A woman with dark, wavy hair and a yellow headband is leaning against a wooden door. She is wearing a bright yellow, long-sleeved, belted dress. Her hands are clasped near her neck. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# ERWIN OLAF

40 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY  
1979-2019

**100 PHOTOGRAPHS  
SELECTED IN THE ARTIST'S CAREER**

**A SELECTION BY MAGDA DANYSZ**

2019 marks the celebration of the artist's 60th birthday as well as major museum exhibitions including :

Selection of the acquired works by the Rijksmuseum , Amsterdam, Netherlands, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Shanghai Center of Photography (SCoP) will host a solo exhibition, Shanghai, China

Anniversary Solo Show, Gemeente Museum, The Hague, The Netherlands

Anniversary Solo Show, The Hague Museum of Photography, The Hague, The Netherlands

and color (*Mind of Their Own*, *Rain*, *Hope*, *Grief*, *Dusk*, and *Dawn*). In recent years he has developed his themes through the form of monumental tableaux, for which he adopts the role of director as well as photographer.

His most recent work, in Berlin, Shanghai, and Palm Springs, sees the conclusion of the three-part project *Shifting Metropolises* (working title), a series of artworks looking at internationally renowned cities undergoing seismic change in the modern world. Rather than fabricating a controlled studio environment, in this trilogy Olaf has shot on location for the first time, retaining his characteristic cinematic associations to produce a body of work wrought with the genuine emotions and neuroses of these places and their inhabitants.

Olaf's bold approach to his work has earned a number of commissions from institutions, including Louis Vuitton, *Vogue*, the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, for which he designed the 2016 *Catwalk* exhibition, including a promotional video and photographic campaign. He has been awarded Photographer of the Year in the International Color Awards 2006 and *Kunstbeeld* magazine's Dutch Artist of the Year 2014, as well as the Netherlands' prestigious Johannes Vermeer Award in 2011. Additional international awards include the Silver Lion at the Cannes Advertising Festival and a Lucie Award for achievement in advertising, both in 2008.

Olaf has screened video work at the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum at FIT, New York; and *Nuit Blanche* Toronto, with a live score commissioned for his series *Waiting*. He has also projected his thirty-channel video installation *L'Éveil* onto the Hôtel de Ville for *Nuit Blanche* in Paris, curated by Jean de Loisy (director, Palais de Tokyo). In March 2018, the Museu da Imagem e do Som in São Paulo hosted a retrospective of his work.

Erwin Olaf (born in Hilversum, the Netherlands, 1959) emerged onto the international art scene with his series *Chessmen*, which won the Young European Photographer of the Year award in 1988. This was followed by an exhibition at the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, with subsequent solo and group shows at major museums and galleries worldwide, including Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Málaga, Spain; Museu da Imagem e do Som, São Paulo; Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin; Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Santiago, Chile.

Starting his career as a photojournalist documenting the nightlife of the 1980s, Olaf increasingly sought and defined his own subjects, often explored in series of works in black and white (*Squares*, *Chessmen*, and *Blacks*)

In 2018, the Rijksmuseum acquired five hundred key artworks from Olaf's forty-year oeuvre for their collection. This followed official portraits Olaf made for the Dutch royal family in 2017–18 and his designing the new euro coin for King Willem-Alexander in 2013. Rutger Pontzen, art critic for Dutch newspaper the *Volkskrant*, said, “Controversial or not, Erwin Olaf does give a picture of the Netherlands . . . and that makes him distinctive in Dutch photography. . . .

In other words, his oeuvre belongs to the cultural heritage.” Now internationally renowned, Erwin Olaf's photography remains an essential part of Dutch culture. Taco Dibbits, Rijksmuseum director, says, “His work is deeply rooted in the visual traditions of Dutch art,” and consequently Olaf is “one of the most important photographers of the final quarter of the twentieth century.”

In 2019, the Gemeentemuseum Den Haag and Fotomuseum Den Haag, the Netherlands, will host a joint solo exhibition for Erwin Olaf to commemorate his sixtieth birthday and celebrate his forty years of photography. The Shanghai Center of Photography will also host a solo exhibition that year, and the Rijksmuseum will host an exhibition with a selection of works acquired from Olaf in 2018.

The artist lives and works in Amsterdam.

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## SQUARES 1983

After starting with photography in 1979, the young Erwin Olaf rapidly found his voice and style as the SQUARES series attests.



Diana With Dogs  
37,5 x 37,5 cm / 100 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Cum  
37,5 x 37,5 cm / 100 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Design By Nature  
37,5 x 37,5 cm / 100 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Composition With Two Women  
37,5 x 37,5 cm / 100 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Alandus  
100 x 100 cm  
Frame: only print  
Paper: Fuji Crystal Archive  
Digital Paper



High Heels  
100 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



A Man And His Dog  
37,5 x 37,5 cm / 100 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Bra  
37,5 x 37,5 cm / 100 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

LADY'S HAT 1985



Hans 2  
baryte paper



Hennie  
37,5 x 37,5 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

CHESSMAN 1988



Chessmen page 19  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Chessmen page 33  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

next page  
Chessmen (detail)  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



MATURE 1998



Cindy C. -78

84 x 113 cm

Print only

Fuji Crystal Archive Digital

Paper



Christy T. -66  
84 x 113 cm  
Print only  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Kate  
84 x 113 cm  
Print only  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

FASHION VICTIMS 2000



Chanel 50 x 50 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper



YSL  
50 x 50 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper

ROYAL BLOOD 2000



Julius Caesar † 44 B.C.  
125 x 125 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Jackie O. 12.29 PM - 12.30 PM  
75 x 75 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Ludwig † 1886  
125 x 125 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Marie-Antoinette † 1793  
125 x 125 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

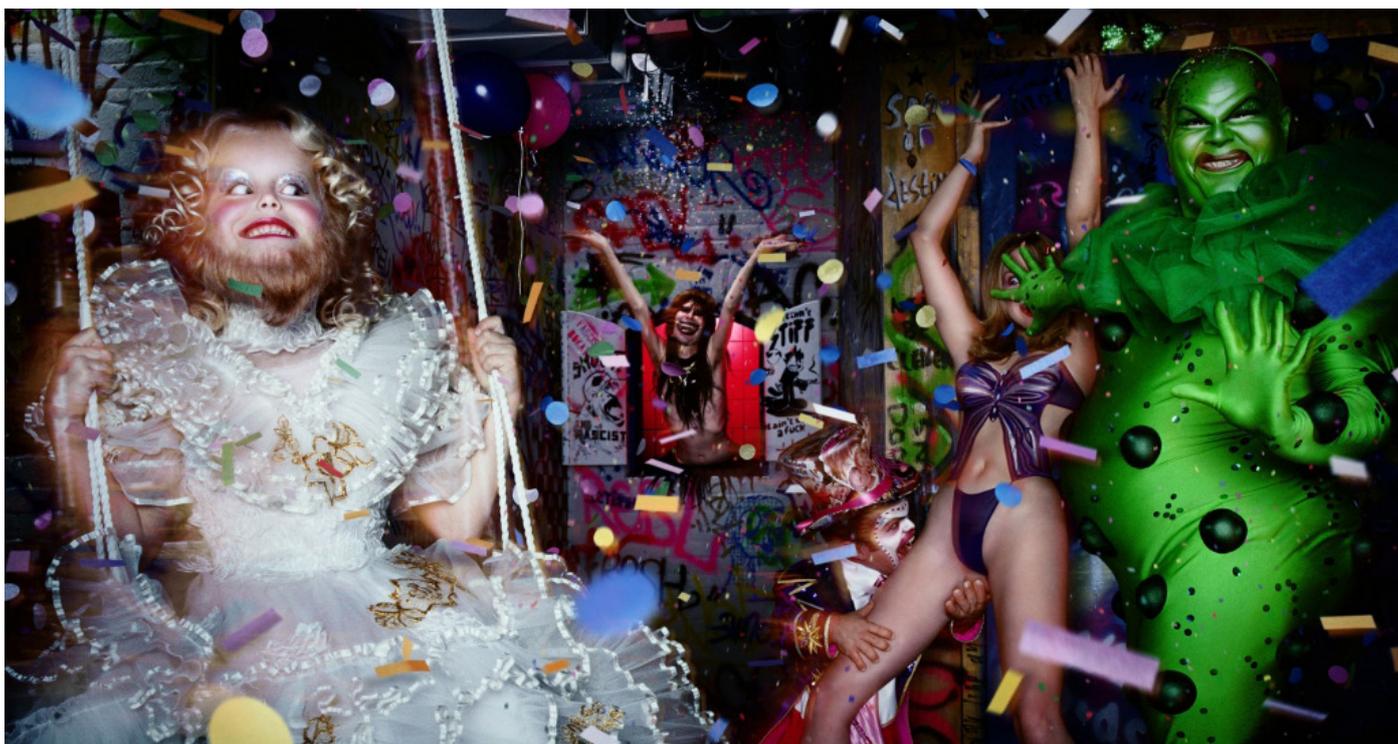
PARADISE THE CLUB 2001



VIP-lounge  
75 x 141 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper, Metallic



Backstage  
75 x 141 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper, Metallic

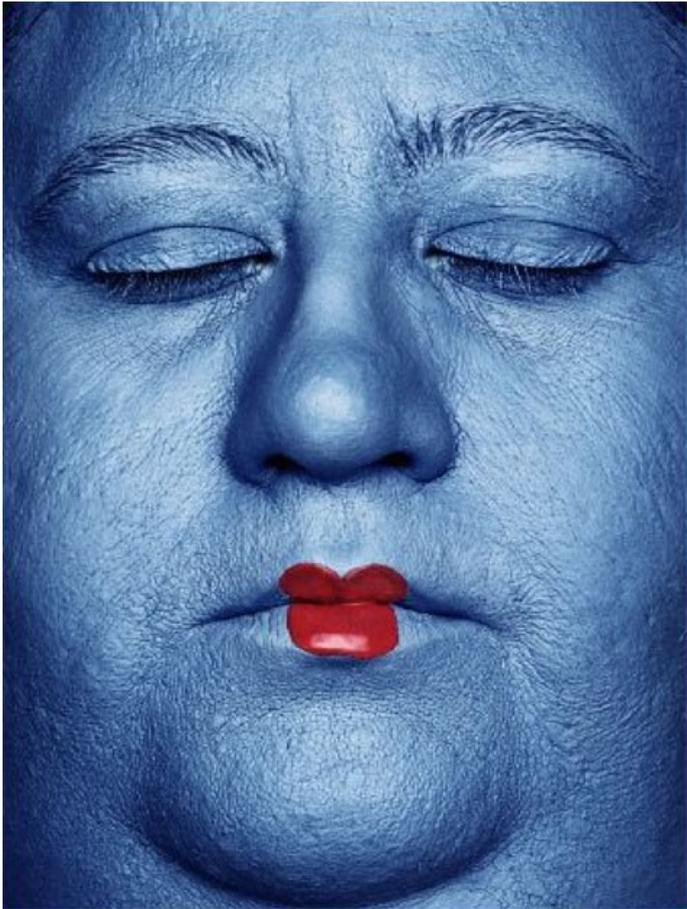


Dressingroom  
75 x 141 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper, Metallic



Darkroom  
75 x 141 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper, Metallic

PARADISE PORTRAITS 2001



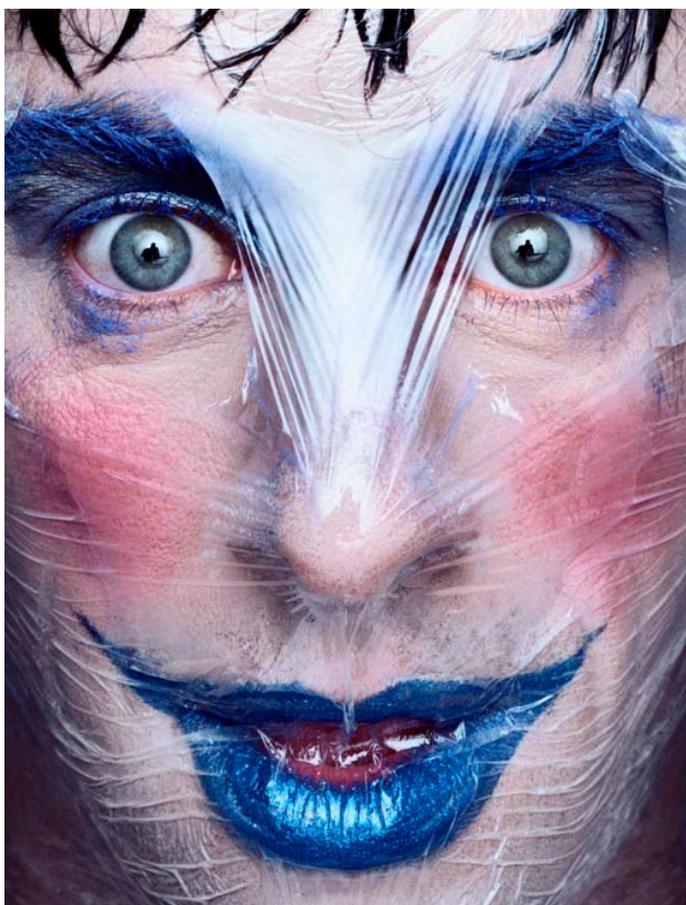
Geisha/Nadia  
100 x 75 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper, Metallic



Gwenn  
100 x 75 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper, Metallic

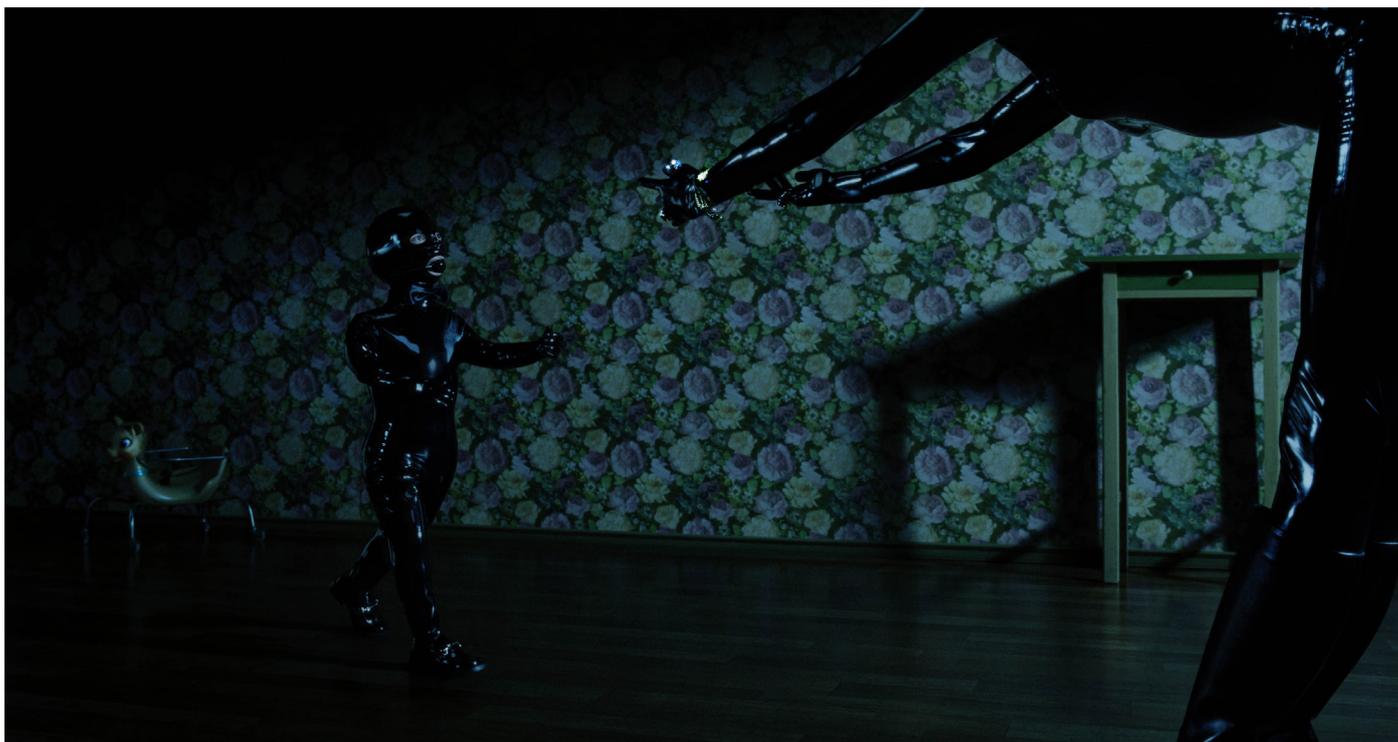


Franz  
100 x 75 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper, Metallic

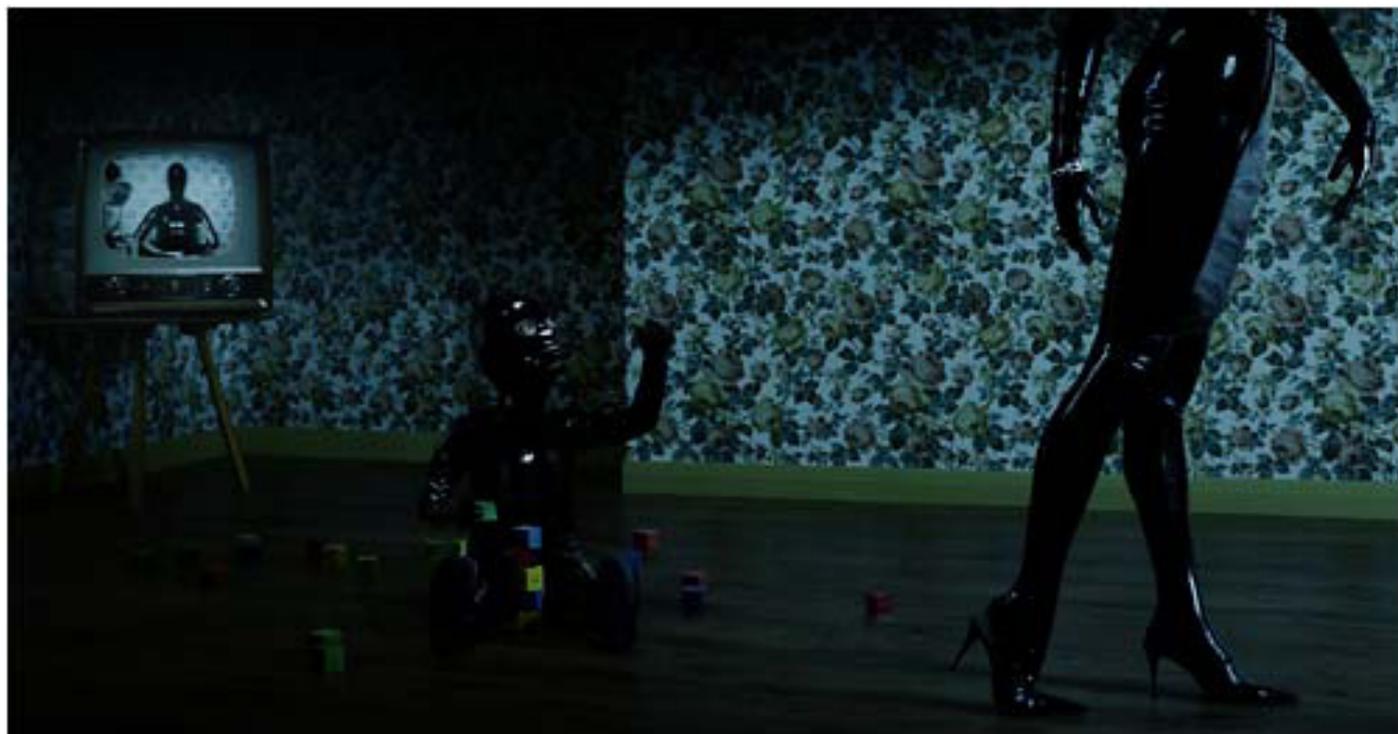


Laurent  
100 x 75 cm  
Lambda Print on Chrystal  
Archive Paper, Metallic

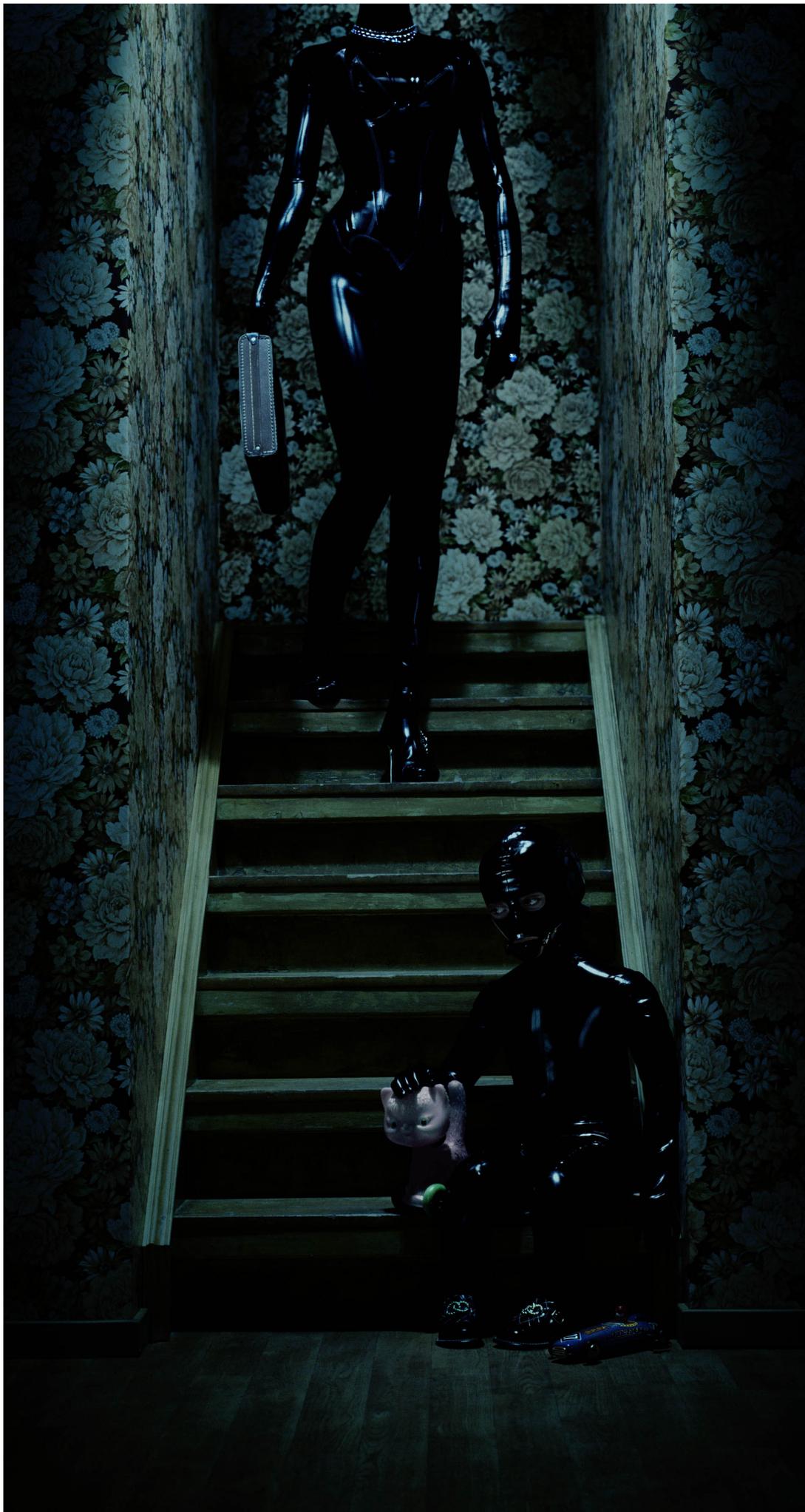
## SEPARATION 2003



SEPARATION 1 'Arms  
Outstretched'  
100 x 188 cm  
Fuji Chrystal Archive digital  
paper



SEPARATION 5 'TV'  
100 x 188 cm  
Fuji Chrystal Archive digital  
paper



SEPARATION 6 'Stairs'  
188 x 100 cm  
Fuji Chrystal Archive digital  
paper

RAIN 2004



The Bedroom  
120 x 120 cm  
Fuji Chrystal Archive digital  
paper



The Board Room  
120 x 170,23 cm  
Fuji Chrystal Archive digital  
paper



The Gym  
120 x 170,23 cm  
Fuji Chrystal Archive digital  
paper



The Dancing School  
120 x 170,23 cm  
Fuji Chrystal Archive digital  
paper



The Hairdresser's  
120 x 170,23 cm  
Fuji Chrystal Archive digital  
paper

HOPE 2005



The Boxingschool

70 x 99,30 cm

Fuji Crystal Archive Digital Paper



The Practice

70 x 99,30 cm

Fuji Crystal Archive Digital Paper



Hope Portrait 2  
70 x 70 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Hope Portrait 4  
70 x 70 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

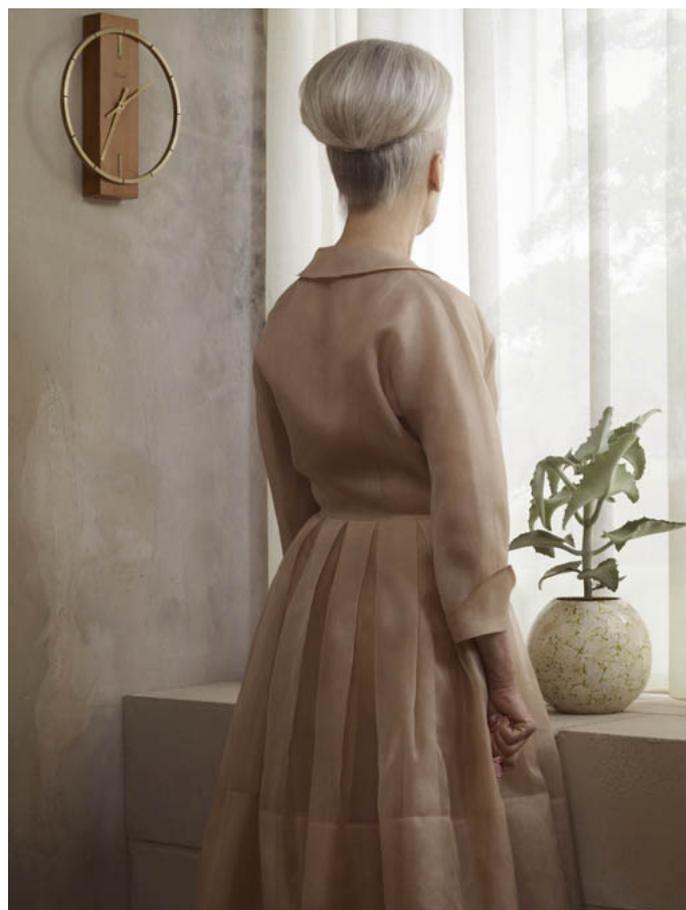


Hope Portrait 9  
70 x 70 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

GRIEF 2007



Caroline Portrait  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



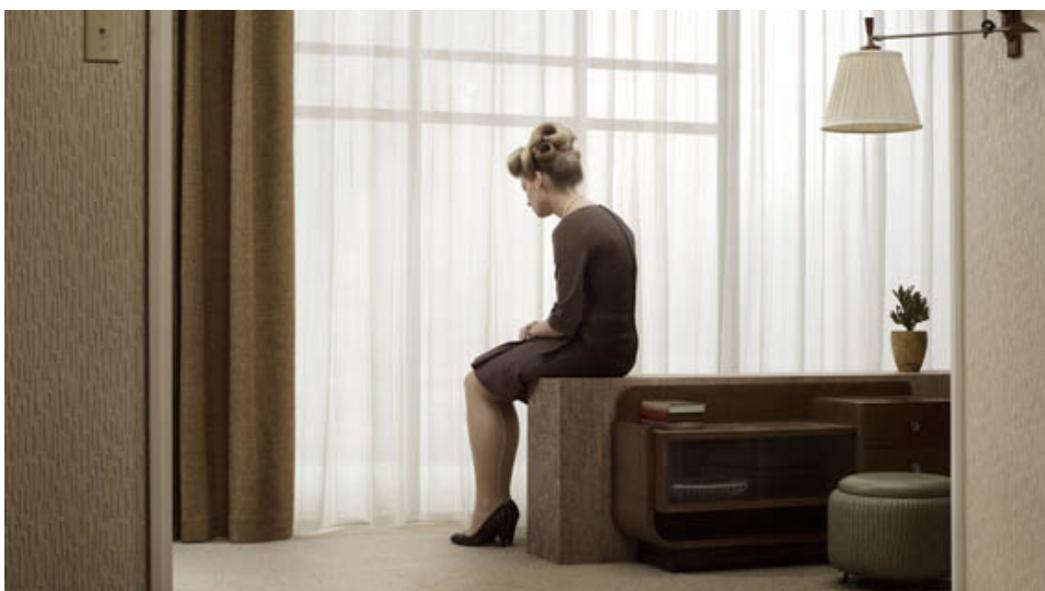
Grace Portrait  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



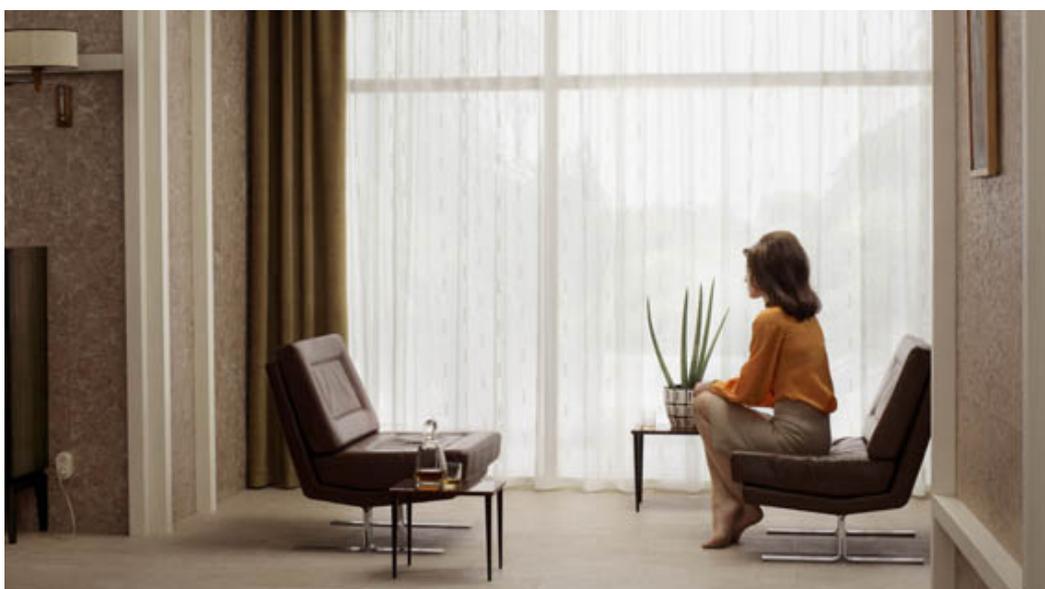
Irene  
60 x 106,7 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Barbara  
100 x 177,8 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Caroline  
100 x 177,8 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Grace  
100 x 177,8 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

FALL 2008



Felix  
106 x 141 cm / 30 x 40 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Nikola  
106 x 141 cm / 30 x 40 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

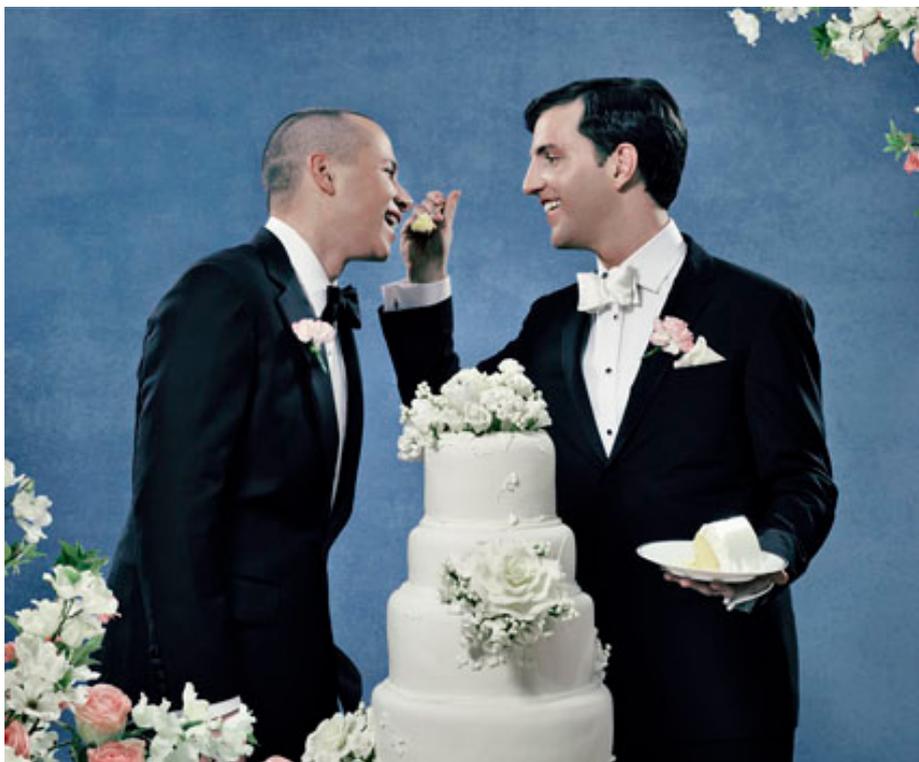
NYT GAY COUPLES 2008



NYT Gay Couples, Vaccum Cleaner

30 x 40 cm

Chromogenic print



NYT Gay Couples  
30 x 40 cm  
Chromogenic print



NYT Gay Couples  
30 x 40 cm  
Chromogenic print



NYT Gay Couples  
30 x 40 cm  
Chromogenic print



Dama del Armiño

133 x 100 cm

Fuji Crystal Archive Digital Paper



Apollonia

133 x 100 cm / 80 x 60 cm

Fuji Crystal Archive Digital Paper



Paris - Feline Portrait

133 x 100 cm

Fuji Crystal Archive Digital Paper



Milan - room 609  
100 x 178 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Moscow - room 168  
100 x 178 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper

KEYHOLE 2011



Keyhole 12  
45 x 60 cm  
chromogenic print



Keyhole 3  
45 x 60 cm  
chromogenic print



Keyhole 2  
45 x 60 cm  
chromogenic print

BERLIN 2012



Berlin, Porträt 05, 9 Juli 2012

75 x 56 cm

chromogenic print



Berlin, Porträt 06, 9 Juli 2012

75 x 56 cm

chromogenic print



Berlin, Porträt 15, 23 April 2012

75 x 56 cm

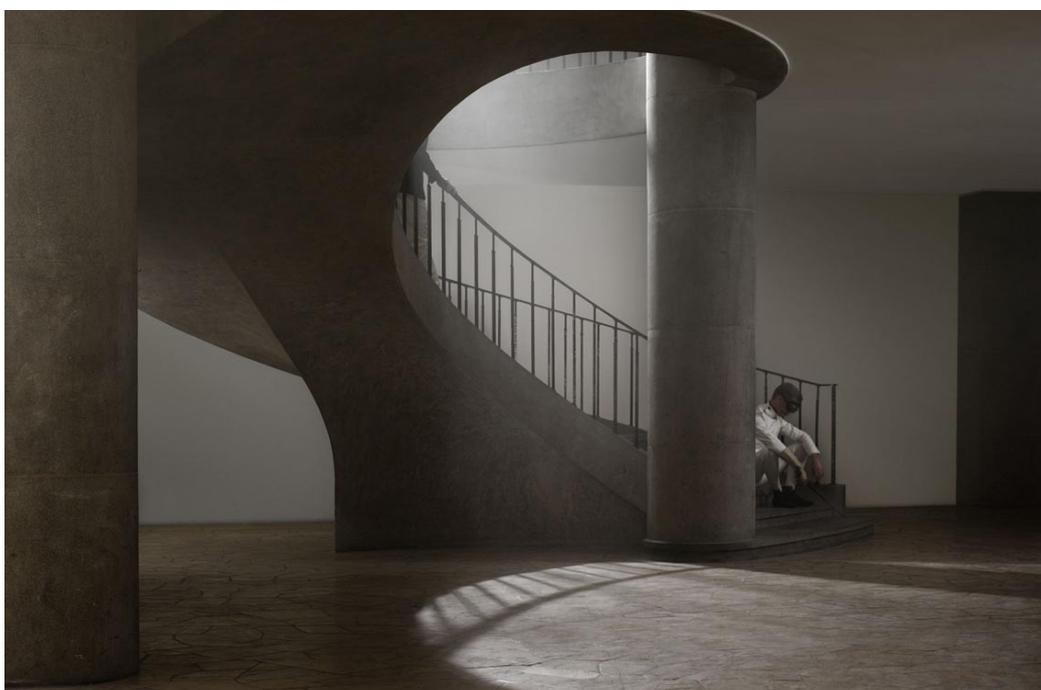
chromogenic print



Berlin, Altes Stadthaus Mitte, 8  
Juli 2012  
60 x 90 cm  
chromogenic print



Berlin, Clärchens Ballhaus Mitte,  
10 Juli 2012  
60 x 90 cm  
chromogenic print



Berlin, Fechthalle Westend, 11  
Juli 2012  
60 x 90 cm  
chromogenic print



Jalouse, Still Life 02  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Jalouse, Still Life 03  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Jalouse, Portrait 02  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Jalouse, Still Life 01  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Ideat 07, 2015  
128,6 x 100 cm  
chromogenic print



Ideat 10, 2015  
128 x 100 cm  
chromogenic print



Vogue 2013 NL 01  
Vogue Small 77,81 x 60 cm  
chromogenic print



Vogue 2013 NL 02  
Vogue Small 77,81 x 60 cm  
chromogenic print



Vogue 2013 NL 05  
Vogue Small 77,81 x 60 cm  
chromogenic print



Vogue 2013 NL 06  
Vogue Small 77,81 x 60 cm  
chromogenic print



Vogue 2013 NL 03  
Vogue Small 77,81 x 60 cm  
chromogenic print

SHANGHAI 2017



Shanghai, 1933 - Portrait 01  
119 x 89 cm  
Fine Art Print



Shanghai, 1933 - Portrait 03  
119 x 89 cm  
Fine Art Print



Shanghai, 1933 - Portrait 02  
119 x 89 cm  
Fine Art Print



Shanghai, Fu 1088 - Portrait 03  
119 x 158 cm  
Fine Art Print



Shanghai, Fu 1088 - Portrait 03  
100 x 156 cm  
Fine Art Print



Shanghai, Fu 1088 - Portrait 03  
75 x 56 cm  
Fine Art Print

PALM SPRINGS 2019



Palm Springs, The Family Visit  
- Portrait I  
75 x 56 cm  
Fine Art Print



Palm Springs, American  
Dream - Portrait of Alex  
Fine Art Print

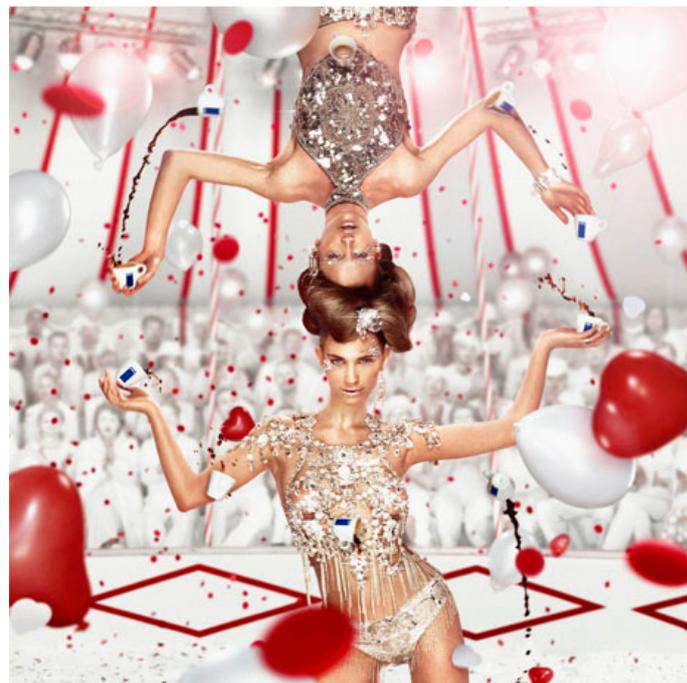


Palm Springs, The Farewell  
119 x 160 cm  
Fine Art Print



Palm Springs, The Kite  
119 x 160 cm  
Fine Art Print

COMMERCIAL WORKS

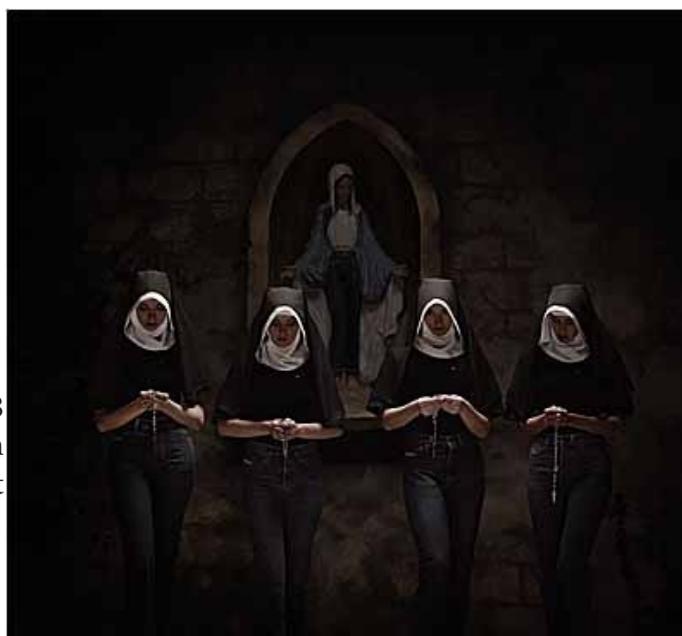


Lavazza campaign



Stage Theater an der Elbe  
2014

Diesel, 1998  
100 x 100 cm  
Chromogenic print



## STILL LIVES



Mooui Still Life 1  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Mooui Still Life 3  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital  
Paper



Nature Morte Vanite Avec Le Coeur De Sieur Lamoral D'Egmont  
133 x 100 cm  
Fuji Crystal Archive Digital Paper

# AUTOPORTRAITS



Autoportrait  
I am, I wish, I will be



Autoportrait  
Tamed

