

Brigitte Dunkel PRINCESSUAL 1982

INTERNATIONALE PHOTOSZENE FESTIVAL 2025 & IDYLL Projektraum, Köln

Opening: Saturday, May 17, 2025, 5pm | Finissage: Thursday, May 29, 2025, 5pm

On view: May 16 – 29, 2025

Talk: June 5, 2025, 7:30pm „Take a Seat“ / Photo Pavillon, Hahnenstrasse 8, 50667 Köln

BRIGITTE DUNKEL's site-specific window installation arranges unpublished photo performances from the early 1980s in both shop windows and the door segment of the IDYLL project space using the original, analogue photographic material in a specially developed spatial design in the context of the INTERNATIONALE PHOTOSZENE FESTIVAL 2025.

The series of images on display stage inscrutable scenes with a female protagonist that appeal to the viewer's imagination: what is taking place here - where the person depicted is located - what she is doing is not (or should not be) immediately recognisable.

The concept for the shop window installation PRINCESSUAL 1982 is based on several decisions that also have to do with the approach of the festival framework: FEELINGS & PHOTOGRAPHY - another essential aspect is the theme of sustainability.

The installation's connection to the theme of 'feelings in photography' lies less in the depiction of feelings in images than in the wider arc of reflecting on a time and examining how today relates to yesterday when we look at the serially staged photo performances. A further aspect that may evoke emotions is the presentation of the installation in a public space with a differentiated audience: not only a specialised audience of 'insiders' is addressed, but all people who move around in the outdoor space of Trimbornstrasse in the Kalk district of Cologne on the right bank of the Rhine.

The aspect of sustainability was one of the decisive factors in presenting the existing but never exhibited archive material of these photo performances from 1982 as analogue material in the 'now' and addressing its current possible uses: presented are the hand prints realised predominantly in black and white on different photographic papers, some with colour manipulations, a few Polaroids and a large format on transparent adhesive film that has been digitally processed and implemented.

12 framed formats are mounted in the two display windows with swivelling screen mounts in such a way that they appear to be facing the recipients and at the same time suggest the omnipresence of the screen format. The frames used for the presentation display were acquired through low-cost/free institutional 'material transfers' (SK-Stiftung & Kolumba Museum) and convey slightly outdated presentation methods from the time when the picture collection was created, as does the pink-coloured light of the fluorescent tubes integrated into the display, which becomes visible in the dark. Two further series of pictures are inserted into hand-cut passe-partouts and placed in two transparent hangers made of ultra-light tulle material: both formally and in terms of content, the shop window installation PRINCESSUAL 1982 ties in with the long-term project POWDER ROOM, which was only started 30 years later (!) - in 2012 - and in which numerous installation-based and performative solo exhibitions have been/will be realised in the meantime.

FUNDED by: Stadt Köln / Kulturamt & Kalk Gestalten