

PETER FINK MY MIND'S EYE

A voyager of beauty rediscovered: through an extensive display of unseen vintage black and white photographs and objects from all phases, the FFF presents a retrospective of the classic American photographer Peter Fink.

*Frankfurt am Main, October 1, 2021 – An affinity for beauty shaped the life and work of the American photographer **Peter Fink** (1907 – 1984). After studying art in Chicago, his talents led him into the world of exclusive interiors and lifestyle. He worked as an art director for the couturier Lucien Lelong and Lanvin Parfums, responsible for showroom design, product packaging and advertising at both luxury houses. He lived in New York and Paris, met greats of the cultural scene, discovered photography. From the 1950s onwards, Fink travelled for fashion photography, throughout Europe, North Africa, Asia and his native USA. On the road, he made the camera his eye – to translate into pictures the beauty he discovered in people, things and places throughout his life, as Fink once explained in an interview.*

*During his lifetime, Peter Fink's photographs were collected by renowned institutions worldwide and celebrated in more than 50 solo exhibitions. A good 15 years after the last solo show, the Artistic Director of **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt** (FFF), Celina Lunsford and her co-curator Andrea Horvay, have taken a completely new look at the photographer's oeuvre: After two years of intensive researching his artist archive, the FFF now presents the retrospective **PETER FINK. MY MIND'S EYE** (exhibition period: 02.10.2021–09.01.2022). On view are more than 200 images, mostly vintage black and white prints, and objects by the American photographer from over 30 years of his work. This selection conveys his rich variety of themes, his respectful empathy for models and motifs, and his poetic visual language.*

With diverse street photography, for example, Fink gives insight into foreign cultures. He shows a quick haircut in a Hong Kong backstreet, the toil of field-hands in Portugal, the nocturnal lights of pulsating cities. In between, again and again, images of children – engrossed in play, curiously looking out of the window, dreaming on the merry-go-round. The young generation, for the photographer it is an expression of hope and joie de vivre in post-war times.

His stagings of fashion are uniquely fitting to the times and the locations, as well as his character driven portraits of celebrities and creatives. Never does the detail escape this voyager of beauty: delicate grasses breaking through a blanket of snow, the dark garment in front of a Tunesian wall, that for a moment in light becomes an haute couture robe. Fink's key works from the 1960s and 1970s include Refractions, the painterly views of American architecture, distorted by reflection or cropping.

*The most extensive book on the photographer to date, **PETER FINK. MY MIND'S EYE** (Kehrer Verlag, Heidelberg), accompanies this exhibition. With several never-before-seen Fink images, found through close cooperation with the Estate of Peter Fink, the show and the publication provide the chance to rediscover and revisit one of America's most versatile and successful photographers.*

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt is supported by Förderkreis Fotografie Forum Frankfurt e.V., Stadt Frankfurt am Main, FUJIFILM Electronic Imaging Europe and Hauck & Aufhäuser



PETER FINK MY MIND'S EYE

Exhibition period: **October 2, 2021 – January 9, 2022**

Opening: **Friday, October 1, 2021, 7 pm**

Press Tour: **Friday, October 1, 2021, 11 am**

Venue: **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Braubachstr. 30–32, 60311 Frankfurt**

*Frankfurt am Main, October 1, 2021 – An affinity for beauty shaped his life and work: the American photographer **Peter Fink** (1907, Grand Rapids – 1984, New York City) first worked as a designer and art director in New York and Paris; he designed showrooms and product presentations for luxury by Lanvin and couture by Lelong. From the early 1950s onwards, he travelled, among other things for fashion assignments, throughout France, Italy, Portugal, North Africa, Mexico, Asia, his native USA – and made the camera his eye for all the worlds he discovered along the way.*

Fink photographed street scenes, people in the countryside, high society, children at play. Later, he revealed architecture in an experimental way. His mostly black and white works – exquisite vintage prints, with lively expressive character and atmospheric contrasts – have been celebrated in more than 50 solo exhibitions worldwide and collected by renowned institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, and the Frankfurt Museum für Moderne Kunst.

*Nearly 15 years after the last solo exhibition, the **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt** (FFF) now presents the comprehensive retrospective **PETER FINK. MY MIND'S EYE**. On display are more than 200 original photographs and objects from all phases of Fink's more than 30-year career. They convey the photographic artist's impressive variety of subjects as well as his respectful empathy for models and motifs. With never-before-seen images, the FFF show provides an opportunity for a reappraisal and rediscovery of one of America's most successful photographers.*

*The exhibition **PETER FINK. MY MIND'S EYE** was curated by Celina Lunsford, artistic director, and Andrea Horvay, curatorial assistant at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, in close collaboration with the estate of Peter Fink.*

*To accompany the show, which was first planned für 2020 and due to Corona had to be postponed, the two FFF curators published already in May 2020 the catalogue **PETER FINK. MY MIND'S EYE**. With 187 work illustrations, a curator's essay and an illustrated biographical timeline, the authors shed new light on Peter Fink's life and work. Like the exhibition, the publication also contains many of the American photographer's works discovered by the authors in the Peter Fink estate and until now not exhibited.*

Project partner:

In cooperation with the **Estate of Peter Fink**

PETER FINK MY MIND'S EYE

EXHIBITION FACTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat, **02.10.2021**, 3 pm **GALLERY TALK**
with **MONIQUE FINK, CELINA LUNSFORD** and **ANDREA HORVAY** [in English]

CURATOR'S TOUR

with **Celina Lunsford** and **Andrea Horvay**, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt
Sunday, **31.10., 28.11., 12.12.2021, 09.01.2022**, 3 pm

EXHIBITION PUBLICATION

PETER FINK. MY MIND'S EYE 208 pages, 176 black and white and 11 colour illustration,
Kehrer Verlag Heidelberg Berlin, 2020. ISBN 978-3-86828-986-2. Price: 38 € (at the FFF and in
book stores)

A **SPECIAL EDITION** with original photographs by **PETER FINK** is available for purchase during
the exhibition.

PRESS IMAGES

On request at presse@fffrankfurt.org

OPENING HOURS

Tue–Sun 11 am–6 pm, closed on Mon

ADMISSION regularly 7 €, reduced 4 €

GUIDED TOURS every Wednesday, 5 pm, price included in admission

For further events and the current Corona rules please see www.fffrankfurt.org

FOTOGRAFIE FORUM FRANKFURT

The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) is one of the leading centres of photography in Europe. As an exhibition space, institution and event forum the FFF deals with all aspects of photography. Since its founding in 1984 it has presented more than 260 exhibitions with historic and contemporary artists. Additionally, the program of the FFF ACADEMY comprises of regular workshops, talks and discussions with internationally renowned photographers, artists and experts. Further information available at www.fffrankfurt.org

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt is supported by Förderkreis Fotografie Forum Frankfurt e.V., Stadt Frankfurt am Main, FUJIFILM Electronic Imaging Europe and Hauck & Aufhäuser

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PETER FINK MY MIND'S EYE

Biography Peter Fink

1907

Samuel Nelson Peter Finkelstein born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA to Aaron and Ester Stein Finkelstein.

1930er Jahre

Studies art in Chicago. Begins work at V'Soske custom-made rug in Grand Rapids.

1940er Jahre

Serves in the US Army. Becomes Art Director for V'Soske Shops in New York and coordinates the exhibition New Rugs by American Artists at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City.

Changes to French couture house Lucien Lelong as Vice President for Public Relations. Based both in New York City and Europe. Meets American interior designer Lady Mendl (Elsie de Wolfe).

1950-1954

First solo show at the Oregonian Hostess House, Portland, Oregon (1950). While working for Lucien Lelong in Paris and New York, takes his first fashion photographs. Travels for work and privately throughout Europe and Morocco. Exhibitions at Santa Barbara Museum of Art, M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco and Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston.

The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, purchases photographs for their collection.

1955

Photo Monde (FR) and American lifestyle magazine Gentry publish major spreads of photographs by Fink. Photographs in Portugal, Amsterdam, California, and New York City. Fink's exhibition Perceptions in Photography begins touring. Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, acquires forty-five Peter Fink photographs.

1956

Becomes Art Director at Lanvin Parfums. First international exhibition of Peter Fink at Gemeente Museum, Den Hague. Solo shows in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston and Wichita take place. Columbia Records uses Peter Fink image for La vie en rose/Edith Piaf Sings in English.

1957

Travels and photographs in Japan and Hong Kong making over 1,000 black and white, and colour photographs for design research and personal work.

1958-59

Concentrates more on fashion photography while working at Lanvin. Makes photographs in Switzerland, France, Ireland, and Greece. Newspaper article From Perfume to Fashion - The Peter Fink Story appears in The Philadelphia Inquirer and the Detroit Sunday Times.

1960-61

Commissioned by the American Federation of Art to photograph Greek and Roman ruins in Libya. Travels and photographs further through Europe and North Africa. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City purchases Fink's Dancer, Charles Moore. Solo and group shows in Santa Barbara, Minneapolis and at London's USIS Gallery of the American Embassy. Photographs Brigitte Bardot and Sami Frey on the film set of La Vérité, and singer Shirley Bassey for an upcoming album. Expands career as a fashion photographer.

PETER FINK MY MIND'S EYE

1962-64

Moves into 1 West 72nd Street, The Dakota building, New York City. Photographs street scenes and architecture in New York City. Travels to Italy and to Mexico, to shoot fashion for LIFE magazine; visits Cuernavaca, Puebla, and Acapulco during the Christmas season.

Harper's Bazaar first runs an advertisement with fashion photos by Peter Fink.

Fink's first photobook The New York I Love is published by Tudor Publishing Company.

1965

The Kodak Exhibit Center in Grand Central Station presents Fink's work The New York I Love.

Takes portraits of the dancer Rudolf Khametovich Nureyev in New York.

In the autumn, travels again to North Africa, making photographs of architectural ruins for the American Federation of Arts; photographs street life in Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Egypt.

1966

Sets up studio in a renovated barn in New Milford, Connecticut. Creates more still-lives and concentrates on nature. Photographs by Peter Fink is hosted by The Art Institute, Chicago.

1967

Together with Nathan Lyons, Minor White i.a. juries the Arizona Photography Biennial Phoenix Art Museum. Fink's photographs are included in the group show Photography in the Fine Arts V at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, which tours the U.S.

Travels to and photographs in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Java, Acre, Ein Hod and Istanbul.

1968

Works from Peter Fink exhibited at the National Collection of Fine Arts and the National Portrait Gallery (Smithsonian), Washington, D.C..

Photographs again in Portugal i.a. soldiers returning from Angola.

The exhibition Peter Fink. Photographs (catalogue), is presented at the Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art, New York City: here the experimental Refractions are premiered.

1970-71

The San Francisco I Love (Tudor Publishing Company) is released. Photographs for twenty-fifth anniversary special edition of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. Peter Fink's New Worlds tours to the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco. Spends more time in New Milford, Connecticut, taking photographs of nature and portraiture i.a. Vladimir Horowitz.

1972-74

In December 1972, Peter Fink marries the model Monique Fritz in New York City.

Refractions - The Work of Peter Fink is published by the AIA Journal (American Institute of Architects).

Documents the City Center of Music and Drama, New York City and its performers.

Creates a series of night shots with multiple flashbulbs called Big Shot for GTE Sylvania Inc.

In 1974, the New-York Historical Society chooses Fink's photographs for the group show Manhattan Now - 14 Photographers Look at the Form of the Old City.

PETER FINK MY MIND'S EYE

1975-79

Travels to Mexico to photograph an exhibition on death in Mexico City. The Bodley Gallery, New York City and other institutions in the U.S. present exhibitions of Fink's photographs. Works in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Exhibitions at Port Washington Public Library in New York City and the Hillsdale College Fine Arts Festival in Michigan (both 1977). Photographs Chanel's 1979 Spring/Summer Collection.

1981-82

Work exhibited in the travelling PhotoShow International in, i.a. Los Angeles and Phoenix. Release of book New York Nocturnes - 85 After-Dark Photographs (Dover Publications, Inc.).

1984

Peter Fink dies in New York City on May 25th.

1985-2021**Group Shows**

Master Photographs from 'Photography in the Fine Arts' Exhibitions, 1959-67, curated by Cornell Capa, International Center of Photography, New York City (1988)

John Stevenson Gallery, New York City (1999 and 2003)

Dedans-Dehors. Le Portugal en photographies, Centre Calouste Gulbenkian, Paris (2005)

Lisette Model e la sua scuola. Fotografie 1937-2002, Museo di Roma, Trastevere, Rome (2008)

This Is Not a Fashion Photograph, International Center of Photography, New York City, including photographs by Peter Fink, Gordon Parks, Samuel Fosso, Walker Evans, Robert Mapplethorpe, Doris Ulmann, i.a. (2009)

Solo Shows

Peter Fink (1907-1984) Photographs (catalogue), America House, Frankfurt am Main, Heidelberg and Mainz (1999)

Peter Fink. Von der Wiedererfindung der Romantik, Kunsthalle Mannheim (2005)

Das Vergessen des Spiegels/Discarding the Mirror at Galerie Morgen, Berlin and Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London (2008)

In 2021, the exhibition PETER FINK. MY MIND'S EYE, curated by Celina Lunsford and Andrea Horvay opens at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main (publication, Kehrer Verlag, Heidelberg).

PETER FINK MY MIND'S EYE

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Opening: **Friday, October 01, 2021, 7 pm**

Press tour: **Friday, October 01, 2021, 11 am**

Venue: **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Braubachstr. 30–32, 60311 Frankfurt**



Peter Fink. My Mind's Eye
Book cover with detail of photograph:
Lanvin, Paris, France, 1955
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Kowloon, Hong Kong, 1957
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Nazaré, Portugal, 1955
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
**Penn Station, 34th Street, New York City, USA,
Early 1960s**
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Souk in Tripoli, Libya, 1965
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021

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Peter Fink
Pink Fuchsia, Connecticut, USA, 1970s
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Monique, Connecticut, USA, 1970
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
St. Tropez, France, 1952
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Brighton, England, 1958
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Caesarea, Israel, 1960s
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021

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Peter Fink
Model, Paris, France, 1960s
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Tokyo, Japan, 1957
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Backstage–Kabuki, Tokyo, Japan, 1957
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Refractions, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 1970s
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink
Kairouan, Tunisia, 1965
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021

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Peter Fink

Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, 1977/78

© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2021



Peter Fink

Contact sheet: **Koreans wash Yukata material by the River Katsura In Kyoto, Japan, 1957**

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