The story behind a photograph...

by Olivier MEYER

1988 in the rue Mouffetard (Paris) I took a photograph of Mouna Aguigui sticking his tongue out, like Albert Einstein (the famous photograph of Albert Einstein on his 72nd birthday taken by Arthur Sasse, reproduced on the front page of the newspaper Le Mouna Frères) and I gave Mouna a print of this photograph. Mouna was a sort of anarchoecolo-nonconformist who used to harangue crowds of students in the Latin Quarter; he was regularly standing for election in the 5th arrondissement of Paris, although never elected.





1988 the photo was published without my consent in a book called Aguigui Mouna written by Anne Gallois, I was not informed, my name was not mentioned and it had been cropped.





1989 the photograph was edited by Editions Marion Valentine as a postcard with the appropriate copyright; Mouna gave me his consent for the publication, specifying in a post scriptum that his real name was André Dupont, but not Dupont de Nemours ... He told me at the time that Albert Einstein had sent him the photograph by Arthur Sasse, and that Einstein had also agreed to be a member of his "Club des Aguiguistes".

1997 the book Aguigui Mouna was reissued, my photograph was used again but this time with my consent and my name.

Addenda

Aguigui Mouna « Gueule ou crève »

Additif: Crédit photographique:

Le document publié en page 11 du cahier photographique (page 135 du
recueil) est un cliché du photographe Olivier Meyer, spécialise dans les
scènes typiques de la vie parisienne.

Ce document « Aguigui tirant la langue à la façon du Dr Einstein et
présentant dans la rue son journal le Mouna Frères » a fait l'objet d'une
carte postale éditée en 1988.

2012 the same photograph appeared again in its original form in the book Paris , Nothing new (Editions Letzalem) together with 28 of my photographs of Paris.



2012 I discovered by chance on internet that a well-known street-art artist, Jef Aerosol, had used my photograph as a blueprint, to make a painting on canvas (he did not know I was the author of the photograph). I gave him a retroactive authorization to use my photograph, in return I was authorized to use the visual of his paintings ... and tell the story of this photograph, from street-photography to street-art ...