

Marsha Burns Looking Back

curated by Benjamin Ochse

With the photo exhibition 'Looking Back' the Haus am Kleistpark has the opportunity to celebrate work by the American photographer Marsha Burns. Though nearly forgotten in Berlin today, the photographer was the only photographer from the USA to ever be invited to give a lecture at the legendary »Werkstatt für Photographie« at the VHS Kreuzberg, in 1984. While here, her work was presented in a group exhibition at the Amerika Haus Berlin, where today C/O Berlin is located.

During her stay here in the, at that time, still divided city, she created numerous portraits of teenagers and young adults from the underground music scene. In these black-and-white portraits, taken with a large-format camera, the viewer can really feel the zeitgeist of Berlin's No Future generation as well as the protagonists' narcissism when posing for the photographer.

Marsha Burns' work primarily engages in a dialogue with classical portraiture. The artist photographs her counterparts in full and half-length poses in photo studios in New York and Seattle, as well as at the »Werkstatt für Photographie« in Berlin-Kreuzberg.

Burns works almost exclusively with natural daylight, which she employs as an integral part of her light-and-shade-dominated compositions. In her photographs her male and female models appear both nude and clothed, and often surrounded by classical props, which we recognize from the beginnings of the medium. For example, Burns will often use a pedestal or a piece of glass, placed to the side of the model and then used to draw their reflections into the greater composition. She often positions her protagonists before a neutral, bright background. The demeanour and gestures of those she photographs are strictly choreographed, a knowing nod to the compositional methods from the world of painting.

Marsha Burns was born in 1945 in Seattle, Washington. Between 1963–65 she studied painting at the University of Washington and then continued her studies between 1967–69 at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Her first experiences with photography came from a course in photo journalism she took in Seattle in 1963. And yet it would take another six years before she decided to dedicate herself fully to the medium of photography as her primary means of artistic expression.

Today her work can be found in institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Stedelijk Museum, the Centre Pompidou, the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona, the Seattle Art Museum, and in many collections.



Opening Thursday, 4 April 2019, 7pm, Introduction by Benjamin Ochse

Exhibition dates: 5.4. – 26.5.2019

HAUS am KLEISTPARK | PROJEKTRAUM, Grunewaldstr. 6–7, 10823 Berlin

Hi Yg'h fci [\ 'Gi bž%Ua 'E* da , Free admission, www.hausamkleistpark.de

Information: Galery director Barbara Esch Marowski, 030/90277-6964, esch-marowski@ba-ts.berlin.de
An exhibition by the Department of Kunst, Kultur, Museen Tempelhof-Schöneberg

Marsha Burns Looking Back

curated by Benjamin Ochse



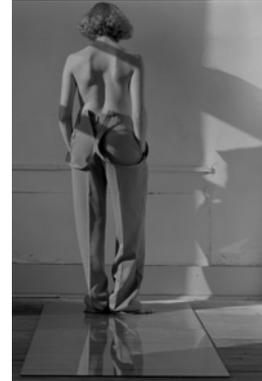
© Marsha Burns
Dreamer's, around 1984



© Marsha Burns
Posture, around 1975



© Marsha Burns
Dreamer's, around 1984



© Marsha Burns
Posture, around 1975



© Marsha Burns
Dreamer's, around 1984



© Marsha Burns
Posture, around 1975

You may use the press photos made available here for coverage related to the current exhibition at no charge. Do however always publish all copyright information. After their use, please erase the digital images. Please do not forget that the press photos are only available for a limited time during the exhibition.

The press photos must be removed from all online media no later than four weeks after the end of the exhibition.



Opening Thursday, 4 April 2019, 7pm, Introduction by Benjamin Ochse

Exhibition dates: 5.4. – 26.5.2019

HAUS am KLEISTPARK | PROJEKTRAUM, Grunewaldstr. 6–7, 10823 Berlin

Hi Yg'h fci [\ 'Gi bž%Ua 'E* da , Free admission, www.hausamkleistpark.de

Information: Gallery director Barbara Esch Marowski, 030/90277-6964, esch-marowski@ba-ts.berlin.de
An exhibition by the Department of Kunst, Kultur, Museen Tempelhof-Schöneberg