

Short form:

MAGIC PORTRAITS

Ambrotypes by Daniel Samanns

We are fascinated by the „aura“ of the ambrotype-portraits by Daniel Samanns. With his special technique of collodion-wetplate-photography he is able to capture the enduring essence of a person extending the single moment of the exposure. Daniel Samanns portrayed personalities and celebrities in his very own style. For the first time these results will be shown in this comprehensive exhibition.

Besides the fine art prints on the walls the original ambrotypes on glass will reveal their magic.



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Samanns with his partner Heidi Zwick rediscovered the photographic process of Frederic Scott Archer, who replaced in 1851 with the so called wetplate-process (also called ambrotype) the first photographic process, the daguerreotype.

Back then the technique was seen as an invaluable innovation. As opposed to the daguerrotype the development time was relatively short. The process that unfolded in just a few minutes seemed like an instantaneous. What was then fast, is in our digital age a tedious undertaking. The elaborate analog technique and the work with old glassplatecameras brings forth a dimension and slows down the photography: During the session it opens a time-space through the exposure, sometimes up to 30 seconds, where the reflection of the personality becomes visible.

Different than other lightsensitive processes, the picture emerges not in the dark but in daylight. The artist welcomes the fascinating traces of development as unique tokens of the moment. Before our eyes an amazing portrait appears on glass: the ambrotype.

Daniel Samanns photographed numerous personalities in his very own style. In this exhibition he is presenting for the first time the extensive collection. His contact to the film world allows him to work with German and European celebrities. He portraited academy award winning Caroline Link and Alexandre Espigares, the directors Dominik Graf, Anno Saul and Katja von Garnier, and also actors and actresses Maria Dragus, Mateusz Kosciukiewicz and Marwan Kenzari.

Beside the fine art prints on the walls the original ambrotypes on glass will reveal their magic.

Curator: Norbert Wiesneth

PhotoWerkBerlin

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Biography of Daniel Samanns

Born 1968 in Düsseldorf Daniel Samanns first photographic experience was in the areas of fashion, commercial and still life. Although fully using analog techniques in the beginning of the 90's by 1997 he had fully switched to digital. From 1996 until 2000 he was a photographer for the publishing house Axel-Springer, first in Düsseldorf then in Munich. Since 2000 he has worked for the ddp-news agency. As a founder of the successful photo gallery *Pantherhei* he organized several exhibitions from 1999-2002.

From 2002 until 2007 he worked as freelance photo journalist for the magazine Focus while taking assignments on the side for magazines. After a year working as a correspondent for foreign coverage in south east Asia he arrived in Berlin to work as photo and video journalist.

His passion for the collodion wet plate process has possessed him since 2011 and hasn't let go. The growing interest has even brought commissioned projects for him using this special craft.

Opening: April 3rd 2014, 7 pm

Projektraum | PhotoWerkBerlin

c/o Kommunale Galerie Berlin
Hohenzollerndamm 176, 10713 Berlin

Exhibition: April 4th - June 29th 2014

Opening hours: mon-fri 10 am - 5 pm, wed 10 am – 7 pm, sun 11 am – 5 pm

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www.photowerkberlin.com/projektraum

Exhibition events

- PhotoWerkBerlin invites you on the 3rd of May 2014 to World-Wetplate-Day. Together with Daniel Samanns and others we will connect with wet plate enthusiasts all over the world.

- On the 1st of June we welcome the public to a conversation with the artist Daniel Samanns

PhotoWerkBerlin

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The **Projektraum | PhotoWerkBerlin** is a collaboration between PhotoWerkBerlin and the Kommunale Gallery Berlin. Beginning April 2014 we will be presenting exhibitions, discussions, project days and much more.

PhotoWerkBerlin is a platform for photographic explorations, founded in 2012 by Norbert Wiesneth and Sebastian Seidel, conducted by Berlin artists. We offer photo workshops that include conceptual and historical theory, readings, lectures, artist talks and studio visits as well as photographic exhibitions. Together we investigate topics like city history, photographic methods, street photography, portraiture and architecture while connecting to Berlins uniqueness.

Our workshops are designed for those who already have a fundamental understanding of the photographic techniques and wish to build upon their knowledge and further develop an artistic vision.

The result of the development is the photographic work of art.

For more information please visit our website: www.PhotoWerkBerlin.com

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