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Par un matin calme

Park Chan-wook

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- **Unprecedented Glimpse of a Master Filmmaker:** Marks the first time Park Chan-wook's photographic work is compiled in a monograph outside of South Korea, revealing the contemplative counterpart to the acclaimed director of *Oldboy* and *Decision to Leave*
- **Prestigious Artistic Synergy:** Developed in close collaboration with the Lee Ufan Arles exhibition space, aligning the book with major global contemporary photography events
- **Aesthetics of the Mundane:** Programmatically rejects typical postcard landscape clichés to focus on the irony, eccentricity, and unexpected beauty found within ordinary objects and suspended time
- **Exceptional Craftsmanship & Design:** Features an elegant flat-lay Swiss binding, full text in both English and French, a glossy tactile Braille screen-printed cover, and interior LED UV printing for an optimal visual and tactile experience.

Par un matin calme by Park Chan-wook is an extraordinary photographic collection by the acclaimed South Korean film director, published on the occasion of his first major European exhibition at Lee Ufan Arles. Internationally renowned for his complex cinematic thrillers defined by meticulous tension and a sharp vision of the human soul—including box office successes like *The Handmaiden* (2016) – $107M worldwide, *Decision to Leave* (2022) – $123.9M worldwide, and *No Other Choice* (2025) – $164.2M worldwide, as well as Cannes award-winners *Decision to Leave* (Best Director), *Oldboy* (Grand Prix, the second-highest honor after the Palme d'Or), and *Thirst* (Jury Prize)—here Park Chan-wook reveals his most contemplative and intimate side. For the artist, photography acts as a true antidote to film narrative—an absolute space of freedom where he can relinquish control and capture the pure randomness of the moment. The images portray fragments of daily life, natural elements, and seemingly mundane details capable of evoking a sense of deep harmony and inner peace tied to memory and his Korean identity. Through quiet frames devoid of human presence, the volume offers an up-close look at the visual process of one of the greatest masters of contemporary world cinema.

Text In English and French

One of the most startling cinematic talents to emerge in the New Korean Wave of the late 1990s, **Park Chan-wook** turned heads with his zeitgeist-defining dark revenge thriller *Oldboy* (2002). Searingly violent and shot with unabashed brio and cynicism, that film singlehandedly put South Korean movies on the global map. Park is one of the key touchstones in the rise of Korean culture over the past 25 years, alongside milestones like "Gangnam Style", *Parasite*, BLACKPINK, BTS, *Squid Game*, and *KPop Demon Hunters*. Along with his compatriot Bong Joon-ho (Parasite), Park has redefined the modern-day blockbuster. He is truly your favorite director's favorite director—Quentin Tarantino counts Park as one of his favorite filmmakers, and Spike Lee was such a fan of *Oldboy* that he made his own version in 2013. Hollywood A-listers such as Nicole Kidman, Florence Pugh, and Robert Downey Jr. have worked with Park and attested to his talents and singular vision. His next film will reportedly feature Matthew McConaughey, Austin Butler, and Pedro Pascal.

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