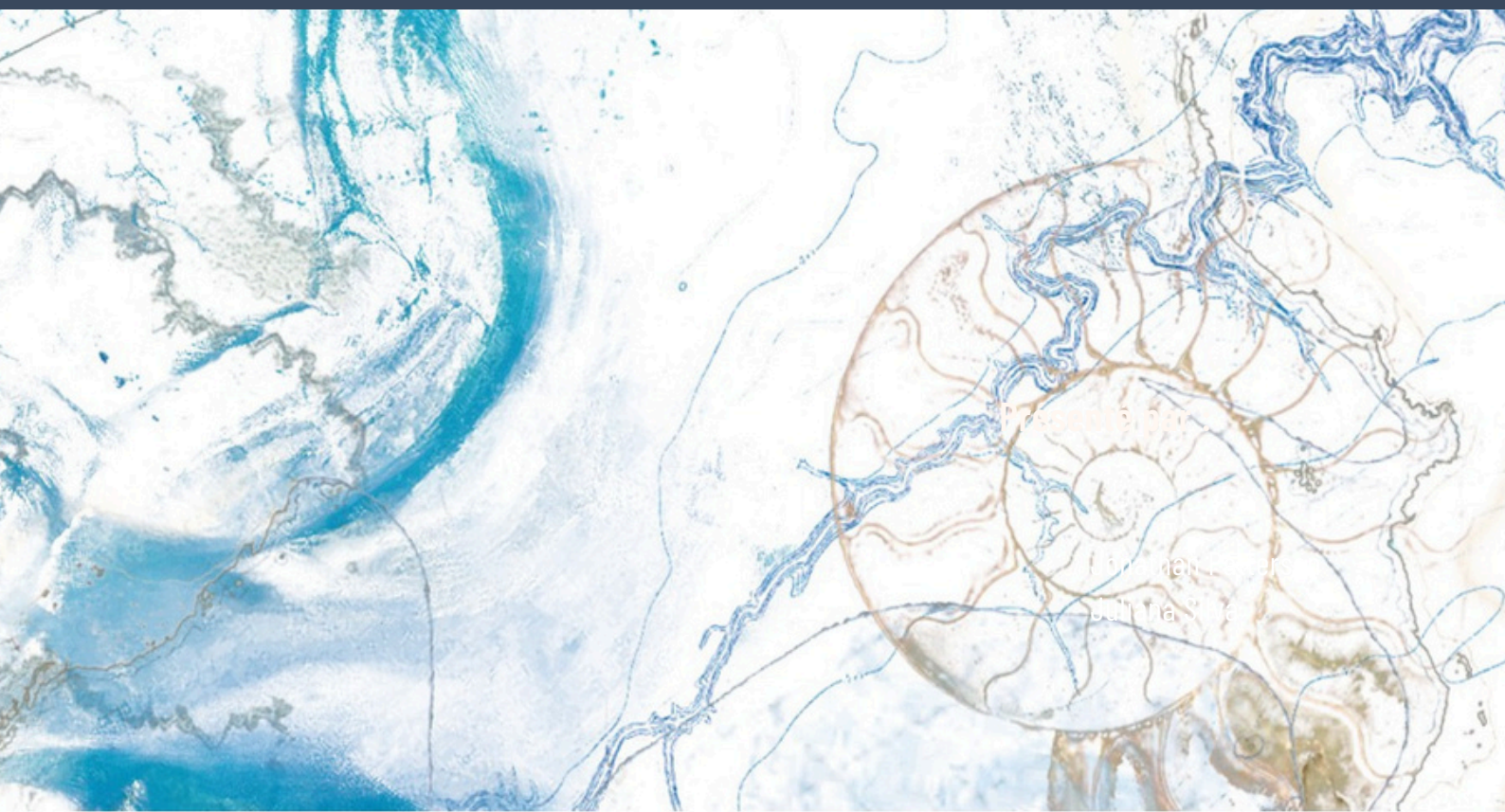




# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEOPOETICS

Newsletter - n°2  
July 2025



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**Newsletter n°2  
July 2025**



## Orkneys

Storm brewing

The world about to fall apart —

The cormorant's black cackle

## Orcades

L'orage va se lever

le monde voler en éclats —

noir caquet du cormoran



/Events/

- March 2025

On March 17, Marie-Claude White passed away in her 90<sup>th</sup> year in Louannec. An inseparable companion of Kenneth White, for whom she was the almost exclusive translator from 1978, she also left behind an important photographic body of work (see Régis Poulet's tribute).

**21 March:** a Tribute to Kenneth White was organised in Pau by Benoît Delplanque and Jean-Luc Chesneau at the bookshop *Danser sous la plume*. Biographical presentation of Kenneth White in the presence of people who knew him in the 70's and 80's and readings of texts.

- April to June 2025

Opening of the exhibition *Kenneth White – une œuvre océan*, with handwritten papers and books by Dominique Rousseau, drawings by Patrice Reytyer as well as the exhibition *The Open World of Kenneth White*. On 25/4, a conference by Régis Poulet entitled *Les Finisterres de Kenneth White* and a musical reading by Frédéric Faure & Christofer Bjurström took place at the Library La Pérouse, in Plouzané (Finistère).



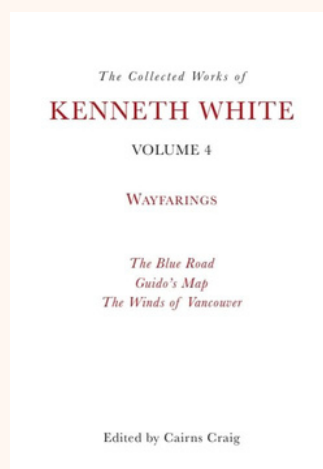
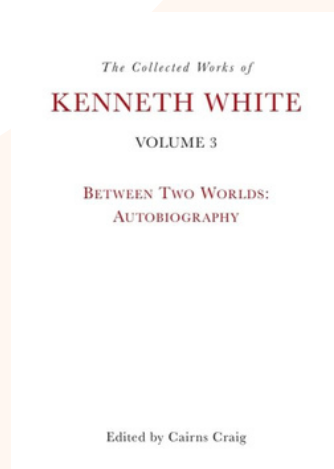
/Publications/

- **January 2025**

**Volumes 3 and 4 of Kenneth White's Collected Works** were published by Edinburgh University Press.

Volume 3 *Between Two Worlds : Autobiography*, 288 pages, Hardcover,  
ISBN : 9781399531351

Volume 4 *Wayfarings: The Blue Road; Guido's Map; The Winds of Vancouver*,  
Hardcover  
ISBN : 9781399531382



- **February 2025**

**New revamped website** of the [Atelier géopoétique du Rhône](#) – nicer, richer, more radical, with a [section](#) devoted to studies and reviews on Geopoetics and Kenneth White.





## /Announcements/



The Second *Rencontres géopoétiques Kenneth White* have been announced in the previous issue of our Newsletter, to take place on 27 and 28 September 2025 in Arc-et-Senans. This weekend of conferences, readings and concerts will conclude two weeks of exhibition of geopoetic works and books (from 13 to 28 September) at the Carré Claude-Nicolas gallery (opposite the Saline).

As a reminder, the first *Rencontres* took place in 2023 in Trébeurden, at Kenneth White's house, a few weeks before his death. Their theme was Wandering and Residence. You will find here the Reports of this event at <https://www.institut-geopoetique.org/.../287-actes-des...>

For this second edition, we will explore the Relationships between Landscape, Garden and Architecture. The speakers and guest artists have an international activity, even an international reputation, and you probably already know some of them.

Here is the presentation and the program:

Kenneth White a défini la géopoétique comme la théorie d'une tectonique de la Terre.

Son caractère transdisciplinaire fait même d'elle une architectonique, au sens où les fins des sciences, des arts, de la philosophie sont les moyens de la géopoétique, qui a pour but de fonder un monde où le rapport entre l'homme et la nature connaîtrait une harmonie nouvelle.

Lors de ces Secondes Rencontres Géopoétiques Kenneth White, nous interrogerons les relations de voisinage, d'affinité et de continuité poétiques entre le paysage, le jardin, l'architecture, en pratiquant le nomadisme intellectuel de l'Occident à l'Orient.

Cela passera par un questionnement sur ce qu'est habiter un lieu, une maison, le langage ; sur la pertinence ou même l'existence de limites entre nature et culture lorsque l'on suit avec la géopoétique les lignes du monde ; sur le rapport individuel et collectif à tout cela.

De la peinture de paysage au jardin de lettré, de la figure de la cabane au Moustier des fous (les oiseaux) de White, nous explorerons les voies d'une pensée qui est et qui n'est pas nouvelle, et qui cherche à répondre, au-delà de toutes les urgences qui nous saisissent, au défi d'habiter poétiquement la Terre.

Régis POULET  
Président de l'IIG

Plus d'infos :




**Tarifs :**  
De 10 à 15 €  
la journée  
De 15 à 25 €  
le week-end

**Contact :**  
[secretariat@institut-geopoetique.org](mailto:secretariat@institut-geopoetique.org)  
<https://www.institut-geopoetique.org/fr/147-rgkw>

L'Institut international de géopoétique présente


2<sup>des</sup>  
**RENCONTRES  
GÉOPOÉTIQUES  
KENNETH WHITE**



**Saline royale d'Arc-et-Senans - 27-28 septembre 2025**

*Paysage,  
jardin  
et architecture*

Une lecture  
géopoétique



Conférences - Lectures - Expositions - Concert



## /Announcements/

**SAMEDI 27 septembre**

10h00 : Accueil (café)  
 10h30 : Présentation des rencontres  
 par Régis POULET  
 10h45 : Arnaud VILLANI  
 « L'atopie du topos, ou le génie du lieu »  
 11h30 : Lecture  
 ...  
 12h00 : Pause méridienne  
 accès aux expositions  
 ...  
 14h00 : Jean-Paul LOUBES  
 « L'architecture comme expérience du lieu  
 et du monde »  
 14h45 : Lecture  
 15h15 : Pause  
 15h45 : Muriel DÉTRIE  
 « L'art des jardins chinois :  
 une voie vers la géopoétique ? »  
 16h30 : Lecture  
 17h00 : Pause  
 accès aux expositions  
 18h00 : Concert  
 de Véronique PIRON à la flûte shakuhachi

Lectures de textes de Kenneth WHITE  
 par Élisabeth POULET  
 et Frédéric FAURE

**DIMANCHE 28 septembre**

10h00 : Accueil (café)  
 10h30 : Régis POULET  
 « Le Grand paysage  
 de l'esprit de Kenneth White »  
 11h15 : Lecture  
 ...  
 12h00 : Pause méridienne  
 accès aux expositions  
 ...  
 14h00 : Gilles CLÉMENT  
 « Notre jardin - la planète -,  
 vu par les oiseaux »  
 14h45 : Lecture  
 15h15 : Régis POULET  
 « De l'Académie des goélands  
 au Moustier des fous »  
 16h00 : Lecture  
 16h30 : Table ronde & conclusion  
 Lectures de textes de Kenneth WHITE  
 par Élisabeth POULET  
 et Frédéric FAURE

• Yannick BARAZER  
 Cartographies insulaires  
 • Stéphane BIGEARD  
 Livres et documents rares de K. White  
 • Dominique ROUSSEAU  
 Livres d'artiste et papiers

**Mouvement / Itinérances géopoétiques**  
 Exposition du 13 au 28 septembre

Galerie du Carré Claude Nicolas - Arc-et-Senans (face à la Saline Royale)  
 Du mardi au dimanche de 11h à 18h



**/Announcements/**

- **Ticketing:**

Tickets are already on sale online, either per day or for the weekend, subject to availability, at normal and reduced rates.

Note that the entrance ticket to the Rencontres allows you not only to attend the six conferences, the six readings, the Saturday evening concert and the exhibitions, but also the premises and gardens of the Saline royale.



- **Call for donation :**

The organization of events is important for an association like ours, which aims to meet those who would like to discover or deepen their knowledge of geopoetics and the work of its founder, Kenneth White.

In order to welcome speakers and the public in the best conditions, in order to see if we can consider repeating this experience, we appeal to your generosity.

The items of expenditure are indicated in the form proposed by the [helloasso site](#).

Any help is precious.

With our thanks in advance and looking forward to meeting you in September.





**/Funeral Eulogy for Marie-Claude White/** delivered by Régis Poulet



All those who knew Marie-Claude will remember a woman who was both discreet and determined, with a sharp intelligence and a clear laugh.

To pay tribute to her today, I will use her own words. She had written a biographical presentation for one of her many photography exhibitions. She had even begun to write her autobiography, in which she wrote:

*"Why write your memoirs, tell your life? I would answer: for nothing specific, to see what comes out of it, perhaps also to try to regain one's life, to prevent it from escaping completely, at a time when the future is shrinking. The long perspective that can no longer unfold forward, exists only backwards. The past then takes the place of the future. Of course, there is still the present moment, which we can decide to live as intensely as possible. But the mind sometimes wanders..."*



*At this point, I have one big regret: not having kept a diary. I always had an excellent memory, and thought that was enough for me. Now, I am surprised and sorry to feel some old memories fade, sometimes completely erased. I have often wanted to write down the flashes of memories, the snippets of old experience, the attenuated echoes of sensations that sometimes come back to my memory, a bit as if it were another life, several other lives, and which enrich the present, give it depth."*

## /Funeral Eulogy for Marie-Claude White/ delivered by Régis Poulet



### Here is an account of her life

1935: Birth of Marie-Claude Charlut in Villette-sur-Aube, a small town in the Champagne region known as the *pouilleuse* (slum, full of nits): chalky, monotonous, flat land as far as the eye can see.

1935-39: Early childhood in a village school: her father was a teacher. Acquired a pleasurable taste for learning.

1940: War: pain and pleasure, contrasts and contradictions. Philippe Charlut died in battle and the whole family set off on an exodus to the Landes, Gascogne: beautiful summer in the middle of pine trees, games on the soft carpet of needles, the heat and the smell of resin.

*"I don't remember my early childhood well. And I never tried to find out more, never asked the slightest question. The little I know of them has been told to me at the whim of one or the other. My earliest memory, on the other hand, is extremely clear. I can see my mother sobbing on the sofa in the living room, me next to her, doing as she did. It was May 1940 and we had just learned of the death of my father, victim of a bomb on the Lorraine front. If I dig deeply, I think I remember his last leave of absence, a few weeks earlier. My father had given me a beautiful plastic bather figurine that could turn its eyes and close them. Not content with allowing myself to be delighted by this great present, I had shown the first signs of a nascent scientific curiosity: already I had to know the how and the why. Penetrating beyond appearances. And so, in order to know the mechanism, I had sunk in the eyes of my bather. True or false memory? Hard to say, because I've been reminded of it several times. Still, I like it, because I recognize myself in it completely. Every time I disassemble a device to see what is going on inside with, in general, the intention of repairing or improving it, I think of that bather. I know now that I might break everything, but I can't help it. In the same vein, I have experienced many times that "the best is the enemy of the good", but here again, I find it difficult to restrain what I consider to be a laudable movement towards knowledge and perfection."*



## /Funeral Eulogy for Marie-Claude White/delivered by Régis Poulet



1940-54: A few school years in the grandparents' village in Nivernais, then it was back to Champagne: high school, the studious life of a boarder in Troyes. Classical studies, combined with a great attraction for science and mathematics, and many readings in leisure hours. A good student, rebellious and independent, often solitary. Holidays are an opportunity to return to the countryside: walks through the woods, bike rides, exploring the country down to its smallest corners.

1954-57: Baccalaureate in philosophy, despite a very strong interest in natural sciences developed in the final year, and departure for Paris. Discovery of the city, music, arts. Trained as an executive secretary in order to be able to pursue studies in complete financial independence. Then she studied English at the Sorbonne with the intention of becoming a translator-interpreter. But, desire for writing, desire for poetry, desire for something else.

1957-58: In Glasgow, assistant in a high school. Met Kenneth White, the future author who was then beginning to write seriously: great affinities. Together, they hitchhiked along the coast and explored the country. Long conversations about literature, especially French and American.

1958-59: Assistant for another year in Glasgow, to be with Kenneth.

1959-63: In Paris. Continued her studies: bachelor's degree in English, graduate diploma, preparation for the agrégation exam. Married Kenneth. Trip to the Ardèche in search of a house, purchase of Gourgounel, an old solitary farm. Bought her first camera. Started by photographing a little bit of everything, but especially landscapes. Continued to deepen her knowledge of art. This discovery, decisive for the orientation of her thought and aesthetic training, of the Far Eastern culture.

1963-67: Return to Scotland. Walks in the countryside in winter. Photographing bare trees, winter atmospheres, but also branches silhouetted against the sky: a great attraction already for the drawings, traces, signs present in nature, Novalis' writing of the Earth.

## /Funeral Eulogy for Marie-Claude White/delivered by Régis Poulet



1967-82: In Pau, in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques department. Lived with Kenneth in an apartment facing the Pyrenees. From this privileged observatory, photographed the mountains in all seasons, but with a predilection for mornings when the mist wraps the landscape, creating an atmosphere of Chinese or Japanese painting. During walks in the forest or in the mountains, she continued to photograph trees and began to take an interest in lichens. In summer, on the Landes coast, photographed the shorelines, the ideograms formed by the algae... Travels in Scotland: landscapes, birds, lichens.

*"When we arrived, tired of the big industrial cities, we intended to move quickly to the countryside. And then, our balcony overlooking the Pyrenees (more precisely our successive balconies, larger each time we changed apartments within the same building), offered us such a spectacle, the chain from east to west as far as the eye could see, which, day after day, had amazed us and kept us there. Our first apartments were rather cramped, but the space was there, opposite. Twenty times a day we stopped to look at a light, a shadow, a sparkling peak emerging from the mist. The first snow was a rapture. And the sunsets! Fifteen years later, we were still there, still satisfied spectators."*

1978: Began translating Kenneth White's books. Soon to become his only translator. Her photographs are used for covers of Kenneth's books.

1982-83: Moved to the north coast of Brittany.

*"And then one fine day, everything changed. The need for more space, a house, a garden, a real place to live. And, with a light heart, we made plans. The countryside, yes, but where? After fifteen years of looking at the mountains (and walking too, of course), the sea attracted us. So, by the sea. For me, it would be new, for Kenneth, a return. Then we had to choose the region. Yes, of course, it would be Brittany. I didn't know that area, having spent at most one week in Saint-Malo. But the country had such an evocative power! I imagined its heather-covered moors, its rocky coasts, the smell of kelp..."*

*Things had gone faster than us. It was not the first time that we had built 'castles in Spain'. But this time, it was too easy. Kenneth, writing to a Breton friend, had asked him in a postscript, as one throws a bottle into the sea, to let him know if ever "he heard of a buccaneer's nest somewhere."*



## /Funeral Eulogy for Marie-Claude White/ delivered by Régis Poulet



*He didn't really believe it, but it sounded good. And a few weeks later the answer arrived: the obliging friend had made inquiries, had found two "possible" houses and invited us to come and see for ourselves. The following weekend, we took the train to Brittany. One of the two houses seemed to us worthy of consideration. I took the train back to Pau the next day while Kenneth stayed at the friend's house before going straight back to Paris, where he gave his lectures on Wednesdays. On Monday lunchtime, I phoned him: "So, what do you think of the house?" He replied that, no, it was not reasonable. It must be said that it was in a bad state and was going to require major renovation work. But on the train, on the way back, I had thought about it a lot, had seen how we could take advantage of it and had already started to build development projects. It seemed to me to be full of opportunities with its various buildings that would make as many separate housing units. We would be comfortable there, each in our own home. And then, finding myself in the rather heavy heat of the South-West and the dust of the city, I thought back to the walk we had taken the day before on the cliffs of Beg Leguer, to the bright and luminous freshness of that April morning and I was still dazzled by it. Then I told Kenneth that I had come to the opposite conclusion. He said "agreed" and the matter was settled."*

*From 1983, busy with many activities (teaching, translation and renovation of the old farmhouse), discouraged by the idea that her work was destined for the shelves (no time to think about making exhibitions), she turned away from photography.*

*After quitting teaching in 1989 with the intention of returning to photography, she walked the shore in search of unpublished images. Travels to various Caribbean islands. Discovery of the black sand beaches, amazed by the iconographic richness that unfolds before one's eyes.*

*During the 1990's, exhibitions of her photographs followed one another: in Brittany (Saint-Malo, Perros-Guirec), Paris, Aix-en-Provence, Bordeaux, Ajaccio, Saint-Valérie-en-Caux, and Le Lavandou. Nourished by the shores of Brittany and of the West Indies, where she travelled several times. Nourished also by the pictorial richness of the bark of birch trees, in Sweden and Norway, where the coasts stand out against the sky like engravings.*

## /Funeral Eulogy for Marie-Claude White/ delivered by Régis Poulet



Her passion for photography led to the publication of a book on photographic art in 1997.

2000's: Trip to Reunion Island, other small islands in the Indian Ocean, Spain and Portugal, Scandinavia and Alaska. In addition to exhibitions in France, international exhibitions in Spain and Scotland.

Her final exhibition was held near her home, in Trébeurden, during the Rencontres organized in July 2023 by the International Institute of Geopoetics, founded by Kenneth White, an association to which she will have contributed with all her energy, eye for details and organisation skills.

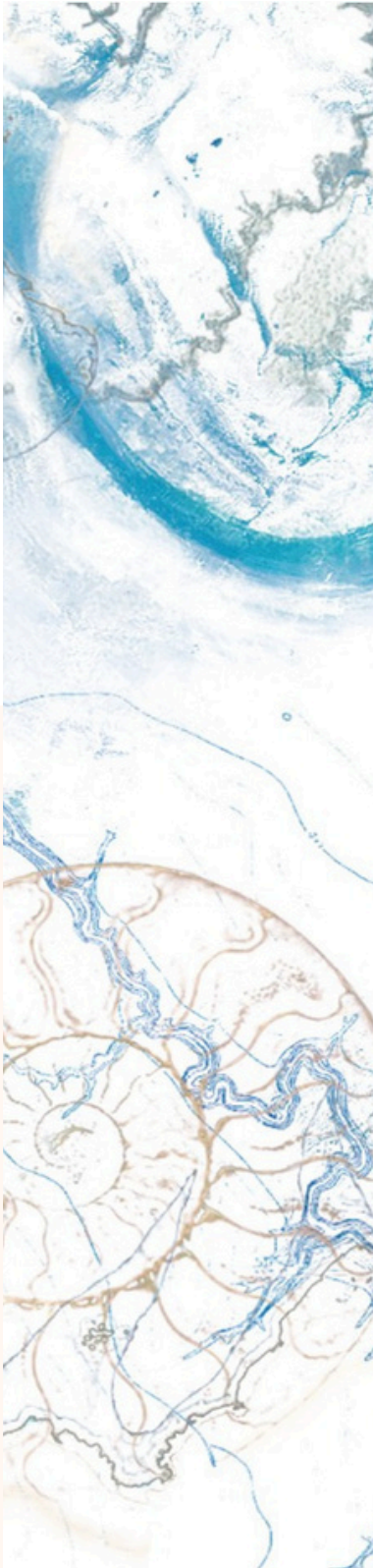
In addition to being a talented photographer, Marie-Claude was a recognized translator. As a pair, exclusive author and translator, Marie-Claude and Kenneth have carried this work together for forty years. Kenneth often celebrated translation work in general and Marie-Claude's in particular. It must be said that Kenneth's publications, and therefore translations, followed one another at a steady pace until the 2010's.

Translations and the last trips, like the one in 2018, that I was able to make with them, between Glasgow and Edinburgh to celebrate Kenneth's work, and therefore a little bit that of Marie-Claude's. A year later, we would all be locked up at home for months, and Marie-Claude a little more than others...

But this portrait would not be complete without evoking Marie-Claude's love for her garden, Gwenved's first and last vision. The application and perseverance she brought to the renovation of this "old farm" that they had bought struck all the visitors from the garden. The choice of species, sometimes brought back or in relation to their travels, the layout and maintenance of this garden with 300 species were another way for her to look for what she was searching in photography.



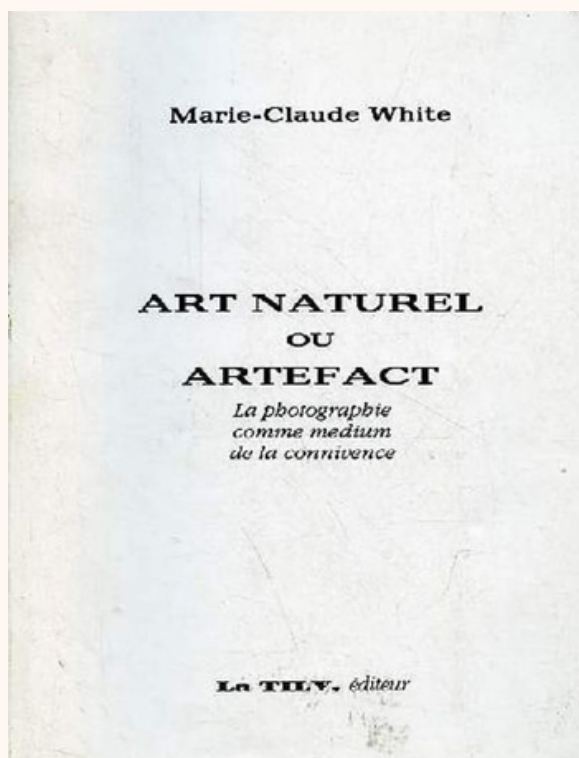
**/Funeral Eulogy for Marie-Claude White/** delivered by Régis Poulet



*"In an old text, The Triads of Brittany, we can read this: in the domain of Gwenved, we find the primal power, the primal love, the primal word."*



Septembre 1994. Marie-Claude et Kenneth White. (Photo, J. Saraben)

/Tribute/



**/Membership/Membership fee/**

- It is now possible to join the Institute directly online and securely by following this link
- Or by using the following QR code :

**/Contacts/**

- Find the Institute website
- Visit our Facebook Page
- Discover the new **Kenneth White site** : <https://kennethwhite.fr/>



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