

ABE FRAJNDLICH CHAMELEON

Exhibition period: **May 20 – September 17, 2023**

Opening: **Friday, May 19, 2023, 7 pm**

Press Tour: **Wednesday, May 17, 11 am**

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

*Frankfurt/Main, 17. May 2023 – He has portrayed luminaries from music, art and showbiz, surreally depicted the boundlessness of the big city and brought the greats of photographic history in front of the camera. With **ABE FRAJNDLICH. CHAMELEON**, the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) presents the iridescent diversity in themes of the American photographer Abe Frajndlich (*1946, Frankfurt/Main).*

On view are around 160 works from the 1970s onwards, including Frajndlich's earliest vintage prints from Cleveland. As a focal aspect, the FFF retrospective presents portraits of artists who influenced Abe Frajndlich's life: the performer Rosebud Conway, known as "Rosie", as well as Minor White, photographer, founder of the magazine Aperture and Frajndlich's photographic mentor. Also part of the show is the project Masters of Light – Frajndlich's first major series in colour. For this, he portrayed icons of photography who, in his view, had a decisive influence on the 20th century, including Gordon Parks, Louise Dahl-Wolfe, Berenice Abbott or Ilse Bing. Each of these staged pictures uniquely alludes to aspects of the icon's life or work.

Frajndlich was commissioned by the FAZ Magazin to show his view of the American art scene in the 1980s and 90s. Extensive series of Cindy Sherman, Nancy Spero and David Ireland are good examples and on view for the first time. Also included: experimental street photography and the sensual associations from his book Eros Eterna (1999), without which "the chameleon" Frajndlich would be unthinkable.

Abe Frajndlich's central subjects – creativity, identity, hope, freedom – are closely related to his biography. He was born in a "DP camp" (Displaced Persons) in Frankfurt-Zeilsheim. Early migration experiences led him via Israel, Germany, France and Brazil to the USA. After having finished his literature studies with a master's degree, he turned to photography in 1970.

Frajndlich has published numerous monographs, including Figments (1975), Portraits (2000), Penelope's Hungry Eyes (2011), The Shooting (about Charles Bukowski, 2021) and Seventyfive at Seventyfive (2022). His work has been exhibited internationally and is held in major collections such as the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York City), Musée Nicéphore Niépce (France), Museum Ludwig (Cologne), Jewish Museum (Frankfurt) and the National Portrait Gallery (Washington D.C.). From 1985 Frajndlich worked for magazines such as The New York Times Magazine, LIFE, Vanity Fair and the FAZ Magazin. Today the photographer lives and works in Cleveland.

ABE FRAJNDLICH. CHAMELEON, curated by Celina Lunsford, artistic director of the FFF, and co-curator Esra Klein, is the FFF's contribution to the festive programme of the 175th Paulskirchen anniversary.

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 at about 270 exhibitions with historic and contemporary artists. Additionally, the programme of the FFF ACADEMY comprises of regular workshops, talks and discussions with internationally renowned photographers, artists and experts. Further information available at www.fff Frankfurt.org

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



ABE FRAJNDLICH CHAMELEON

Special Events

SAT, 20.05., 3 pm GALLERY TALK
with **ABE FRAJNDLICH** and **CELINA LUNSFORD** [in English]

SUN, 28.05., 25.06., 3 pm KURATORINNENFÜHRUNG
mit **CELINA LUNSFORD**

SAT, 10.09., 3pm TALK
CHAMELEON. **ABE FRAJNDLICH** in dialogue with author **PETER STEPHAN JUNGK** [in English]

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS every **Wednesday, 5 pm**

PRESS IMAGES: Download at www.fff Frankfurt.org/presse

PROJECT PARTNERS of the exhibition **ABE FRAJNDLICH. CHAMELEON:**



FFF ACADEMY

Register now:

SAT/SUN, 03./04.06., 10 am–6 pm WORKSHOP
WHERE IT ALL BEGAN. THE PINHOLE IN PRACTISE
with **ALESSANDRA CAPODACQUA**

SAT, 17.06., 10 am–5 pm WORKSHOP
TAKING THE NEXT STEP. VOM PROJEKT ZUM FOTOBUCH, Part 3
with **ALEXA BECKER** [in German]

SAT, 18.06., 10 am–6 pm WORKSHOP
BILDBEARBEITUNG FÜR DIE DRUCKPRODUKTION
with **ERIK CLEWE** [in German]

More events see www.fff Frankfurt.org

OPENING HOURS Tue–Sun 11 am–6 pm, Mon closed

ADMISSION regular 7 Euro, reduced 4 Euro

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS on Wednesdays, 5 pm