

The New York Times

The Best of 2020 >

Best Movies

Best TV Shows

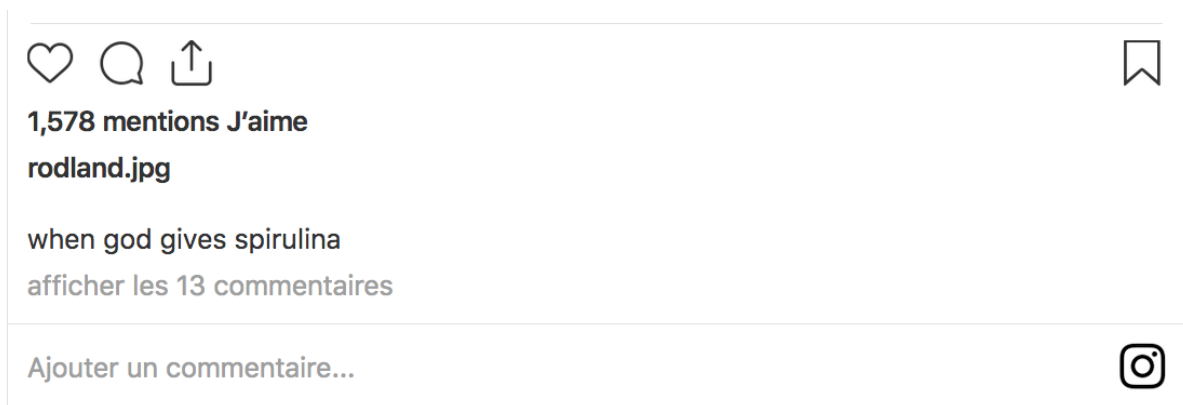
Best Books

Best Theater

Best Albums

Torbjorn Rodland (@rodland.jpg)





Born in Norway and based in Los Angeles, this ambitious photographer takes highly controlled portraits and still lifes that mix the erotic and the austere, and that often seem to be dripping with fluids. He uses Instagram less as an exhibition format — Mr. Rodland remains devoted to showing prints in galleries, where his liquefied surfaces show best — than as an experiment in how images take on new meanings as they circulate, get copied, and attract captions and likes. A few days ago he posted an exquisitely lit older image of a dismembered bouquet of flowers, newly captioned: “If you’re secretly relieved to be ordered to stay put in your carpeted cave ... you may be a natural born photographer.”