

## Kate Vass Galerie

KATE VASS GALERIE, based in Zurich, Switzerland, specializes mainly in wide range photography - from classic vintage to fashion, experimental, and art photography. Working closely with curators, and collaborating with leading art critics to present paintings and sculpture by international masters of 20th century and emerging artists who are currently rising to distinction.



*Jim Lee: Willy / Midget 2 -- Chromogenic Photography Print / 63,5 x 63,5 cm / 1968 / Courtesy of Kate Vass Galerie*

### Terrains of the Body

Highlighting a selection of iconic fashion photography as well as introducing Jim Lee to Switzerland, Terrains of the Body celebrates the representation of the female form and the evolution of legendary fashion photographers throughout the decades. Ranging from the iconic to experiential and contemporary photography, this exhibition depicts how fashion photography is much more than merely a genre – but an embodiment of the fashion atmosphere at a specific moment, where portraiture represents the mood of that era. The exhibition "Shot in Style" bestows the work of illustrious fashion photographers such as Erwin Blumenfeld, Arthur Elgort, Guy Bourdin, Jeanloup Sieff, Martin Sokolsky, and Jim Lee. Each of whom is the master in his own technique of luring the viewer into a dream-like atmosphere reminiscent of vintage short films that transverse through decades of fashion. In addition, will also be exhibiting a select piece from Black Forest sculpture artist, Lars Zech.

## Artists at ART INTERNATIONAL ZURICH 2017

**Helmut Newton** (German, 1920–2004) was a photographer most famous for his work in fashion, frequently creating work for Vogue magazine, and for his provocative, studied photographs of nudes. Known for the dramatic lighting and unconventional poses of his models in his photographs, Newton's work has been characterized as obsessive and subversive, incorporating themes of sadomasochism, prostitution, violence, and a persistently overt sexuality into the narratives of his images. He increasingly focused more on these images rather than fashion photography in the 1970s, publishing several books of his work such as *White Women* (1976), *Big Nudes* (1981), and *World Without Men* (1984). Erwin Blumenfeld (1897, Berlin-1969 Rome) A German native, Blumenfeld was first known for his satirical photographs mocking Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. In the following decades, he gained popularity as a fashion photographer with many publications in Vogue and Harper's Bazaar. He also was praised for his beautifully artistic nudes and had a lesser-known talent in filmmaking.

**Guy Bourdin** (1928 Paris – 1991 Paris) Fascinated with the interplay between desire and death, Bourdin is often referred to as one of the most important visual artists of the last century. His bold, graphic style of imagery continually challenged the long-held traditions of what fashion photography could be. With a career spanning over three decades as a fashion photographer, Guy was a pioneer of provocative images. TIME Magazine has described his work as "tiptoeing to the edge of pornography but ending up at art," He is best known for his iconoclastic photographs of fragmented women's bodies, which were controversially considered objectifying by some and empowering by others. This distinct trend emerged in the 1970s, as his shocking, sensual, and sometimes unsettling images revolutionized commercial and editorial photography.

**Arthur Elgort** (1940, NYC) An American fashion photographer best known for his work with Vogue magazine, Elgort's 1971 debut in British Vogue created a sensation in the Fashion Photography world where his soon-to-be iconic "snapshot" style and emphasis on movement and natural light liberated the idea of fashion photography. His work has been appearing in popular fashion publications such as Vogue, GQ, and Glamour as well as advertisements for exemplary luxury designers like Chanel, Valentino, and Yves Saint Laurent for over four decades. Elgort has works exhibited in the permanent collections of the International Center of Photography in New York, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, and in the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas.

**Jim Lee** (1945, London) is a London-based photographer and film director. After working as a fashion photographer in the late sixties he switched to film directing, creating hundreds of commercials as well as working on several full-length features. His earlier photographs form part of the permanent collection at the V&A, with additional photographs in the archives of the Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow. A book of his life's work, *Jim Lee / Arrested*, was launched in 2012 alongside an exhibition of photographs at Somerset House. Lee's work is regularly exhibited at galleries around the world. He occasionally chooses to collaborate on imaginative campaigns but now pursues his own creative projects, in feature films.

**Jeanloup Sieff** (1933 Paris, France – 2000 France). Sieff began shooting fashion photography in 1956 and joined the Magnum Agency in 1958, which enabled him to travel extensively before settling in New York for much of the sixties. There he worked for Esquire, Harper's Bazaar, Vogue, and Elle, photographing celebrities such as Jane Birkin, Yves Saint-Laurent, Rudolf Nureyev and Alfred Hitchcock amongst others. Sieff won numerous prizes throughout the duration of his career, including the Prix Niepce, the Chevalier des Arts et Lettres in Paris in 1981 and the Grand Prix National de la Photographie in 1992. Today, his work is housed in many private and international collections.

**Melvin Sokolsky** (1933, NYC) Best known for his "Bubble" series portraying models "floating" in giant clear plastic bubbles suspended in midair, Sokolsky began his photographic journey at age ten with his father's old box camera. As a self-taught photographer, he developed his skills and grew to become a celebrated pioneer of illusory fashion photography. In the 1960s, Sokolsky's interdisciplinary talents and interests led him to positions as a cameraman as well as a commercial director. However, he never abandoned his first love of photography and became the first photographer to ever be given the opportunity to photograph the entire content for a publication – *McCall's Magazine* in 1972.

**Lars Zech** (Stuttgart, 1971) Zech is rooted in the natural world that inspires him; his atelier - a year-round campsite devoid of house and heating but equipped with power and water - sits at the edge of Germany's Black Forest, where he has been living and working since 1995. Zech discovers his bowl shapes inside the trunks of trees cut down due to disease, age, or weather damage. Some of them are 300 years old, and he sees giving the trees new life in bowl form as a way of reviving the strength, energy, and majesty they once possessed. Zech's largest piece, made from a single block of oak and measuring 51 inches in diameter by 31 inches high, represents a natural progression from the oversize orbs he previously sculpted.

**ARTISTS OF THE GALLERY:**

BRASSAI (1899- 1984)  
HENRY MOORE (1898 – 1986)  
ERWIN BLUMENFELD (1897 – 1969)  
JEANLOUP SIEFF (1933-2000)  
ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE (1946-1989)  
GUY BOURDIN (1928-1991)  
BILL BRANDT (1904-1983)  
HORST P. HORST (1906-1999)  
HELMUT NEWTON (1920-2004)  
LUIGI GHIRRI (1943 – 1992)  
WILLIAM SILANO (1934-2014)  
IRVING PENN (1917 – 2009)  
ANDRE KERTESZ (1894–1985)  
RENE BURRI (1933 – 2014)  
GERED MANKOWITZ (1946)  
ERNST HAAS (1921–1986)  
HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON (1908 – 2004)  
MAN RAY (1890 -1976)  
EDWARD WESTON (1886-1958)  
JIM LEE (1945-)  
RICHARD CALDICOTT (1962-)  
NICK BRANDT (1964)  
RENE GROEBLI (1927 - )  
NOBOYOSHI ARAKI (1940 - )  
DAVID HOCKNEY (1937- )  
MELVIN SOKOLSKY (1933 - )  
ARTHUR ELGORT (1940 - )  
KISHIN SHINOYAMA (1940 - )  
ERWIT ELLIOT (1928-)  
LARS ZECH (1971 - )

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