

The Eves of Frida Kahlo

The Eyes of Frida Kahlo

After several weeks of research on Fridas work Bert Loewenherz began to look out for a team of hair & makeup artists, stylists and assistants and was fortunate enough to discover Turkish actress Idil Üner as the perfect model for the project. Ten years earlier she already auditioned for the feature role in the Frida movie directed by Julie Taymor.

A periode of intense preparation began. Locations had to be scouted, garments and jewellery had to be inspected. Backdrops had to be painted. Fridas makeup, eyebrows and exotic hairstyles were discussed. Cats, parrots and a monkey had to be found. An iron cot, a wheelchair, gynaecological instruments from the 1920s and many other things had to be made available.

Two months later the project had matured and the final shootings were realized during three days on three different locations in the City of Berlin.

A 20-minute video on the making of "The Eyes of Frida Kahlo" documents the background history of how the project came into being. The camera provides a glimpse behind the curtain to observe the exciting processes involved in composing these portraits, and the intricate psychological work between photographer and model during the final three days of the shoot.

In a different video, the photographer speaks in an interview about his personal motivation for this project, how finding the right model presented so many difficulties, and why he considers Frida Kahlo to be a Shaman of the arts.

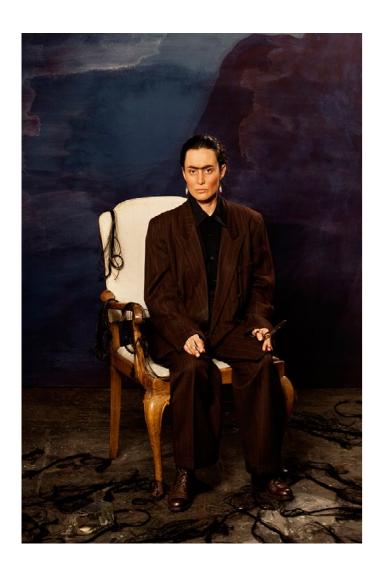








24 Photographic works C – Prints Various Sizes Berlin 2010

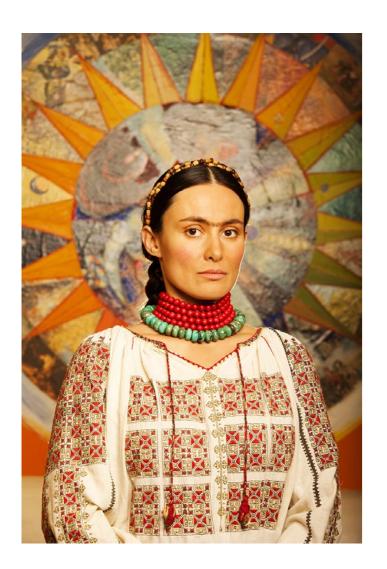




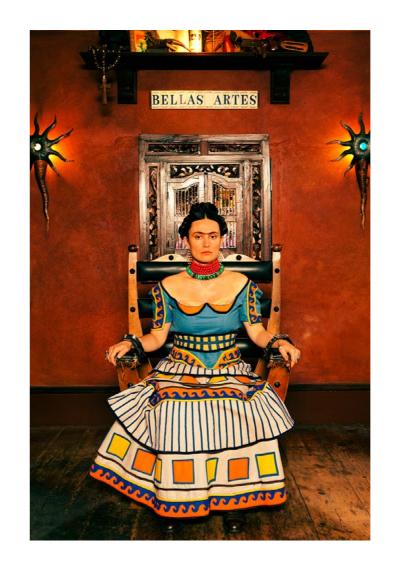




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The Project

"It was a great challenge for the entire team, to dissect Frida's strong works, and solve the puzzles – all the surreal, hidden, and symbolic levels of her work in order to translate it photographically."



Set Design

"In order to lend my production a coherent look, all of the psychological, stylistic, and color elements have to blend together.

A good choice of the shoot-locations, and set designs are also critically important.

All clothing and accessories that we selected were originals from the 1920's and 30's.

Borrowing from the film designs of the early 20th century, we used theatrical techniques like painted backdrops.

These large-format paintings by the artist Thomas Schliesser, added a harmonious touch to the motifs that formed the picture and color schemes, by opening room for interpretation."



Costume Design

"The costume design proved a daunting challenge, as Frida concealed her deeply wounded body and soul behind brightly colored garments, traditional Mexican robes and a unique ethnic mix of styles. We felt inspired by this unconventional trait and combined Mexican, Indian, Greek and Nepalese costumes and accessories with Chinese and Japanese elements originally from the 1920s."

Aside from that, there were other biographical influences involved in the styling concept.

Because Frida had a private collection of kimonos, we worked original 1920's Chinese silk kimonos into the pictures "Between the Curtains" and "Self-Portrait with Wheelchair".

Bert Loewenherz



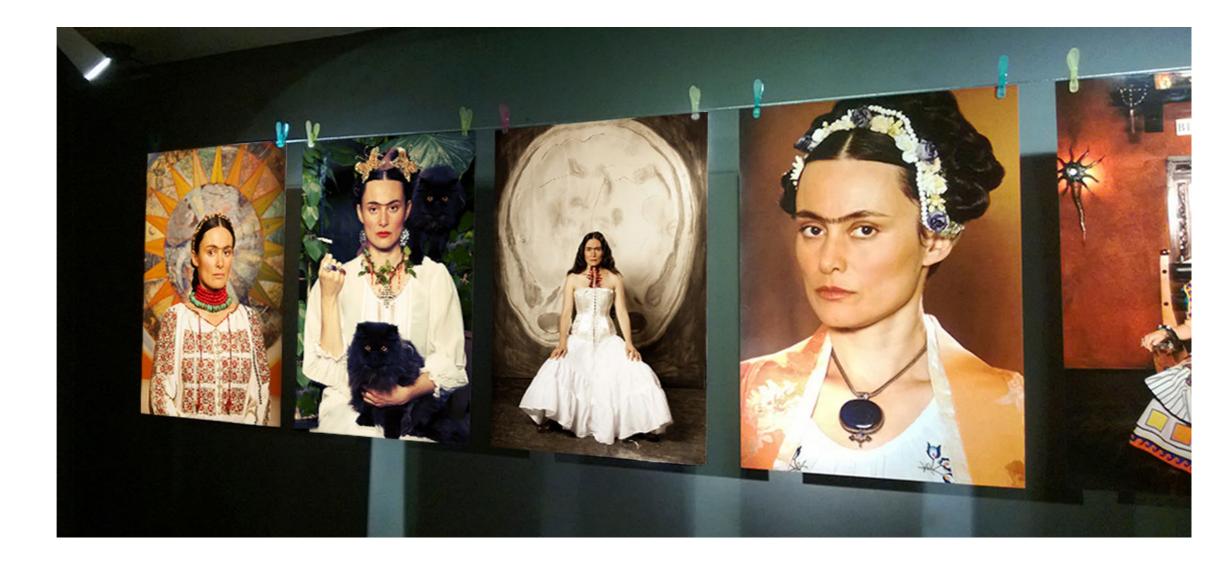
Reviews

"A fascinating photographic project that goes directly under the skin. A congenial artwork about a legendary artist."

"Hypnotic, touching, creative and professional. A superb homage to Frida Kahlo. This is probably one of the most fascinating art projects I have ever seen."

"Amazing work! As if Frida was still alive! These photographs irritate, bewitch and fascinate at the same time. Idil Üner as Frida Kahlo in the best role of her life!"

"Marian spirit and goddess of war -Frida's essence in one photograph. Thank you Thank you!"





Exhibitions

Dust Temple, Gold Coast 2015
Month of Photography, Berlin 2014
Private Thursday, Berlin 2013
Atelier MooGreen, Berlin 2012
Galerie Photo Edition, Berlin 2010
Art Directors Club, Berlin 2008
Art Directors Club, Berlin 2007
Photokina, Köln 2004
Art Directors Club, Berlin 2004
Art Directors Club, Berlin 2003
Einstein, München 2002
HeiligGeistKirche, Frankfurt 2002
Mahnmal St. Nikolai, Hamburg 2002
Art Directors Club, Berlin 2002
Staatsbank, Berlin 2001

Art Directors Club, Berlin 2000
Month of Photography, Bratislava 2000
ESD Galerie, Berlin 1999
Art Directors Club, Berlin 1999
Internationale Fototage, Herten 1999
Kunstamt Reinickendorf, Berlin 1999
Zoofestsäle, Wuppertal 1999
Galerie U Recickych, Prag 1998
Galerie KunstNetzWerk, München 1998
Photokina, Köln 1998
Stiftung Starke im Löwenpalais, Berlin1998
Photokina Kodak Galerie, Köln 1996
Deutsche Fototage, Frankfurt 1996
PPS Galerie, Berlin 1996
Museum für virtuelle Kunst, Erfurt 1995

Salon of Photographic Art, Rovigno 1995 Photokina, Köln 1994 Deutsche Fototage, Frankfurt 1993 Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea, Brescia 1993 Galerie 77, Berlin 1992 Kulturstiftung Schloss Britz, Berlin 1991 Historisches Museum, Frankfurt 1991 Photographers Gallery, London 1990 PhotoArt, Heidelberg 1990 Arts&Technology Museum, Milano 1989 Galerie Frank Müller, Berlin 1987 October Gallery, London 1986 Selbach Galerie, Berlin 1984

Awards

Art Directors Club Europe Award
Kodak Gold Circle Award
Kodak Talents Award
Scholarship by the Cinematheque Francaise, Paris
Honorary appointment into the German Photographic Society
OBS Award Corporate Communication.
Hasselblad Fine Art Award
Kodak Portrait Award
Berlin Artists Fund

Midas Award of Excellence, New York

Invitation by the Goethe Instituts, Paris

Collections

Collection Bibliotheque Nationale, France
The Polaroid Collection, USA
The Lorenzo Merlo Collection, Italy
The Fritz Huber Collection at Museum Ludwig, Germany
The Hand Collection Prof. Dr. Vaubel, Germany
The Bert Hartkamp Collection, Netherlands
Collection Machiel Botmann, Netherlands
Collection Deutsche Fototage, Germany
Collection Kunst & Bild, Germany
Collection Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea, Italy

Clients

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