

# NEWSLETTER KICKEN BERLIN

SUMMER 2015

## ART | BASEL

Hall 2.0, Booth F04

FIRST CHOICE: June 16, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (by invitation only)

PREVIEW: June 16, 3 - 8 p.m. (by invitation only)

VIP OPENING: June 17, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (by invitation only)

VERNISSAGE: June 17, 3 - 8 p.m. (by invitation only)

PUBLIC DAYS: June 18 - 21, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

>>> [www.artbasel.com](http://www.artbasel.com)

## HELMUT NEWTON: „Fräulein...“

until August 28, 2015

Open: Tuesday - Friday from 2 - 6 p.m. & by appointment

VIRTUAL TOUR >>> [www.kicken-gallery.com](http://www.kicken-gallery.com)



SIGMAR POLKE (1941-2010), 'Desastres und andere bare Wunder II', 1982, unique gelatin silver print © 2015 The Estate of Sigmar Polke/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn / Courtesy Kicken Berlin

## ART|BASEL

At Art Basel 2015, Kicken Berlin will focus on innovative art movements from the mid-twentieth century, including subjective photography, Informel, the ZERO movement, and East and West German photography of the 1970s and 1980s and its “documentary turn.” The interwar avant-garde masters of New Objectivity, such as Albert Renger-Patzsch and Werner Mantz, established a basis for new ways of seeing, which continue to be asserted today in the conceptual approach of works such as the series produced by Bernd and Hilla Becher.

The emergence of a distinct, formative imagery characterized the post-war era. Taking up the legacy of pre-war modernism, the international movement of subjective photography developed from the late 1940s until the early 1960s.



KIYOSHI NIIYAMA (1911-1969), 'Morning Glory', 1962, gelatin silver print © Estate of the Artist / Courtesy Kicken Berlin

It aimed to go beyond the mimetic representation of the visible and create artistic images through purely photographic means and experimental techniques. With its origins in the *subjektive fotografie* exhibitions (1951-58) organized by Otto Steinert in Germany, the movement had important adherents in other European countries, North and Latin America as well as in Asia. On view at Art Basel are works, among others, by Steinert and his German contemporaries and the Japanese photographers Kiyoshi Niiyama and Koza Haramoto.



OTTO STEINERT (1915-1978), 'Saar Landscape', 1954, gelatin silver print © Nachlass Otto Steinert, Fotografische Sammlung, Museum Folkwang, Essen / Courtesy Kicken Berlin

A counterpart to the subjective photography of the 1950s was the painting of the German Informel and Abstract Expressionist movements. Fritz Winter's work is representative of the former. A Bauhaus-trained artist, Winter became interested in light studies which had much in common with cameraless photography early on in his career. Working with the technique of the photogram but almost a decade later, photographer Floris Neusüss' body and object photograms revealed the immediacy of light's imprint on paper.

Breathing fresh air into the conservative 1950s, the ZERO movement—its name signaling a new starting point in art—developed into an international network for renewed and pared-down artistic forms. ZERO was jointly established by Otto Piene and Heinz Mack in Germany around 1958.

## NEWS

### EXHIBITIONS OF GALLERY ARTISTS

Erwin Blumenfeld in 'Picasso in Contemporary Art' (group exhibition), Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany, until July 12, 2015  
[www.deichtorhallen.de](http://www.deichtorhallen.de)

Joachim Brohm and Rudolf Holtappel in 'GREEN CITY. Gefomte Landschaft - Vernetzte Natur' (group exhibition), Ludwig Galerie Schloss Oberhausen, Germany, until Sept 13, 2015  
[www.ludwiggalerie.de](http://www.ludwiggalerie.de)

Charles Fréger 'Bretonnes', Musée de Bretagne, Rennes, France, until Aug 30, 2015  
[www.musee-bretagne.fr](http://www.musee-bretagne.fr)

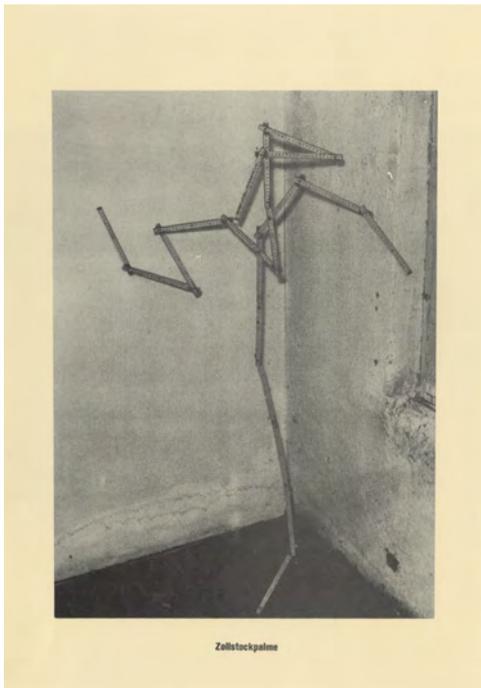
Charles Fréger in 'Chercher le garçon' (group exhibition), Musée d'art contemporain du Val-de-Maine, Vitry-sur-Seine, France, until Aug 30, 2015  
[www.macval.fr](http://www.macval.fr)

André Gelpke in 'Über Wasser. Malerei und Photographie von William Turner bis Olafur Eliasson' (group exhibition), June 13 - Sept 20, 2015, Bucerius Kunst Forum, Hamburg, Germany  
[www.buceriuskunstforum.de](http://www.buceriuskunstforum.de)

Jitka Hanzlová in 'FACES NOW. European Portrait Photography since 1990' (group exhibition), Nederlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, until Aug 23, 2015  
[www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl](http://www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl)

Jitka Hanzlová in 'Naturzeichenzeichnen' (group exhibition), curated by Janos Frecot, Alfred Ehrhardt Stiftung, Berlin, Germany, July 4 - Sept 13, 2015  
[www.alfred-ehrhhardt-stiftung.de](http://www.alfred-ehrhhardt-stiftung.de)

Jitka Hanzlová in 'Beasty/Tierisch' (group exhibition), Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland, until Oct 4, 2015  
[www.fotomuseum.ch](http://www.fotomuseum.ch)



SIGMAR POLKE (1941-2010), from "...Höhere Wesen befehlen", 1966-68, 14 offset lithographs © 2015 The Estate of Sigmar Polke/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn / Courtesy Kicken Berlin

Pienez's work was initially rooted in Informel abstraction. In his early grid pictures he used half-tone screens, producing vibrating patterns that seemed to focus on the theme of the play of light and thus correlating perfectly with Otto Steinert's concept of the "absolute," non-figurative photographic image. Optical phenomena and serial structures were also a central concern in the nail work of Günther Uecker. At Art Basel, Kicken Berlin will also present a stunning visual dialogue between the works of the German photographer Peter Keetman and the French-American New Realist Arman. In their images and assemblages both address the serial appearance of mass-produced commodities.

Starting from zero also means reinventing artistic media in terms of content and application, as exemplified by the prolific photographic work of Sigmar Polke. Polke boldly defied convention, especially in photography, as illustrated by the recent show *Bare Wunder*, which was curated by Veit Loers for Sies + Höke Gallery Düsseldorf. Kicken Berlin is showing an extract of the seminal works from this exhibition, including '*...Höhere Wesen befehlen*' (1968) and other untitled works by the artist from the 1960s to the 1980s—in dialogue with vintage photography by photographers from Erwin Blumenfeld to Vaclav Zykmond and touching the themes of

mysticism and the spiritual. This context underscores Polke's early preference for the "artless," anti-aesthetic impetus of photography as a vernacular tool that manifests the surprising possibilities of the miraculous and inexplicable. Dieter Appelt also explores the variability of form and meaning—inspired by the work of French novelist Raymond Roussel—with sculptural and photographic work from the *Locus Solus* series and a multi-part photographic tableau.

In the 1970s and 1980s photography became significant to photographers in East and West Germany who were contemporaries of Polke as a medium for recording the ordinary and the everyday. In the West, Heinrich Riebesehl, André Gelpke, Tata Ronkholz, and Wilhelm Schürmann were proponents of a documentary yet highly personal approach to the landscape and cityscape and also portraiture. Their East German counterparts include Sibylle Bergemann, Ute and Werner Mahler, and Helga Paris. Closely linked to the growing artistic independence of the medium from the mid 1970s onward, this documentary turn demonstrates the unique capacity of photography to distill and mediate our aesthetic perceptions of today and the recent past.



WILHELM SCHÜRMMANN (\*1946), 'Cologne (Getränke Guerra)', ca. 1990 © Wilhelm Schürmann / Courtesy Kicken Berlin

## HELMUT NEWTON: "Fräulein..."

Included in our current gallery exhibition *Helmut Newton: "Fräulein..."* and our stand at Basel, is the work of Helmut Newton. From his photographs of fashion icons in the 1970s to his seminal *Big Nudes* Newton lent sophistication to the nude, as demonstrated especially by the work commissioned by *Playboy* magazine where he added new sensual dimensions to the traditional centerfold.

Rudolf Koppitz 'Rudolf Koppitz – Photogenie', Musée Nicéphore Niépce in Chalon-sur-Saône, France, June 13 – Sept 20, 2015  
[www.museeniepce.com](http://www.museeniepce.com)

Hans-Christian Schink in 'Mijn Vlakke Land (My flat country). On photography and landscape' (group exhibition), FotoMuseum Provincie Antwerpen, Belgium, June 26 – Oct 4, 2015  
[www.fotomuseum.be](http://www.fotomuseum.be)

Hans-Christian Schink in 'Waterbound - Vom Leben mit dem Wasser' (group exhibition), Neue Galerie Dachau, Germany, until July 26, 2015  
[www.dachauer-galerien-museen.de/](http://www.dachauer-galerien-museen.de/)  
Kallmann-Museum Ismaning, Germany, until Aug 30, 2015  
[www.kallmann-museum.de](http://www.kallmann-museum.de)

Alfred Seiland 'Dahinter steckt immer ein kluger Kopf - 1995–2001', Villa Grisebach, Berlin, Germany, July 17 - Aug 29, 2015  
[www.villagrisebach.de](http://www.villagrisebach.de)

'Ed van der Elsen documents the Philips Natlab', The Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, until Aug 30, 2015  
[www.vanabbemuseum.nl](http://www.vanabbemuseum.nl)

## PUBLICATIONS OF GALLERY ARTISTS

André Gelpke 'Sex-Theater', Spector Books, June 2015  
[www.spectorbooks.com](http://www.spectorbooks.com)

## LOANS FROM KICKEN BERLIN

Eugène Cuvelier and Charles Famin in 'Monet und die Geburt des Impressionismus', Städel Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, until June 28, 2015  
[www.staedelmuseum.de](http://www.staedelmuseum.de)

Josef Sudek in 'Czech Fundamental. Fotografia ceca di avanguardia e contemporanea dal 1920 a oggi', Museo di Roma in Trastevere, Italy, until July 19, 2015  
[www.museodiromaintrastevere.it](http://www.museodiromaintrastevere.it)

Umbo in 'Mannequin d'artiste, Mannequins fétiches', Musée Bourdelle, Paris, France, until July 12, 2015  
[www.bourdelle.paris.fr](http://www.bourdelle.paris.fr)

## DO NOT MISS

'Anna et Bernhard Blume. La photographie transcendante', Centre Georges-Pompidou, Paris, France, July 1 - Sept 21, 2015  
[www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr)

'Structure and Clarity', Tate Modern Collection Display, Room 3: 'Otto Steinert', Tate Modern London, Great Britain  
[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

## PHOTOGRAPHY. WORKS ON PAPER KICKEN BERLIN

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Tue – Fri 14.00 – 18.00 Visit our exhibitions online at [www.kicken-gallery.com](http://www.kicken-gallery.com)  
For further information please contact Anna Kröger [akroeger@kicken-gallery.com](mailto:akroeger@kicken-gallery.com)