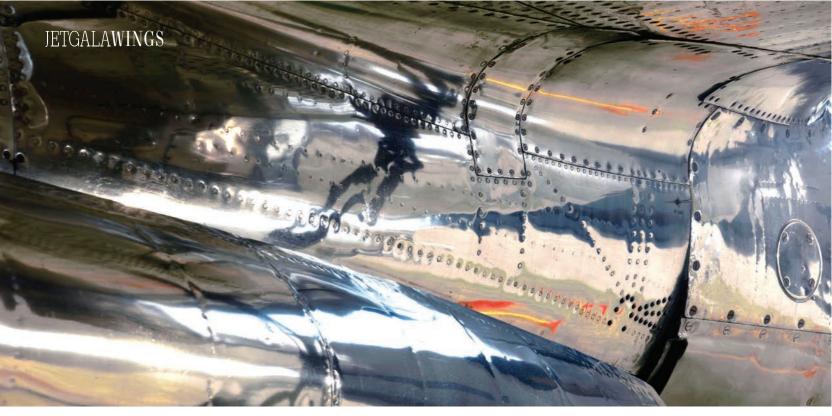
LIFE BEYOND FIRST CLASS



February – April 2014





MANOLO CHRÉTIEN

by Charmaine Tai

Lightning from the Juste-Ciel collection

Manolo Chrétien with an aircraft, photographed by Stephane Guilbaud

Sabre includes the production number of the aircraft on its fuselage



AVIATION HISTORY SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST



Vintage Concorde on an aerospatial aluminium template A Groupe Air France Concorde in the hangai translated onto brushed aluminium All images courtesy of Red Sea Gallery





BORN IN A FRENCH AIR FORCE BASE, photographic artist Manolo Chrétien grew up surrounded by the sight of shiny aluminium, the feel of a hot tarmac and the smell of kerosene. This background influences his unique artistic technique, which involves superimposing photographic prints on aluminium sheets recycled from vintage aircraft parts and engineer templates. As a result, his subjects — crashing waves, aviation history, and reflections of bustling cities — are as essential to the total image as the details of the metal canvases. Chrétien calls them "aluminations".

Aircraft are the stars of his Juste-Ciel and Nouveaux-Nez collections — one artwork creates the illusion of an Exocet missile mirrored on an aircraft's body. Screws and rivets line a photograph of a Lockheed *Constellation*'s

windows, with rust acting as a tell-tale sign of the machine's state. *Sabre*, showing a reflection of clear skies and a runway, even mimics production numbers on a fuselage.

Since his debut with a series of boat-themed photographs in 1998, Chrétien has exhibited in galleries across France, Germany, China and the United Kingdom. His most recent exhibition at the Redsea gallery in Singapore in November showcased more than 25 pieces from his various collections. It also included three images of the supersonic *Concorde*, each printed on aluminium sheets that were used in the original design templates for the manufacturing of the aircraft in the 1950s. Each sheet holds essential information about the *Concorde* — original drawings still faintly visible through Chrétien's prints.

HE SUPERIMPOSES PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS ON ALUMINIUM SHEETS RECYCLED FROM VINTAGE AIRCRAFT PARTS AND ENGINEER TEMPLATES