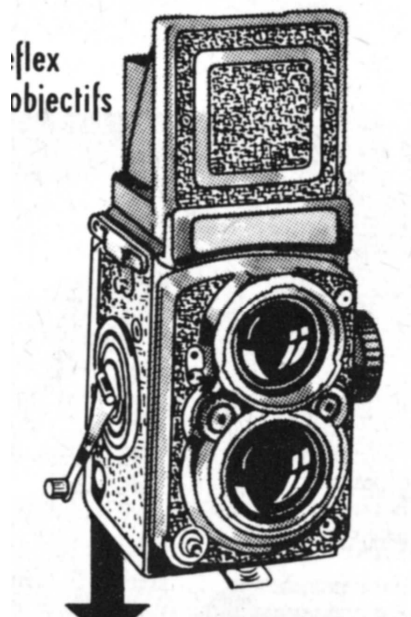


Fragmented Views Recomposed:
Photography after Cinema
Christian Lebrat

2. Corps—Autoportraits (Body—Self Portraits)

Alone in my studio, in complete darkness, I project lights onto my body and into the space. Held in my arms, the lights spread, brush, and draw around my body. Every image captures the tangle of several light effects as the lights superimpose themselves. The body is layered onto itself, brought forward, displaced. The body becomes the screen and restores itself to its own grain, to its own texture in the thickness of the lights. The light pierces the obscurity and cuts into the body. It exists representing the body as it is captured: filtered, manipulated, in pieces—the body trembling.

The *Autoportraits* consist of images of my body—self-portraits realized in a transformed studio, in a dark room. The images are created directly in camera, without any retouching or editing *a posteriori*. Certain images go back to chronophotography and to the decomposition of movement—the predecessor of cinema.

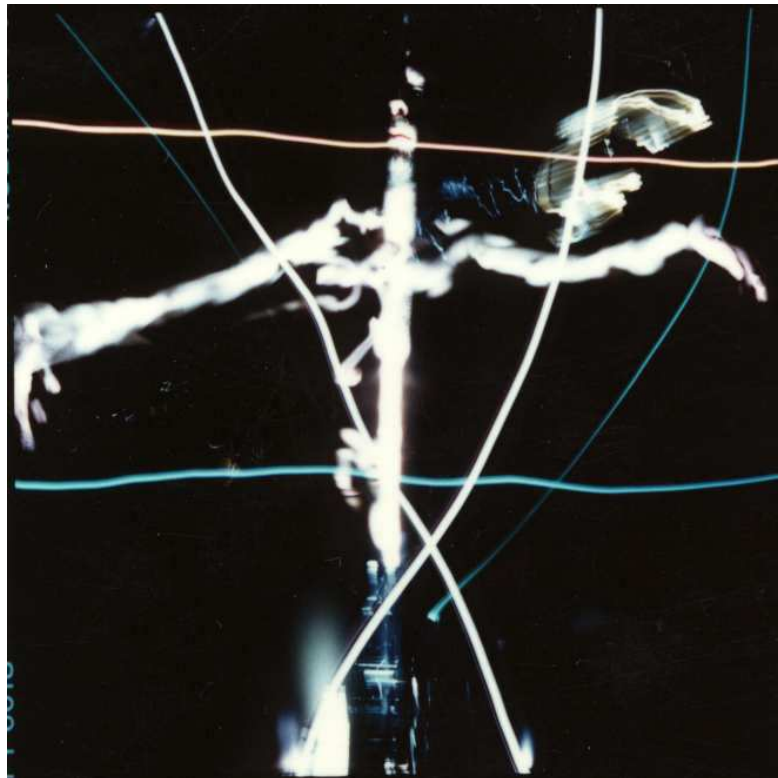


The self-portraits were created in 1986 with a 6x6 photo camera. A neighboring studio gave me the photo camera for free. This rudimentary camera, entirely manual, was very simple to use. Fitted with a simple non-reflex body, this little black box was the perfect equivalent, in a reduced model, of an entire studio painted totally in black. I never deliberately bought my photo cameras, nor my film cameras, and, most of the time, people who did not have any more use for their cameras gave them to me. The work I create pushes the potential of each type of camera forward.

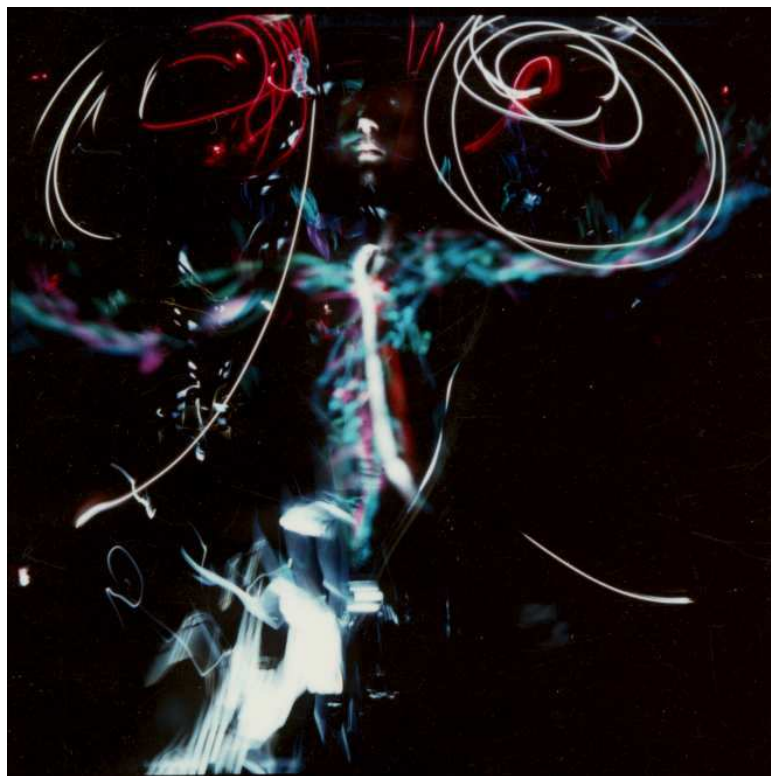
Four principal series composed the “Self-Portraits”: *Torses*, *Poses Noires*, *Triptyques Verticaux*, and *Myria*. Here are some examples:

TORSES

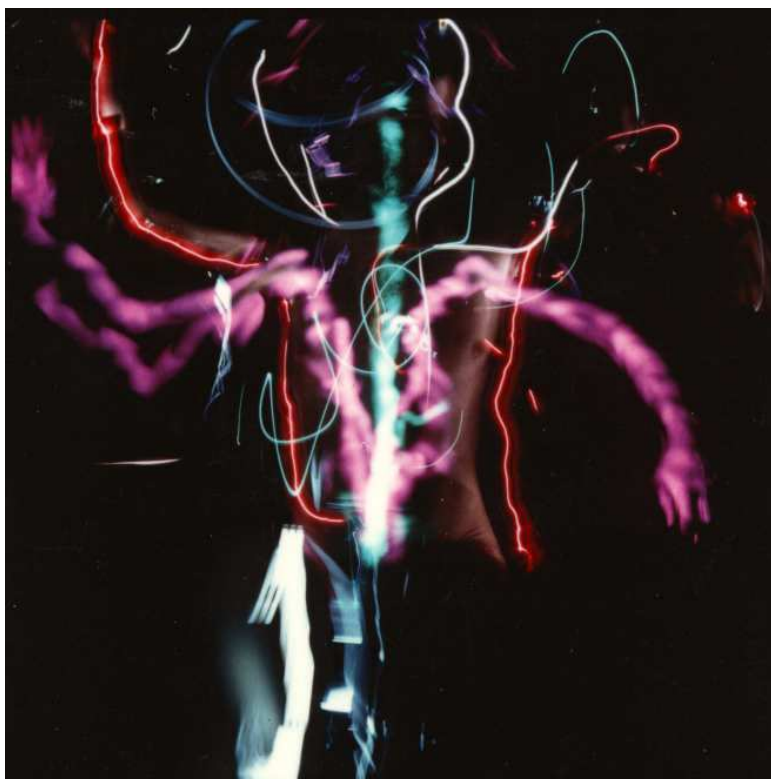
Size: 100 x 100 cm



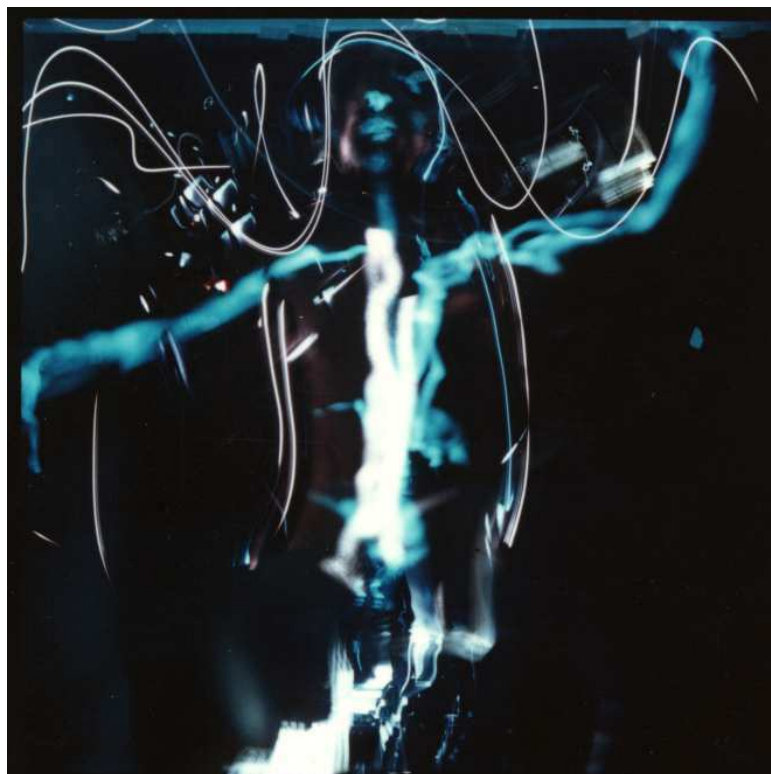
Torse n° 5 (3) – Géométrie 1



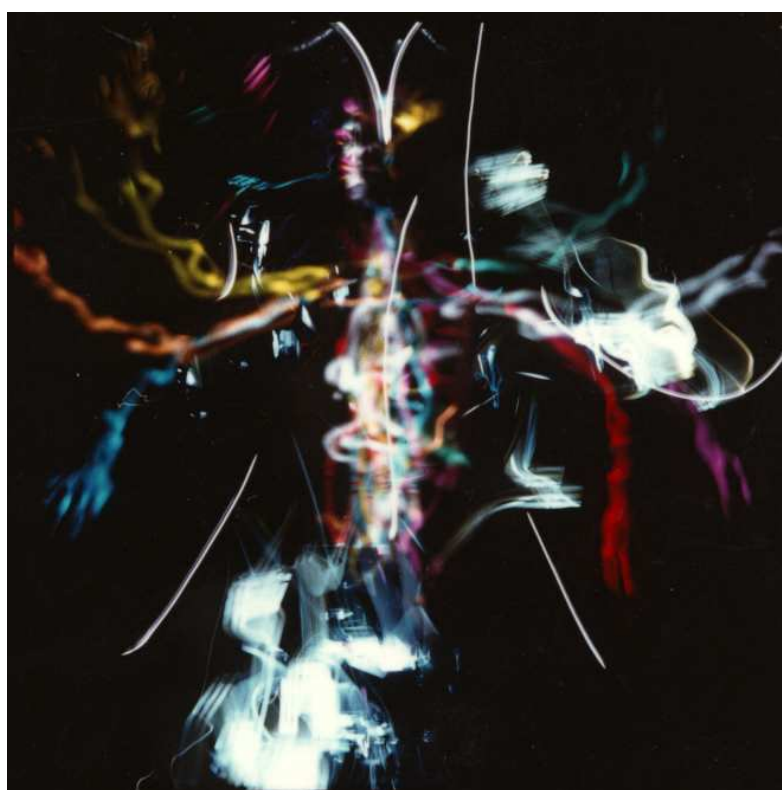
Torse n° 5 (12)



Torse n° 5 (8)



Torse n° 5 (9) – Lumière Bleue



Torse n° 5 (1) – Aborigène

POSES NOIRES

Size: 100 x 70 cm



Pose Noire n° 6 (15)



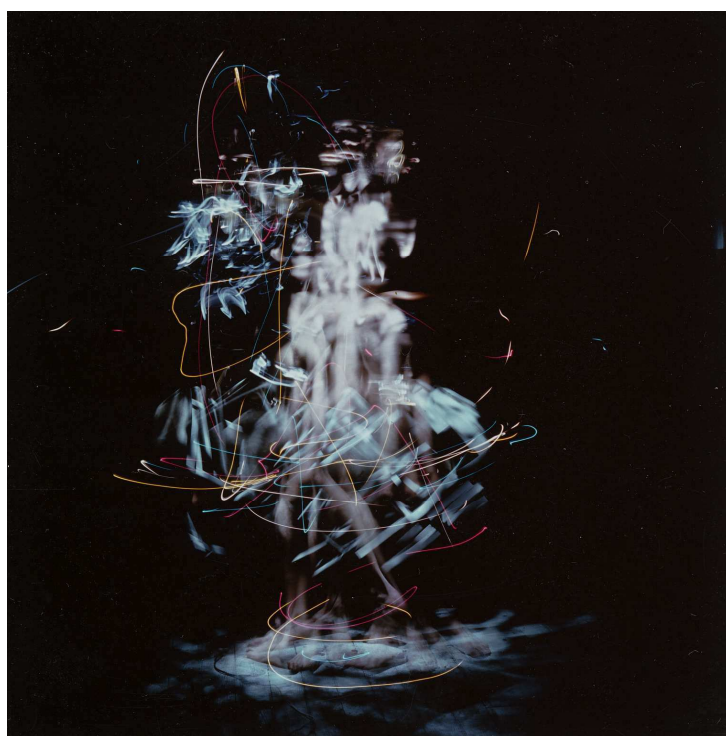
Pose Noire n° 6 (14)



Pose Noire n° 5 (12)



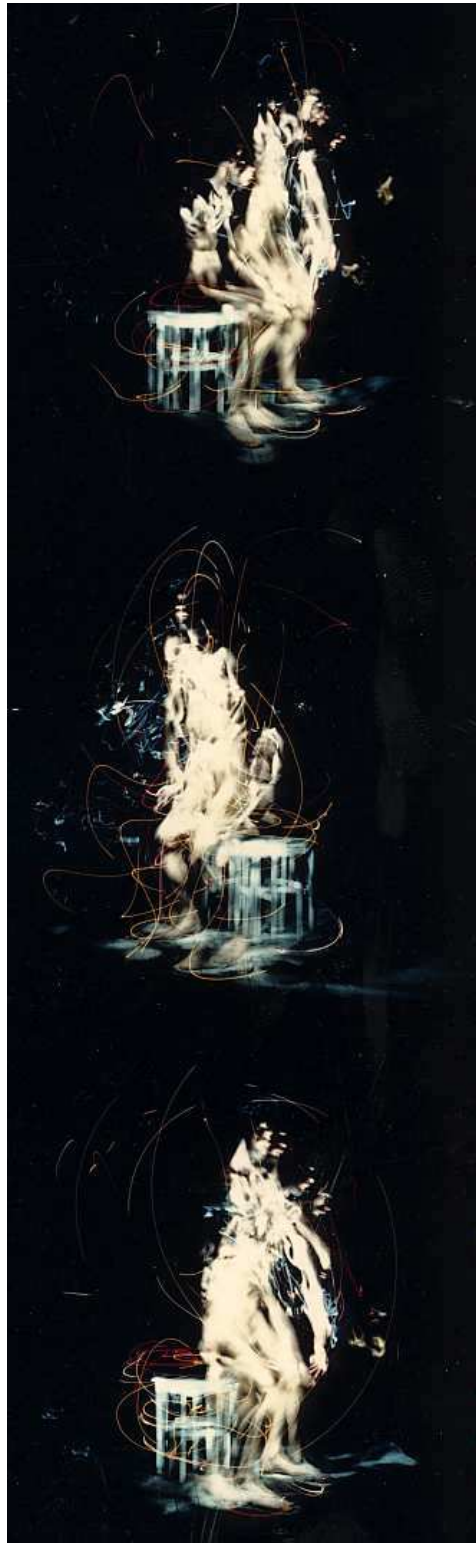
L'homme au tabouret blanc (pour Etienne-Jules Marey)
Size: 75 x 75 cm



L'homme au tabouret blanc (pour Man Ray)
Size: 65 x 75 cm

TRIPTYQUES VERTICAUX

Size: 200 x 60 cm



L'homme qui se lève



L'homme assis



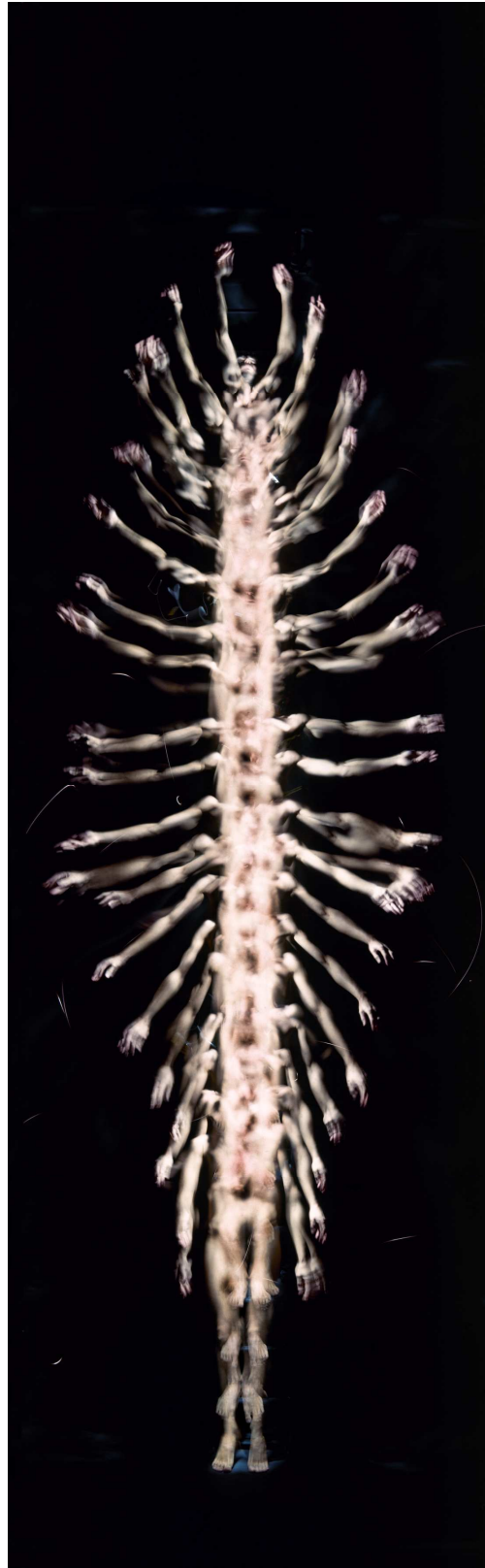
L'homme en rotation

MYRIA

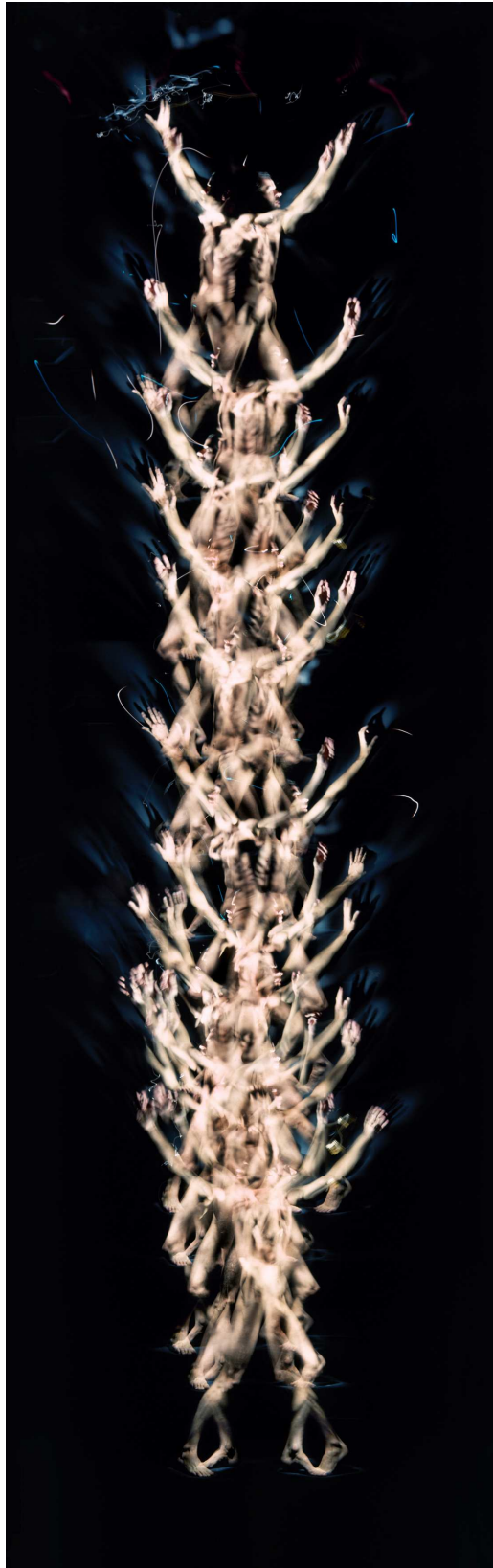
Size: 250 x 50 cm

The series, *Myria*, is the ultimate typology of a deteriorating body. The body transmutes, its expansion becomes unperceivable. Biological transformation, man-insect, millipede—Kafkaesque? Transplanted arms, hands, heads. The body escapes knowing how to control the space between monster and mythology (Upanishad). Of what disorder, of what dysfunctionality are the issues of these images? What sorcerer's apprentice, what pyrotechnician, is the origin of these images? A sort of deafening beauty, inconceivable and repulsive emanates from these images that are questioning the human future.

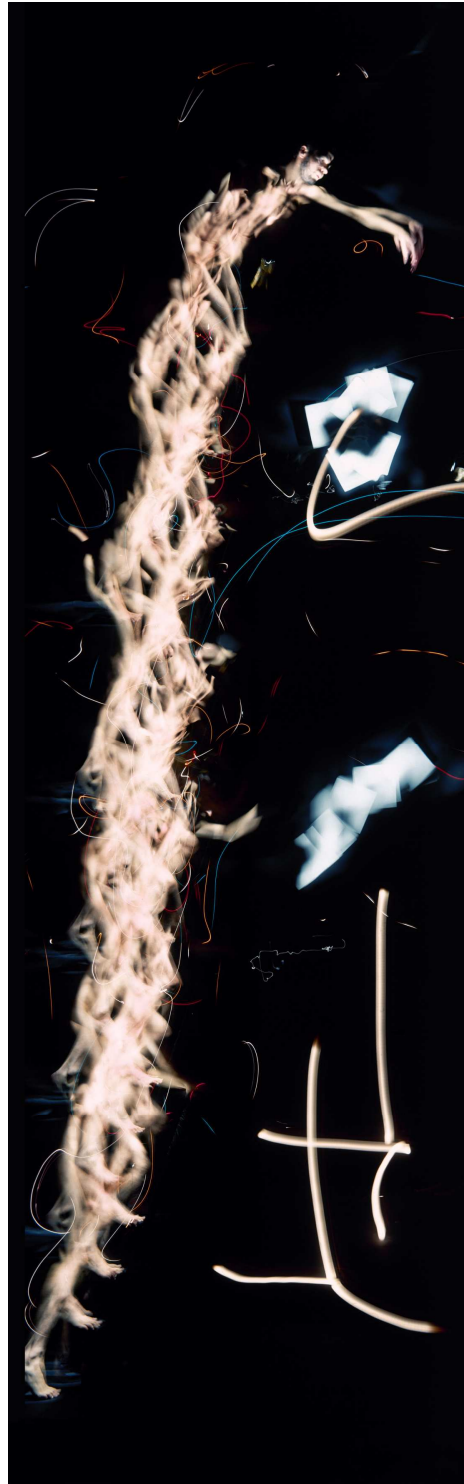
See below *Myria* 1, 6 and 8



Myria 1 (1986-2008)



Myria 6 (1986-2008)



Myria 8 (1986-2008)

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