The Painterly Gesture in Photography

“Searching for freedom within the mechanical process” – That is how the photographer Bert Loewenherz describes his unconventional portrait, nudes and self-portraits, in which he separates all the possibilities of his medium, thereby opening the borders of “pure photography.” In different phases of the photographic process, he interrupts the rigid process of taking a photograph and works it into a painterly intervention.

Image Victory

In the portraits, the photographer translates the energy of his models into a dynamic motion. With vehement paintbrush strokes, or through the use of developing chemicals, certain aspects of the picture intensifies and a dialogue between the developed and undeveloped parts of the face occurs, an unyielding reality turns into phantasy, impressions become expressions.

Ode to Rodin

The 120cm x 160cm large color nude series is a debate with sculpture. The pictures partially painted afterwards, are employed in the spirit, time and tradition of Rodinesque statues. They are a partly closer, and freer interpretation of chosen works.

From the Air

The self-portraits are a certain widening of "photographic moments" through the use of a time exposure, the open shutter of the camera traces the drawn light of a pen-flashlight through the air.
Bert Loewenherz

Image Victory

12 Photographic works
Black & White Prints
50 x 60 cm
Berlin 1985
From the air – selfportraits

24 Photographic works
Printed on Baryt Paper
30 x 30 cm
Berlin 1987
The photographer staged some of his artist friends. Composing in a quadrant format (6x6) became a new aesthetic expression for the photographer since the midst of the 80s.
Portraits d’artistes

Bert Loewenherz

12 Photographic works
Printed on Baryt Paper
30 x 30 cm
Berlin 1984 - 1990
The work presented here is in 24 separate pictures, in which the photographer positions the portrait, and the hand of the person facing opposite each other in the form of a diptych. The result is a psychological photogram with strong sculptural potential. What the face doesn't say, the hands do. And the exchange in this relationship produces its own dynamics. The series was distinguished with the Kodak Portrait Prize and the Hasselblad Fine Art Award, and also represented in the Polaroid Collection in the USA, the collection of Fritz Huber in Germany, and in the National Library (Bibliotheque Nationale) in Paris, France.
Bert Loewenherz

Lifelines

12-part Conceptual Photographic works, Diptychs
Printed on Baryt Paper
30 x 30 cm je Bild
Bert Loewenherz

Lifelines

12-part Conceptual Photographic works. Diptychs
Printed on Baryt Paper
30 x 30 cm je Bild
Epitaphs

The models were asked to compose their own gravestone inscriptions, and then to write it down on a plaque. The photographer integrates the use of breathing and relaxation exercises with the models for the first time, as part of the sitting.
Bert Loewenherz

Epitaphs

12-part Conceptual Photographic works. Ditychs
Polaroid Image Transfers
4 x 5 inch je Bild
Berlin 1996
Bert Loewenherz

Epitaphs

12-part Conceptual Photographic works, Diptychs
Polaroid Image Transfers
4 x 5 inch je Bild
Berlin 1996
Icons

Documentation of the formative Youth Movements of the ’90’s and a study about the self similarity of peer groups: Feed-back from the sub-culture epoch, the artificial creation of new styles, either through the youths themselves, or through the media. In the ’90’s youth culture smoothly made a transition into art products. The photography looks at the changing effects of the sub-culture and a post-modern lifestyle, at the same time.
Bert Loewenherz

Icons

36 Photographic works
C-Prints
60 x 80 cm
Berlin 1996 - 1999
Icons

36 Photographic works
C-Prints
60 x 80 cm
Berlin 1996 - 1999
This is a study about the asymmetry of the human face. The use of a mirror to reflect both facial halves shows the amazing differentiations. Neurobiology explains that the cause for this lies within both hemispheres of the human brain.
Hidden Image

24-part Conceptual Photographic works. Triptychs
C-Prints
4 x 5 inch each photo
Berlin 2006
Hidden Image

Bert Loewenherz

24-part Conceptual Photographic works. Triptychs
C-Prints
4 x 5 inch each photo
Berlin 2006
Samsara

This work of portraits made some unusual demands of its models, who were not allowed to wash themselves for 3 days, and not to sleep the night before the shooting. In order to increase the sense of being out of control, and to give the impression of being unkempt, they were then given worn-out clothing and asked to freely express their darkest thoughts, and unfiltered negative emotions before a rolling camera. All of the affects, like anger, sadness, fear, and aggression were authentic and evident in the body language.

At the end of this virtually-therapeutic sitting, the photographer made one picture in a more relaxed state, which is presented here.

The term 'Samsara' originates from Buddhist philosophy and refers to the "Cycle of Existence" and how Man, owing to his sense of self-importance, perceives the World.
24 Photographic works
Lambda Fine Art Prints
90 × 120 cm
Berlin 2008
24 Photographic works
Lambda Fine Art Prints
90 x 120 cm
Berlin 2008
A costly Art-and-Exhibition project that concerns itself with the self-portraits of Mexican art icon Frida Kahlo.
The photographer adds: "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."

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.
Bert Loewenherz

24 Photographic works
C-Prints
Various Sizes
Berlin 2010

The Eyes of Frida Kahlo
The portrait gallery of Velasquez, Coello, Del Mazo, and other Spanish Realism painters served as a model for this series. The goal was to create a modern interpretation of the original painting, and infuse it with a lively contemporary feeling.
Bert Loewenherz

Original & Copy

12-part Conceptual Photographic works
C-Prints
80 x 120 cm
Berlin 2011
Bert Loewenherz

12-part Conceptual Photographic works
C-Prints
80 x 120 cm
Berlin 2011
### Exhibitions

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