



Loredana Nemes - Press Folder

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"Loredana Nemes - Men"
at the Baukunst Galerie,
1 July to 28 August 2010

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and by appointment



PRESS RELEASE: Loredana Nemes – Men

01/07-28/08/10

On Wednesday, the 30th of June 2010 from 7 to 10 p.m., the Baukunst Galerie opens the large solo-show "Men" with photos of Loredana Nemes. Gabriele Conrath-Scholl, director of the photographic collection of the SK Stiftung Kultur will give an introduction in the oeuvre of the native-born Rumanian artist. Her works were primarily presented by the gallery together with photos of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Sibylle Bergemann in the group-exhibition "Report" in 2009. Besides, this spring her photos were shown in the context of the promotional program "New Positions" at the Art Cologne. The current solo-exhibition faces the two series "Berlin's Men's Worlds" and "About Love", which deal with the masculine self-presentation and ideas of love and ideology. In her gelatin silver prints on baryta paper Loredana Nemes visualizes the male world by taking pictures of Islamic coffee houses for men in her adopted city Berlin and documenting her chance encounters with male pedestrians by photos, texts and sound recordings during her travels through Europe and the USA in her wedding dress.

Loredana Nemes was born in 1972 in Sibiu, Rumania, fled to Germany in 1986 and today lives and works in Berlin. The autodidact sees the motivation of her anonymous approach to other people with her camera in this social dislocation and subsequent endeavour to affiliate. Thus she found an access to the homeland of her childhood in the series "Rumanian Faces" (2001-2007) and portrayed the individuality and emotions of the people behind the stage of the magic world of the circus Roncalli in her series "Behind the Curtain" (2001-2003). In "Under Ground" (2005-2006) she succeeded to grasp those special moments of absent-mindedness and intimacy of passengers in subway vehicles during the short minutes of transit. With this last series, which was exhibited at the Museum für Kommunikation in Berlin and amongst others in Munich, Hamburg, Sibiu, Loredana Nemes gained great attention followed by reviews in the "FAZ", "Die Zeit", the "ART" magazine and on television at the SWR and the ARD. Thereupon the artist received professorships at the Zeppelin Universität in Friedrichshafen and the Art Academy Weißensee in Berlin.

Loredana Nemes unfolds the strength of her elaborately composed black and white photos with documentary ethos and emotional approach to the subject and hereby models on the pioneers of the report and street photography Henri Cartier-Bresson, Ansel Adams and Elliott Erwitt. Thus in her series "Berlin's Men's Worlds" (since 2008) the artist takes pictures with her Linhof plate camera of the architectonic exterior view of the Turkish, Oriental and Arabic coffee houses in Berlin's districts Neukölln, Kreuzberg and Wedding, where she is not allowed to enter because of her gender and her culture. Besides the architectonic photography she asks the male guests to stand behind the screens of curtains and frosted glass, which are characteristic for those institutions, in order to portrait them. This way she visualizes the gender separation of women and men, which has become almost unknown in the Western culture but which is still part of the daily coexistence in many multicultural German cities. In this context the precise rendering of the details by the large-format camera subverts our curiosity about the foreign and unknown. At the same time the texture of the pictured screens transfers the veiling of Islamic women to the men and questions our involved patterns of thoughts.

This series is juxtaposed with the series "About Love" (since 2006), where the artist – inspired by the oeuvre of the artist Sophie Calle – involves herself in her photos for the first time. During her travels to Sibiu (RO), Washington, Madrid, Oslo, Berlin, Chania (GR) and Gent (B) she searches for a place on the streets with perfect light conditions. Then she installs a cloth, builds up her camera on a tripod, dons her wedding dress, takes the automatic release in her hand and waits for male pedestrians, who awake her interest. She always initiates the conversation with the same question: "Are you in love with a woman?". Then she records the answer on a dictating machine and kindly asks the man to take a double portrait, where he stages himself together with her acting as his beloved woman. She allows every man to take three shots and then she selects one of them. This portrait is presented on a par with the transcribed text as 30 x 20 cm large gelatin silver prints which are accompanied by the original record of the statement of the portrayed person. In this series the artist, whose own planned marriage has never proceeded, wants to approach the mystery of love, which is sometimes fulfilling and sometimes failing. She exposes herself to foreigners in her wedding dress arousing positive emotions in almost every culture – and she is taken seriously. The statements of the men in their native language, which she often just understands by the non verbal communication of their gestures and facial expressions, are perceived by her as a very personal present, which she intuitively reflects in her own body language. This way her artwork bears an intimate witness of the desires, aspirations and vulnerability of loving men – but also of the artist herself.



BIOGRAPHY

- 1972 born on December, the 23rd in Sibiu, Rumania
- 1986 flight from Rumania to Aachen (D)
- 1993-99 studies German language and literature studies, mathematics and management at the RWTH in Aachen (D)
- 2001 moves to Berlin; since that time she works as a freelanced photographer; starts with the series "Behind the Curtain"
- 2002 travels through Rumania and begins with the series "Rumanian Faces"
- 2005/06 starts the series "Under Ground" in London, Paris, Berlin, Moscow; later in New York and Bucharest
- 2006 professorship for photography at the Art Academy Weißensee, Berlin; scholarship of the VG Bild-Kunst to realize the project "Sibiu – A Portrait"; works for Richard Serra at his MoMA-catalogue, published in the context of his exhibition at the MoMA in New York in May 2007; starts with the series "About Love"
- 2007 professorship for photography at the Art Academy Weißensee, Berlin; scholarship by NOMOS Glashütte / SA (D) to realize the project "Glashütte"
- 2008 professorship for photography at the Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen; the catalogue "Under Ground" is the selected title for the German Photo-Book Prize 2008; starts with the series "Berlin's Men's Worlds"
- 2009 teaching assignment for portrait-photography at the Goethe Institute in Almaty, Kasachstan; professorship for photography at the Art Academy Weißensee, Berlin
- 2010 teaching assignment for portrait-photography at the Goethe Institute in Almaty, Kasachstan

The artist lives and works in Berlin.



SOLO-EXHIBITION (SELECTION)

- 2010 "About Love", Schloss Neuhardenberg, Neuhardenberg
"Berliner Männerwelten", Förderkoje "New Positions", Art Cologne, Köln
"Berliner Männerwelten", GSW Immobilien GmbH, Berlin
- 2009 "Loredana Nemes", Goethe Institut Almaty, Kasachstan
"Berlin's Men's Worlds", government department of North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf (D)
- 2008-09 "Under Ground", Museum for Communication, Berlin
- 2008 "About Men", Anna Augstein Fine Arts, Berlin
- 2007 "Under Ground", Galerie Celentano, Munich
- 2006 "Under Ground", Galeria de Artă a Muzeului Brukenthal, Sibiu, Rumania
- 2005 "Under Ground", Galerie Camerawork, Hamburg
"Geschichten von Unterwegs", Photogalerie Aroma, Berlin
- 2004 "Rumanian Faces", Institut for Romance studies, Humboldt-University Berlin
- 2003 "Behind the Curtain", Stadtmuseum Münster, Münster (D)
"Rumanian Faces", Rumanian Cultural Institut, Berlin

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2010 "beyond - Berliner Männerwelten", Festival Voies-Off, Arles
"Schwarz-Weiss. Zeitgenössische Positionen in der Schwarz-Weiß-Fotografie", Galerie Robert Morat, Hamburg
- 2009 "Jeff Beer, Johannes Backes, Sibylle Hoessler, Anja Lehmann, Loredana Nemes, Roland Wirtz", Loftgalerie für Fotografie Peter Gregor, Berlin
"REPORT: Henri Cartier-Bresson, Sibylle Bergemann, Loredana Nemes", Baukunst Galerie, Cologne
- 2008 "Tickle Attack", Backlight – Triennial for Photography, Tampere, Finland
"Love Affair", Anna Augstein Fine Arts, Berlin
- 2007 "Under Ground" (together with Gisela von Bruchhausen), Galerie Ruhnke, Potsdam



- 2006 "cross over", Galerie Ruhnke, Potsdam
"Zirkus", Galerie Carlshorst, Berlin
- 2005 "Deutschlandbilder", Wiesbadener Fototage, Wiesbaden (D)
"Circus in Berlin", Museum Ephraim-Palais, Berlin

WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Stadtmuseum Berlin
Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg
Camerawork AG, Berlin
NOMOS / Glashütte SA
Museum für Kommunikation Berlin
Collection Richard Serra

BIBLIOGRAPHY (SELECTION)

CATALOGUES

Richard Serra, Cat.: Gagosian Gallery London, London 2008. (pictorial documentation)

Under Ground, ConferencePoint Verlag, Hamburg 2007.

Richard Serra - Sculpture: Forty Years, Cat.: Museum of Modern Art New York, New York 2007. (pictorial documentation)

Zirkus in Berlin, Cat.: Museum Ephraim-Palais, Berlin 2005.

Dokumentation über die Opfer der Nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft, Ausst.-Kat.: Stadtmuseum Schloss Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg 2003. (pictorial documentation)

Behind the Curtain, Cat.: Stadtmuseum Münster, Münster 2003.

Nemes, Loredana: *Behind The Curtain*, Berlin 2003.



PRESS ARTICLES (SELECTION)

Rosen, Björn: "Geschlossene Gesellschaft. Türkische Cafés", in: *Der Tagesspiegel*, 22nd of February 2009.

<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/zeitung/Frauen-Maenner-Sonntag;art7754,2735268>

"Sich unsichtbar machen. Interview mit der Künstlerin Loredana Nemes", in: *grrrh... Zeitung für Kunst*, No. 10, January 2009.

<http://www.grrrh.de/Bilder/Nemes.jpg>

Ladurner, Ulrich: "U-Bahn-Augenblicke. Die Fotografin Loredana Nemes ist unter die Erde gegangen", in: *Die Zeit*, 14th of December 2008.

<http://www.zeit.de/online/2008/50/bg-underground>

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http://www.morgenpost.de/stadtprogramm/live/article976965/Metro_Reisende.html

Seyfarth, Leonard: "Man hört die Spannung einer Stadt", Interview mit Loredana Nemes, in: *www.art-kunstmagazin.de*, 23rd of September 2008.

http://www.art-magazin.de/kunst/10738/loredana_nemes_interview

"Lesezeichen", in: *Bayerisches Fernsehen*, 18th of November 2007.

"Nachtkultur", in: *SWR*, 26th of October 2007

Kilb, Andreas: "Lauter Zwischenstationen des Lebens", in: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 26th of July 2007.

"Mittagsmagazin", in: *ARD*, 12nd of July 2007.

Bisky, Jens: "Bitte zurückbleiben!': Eine Vorschule unsentimentaler Menschlichkeit", in: *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 9th of July 2007.

Werneburg, Brigitte: "Wir sind alle Mitreisende", in: *die TAZ*, 29th of June 2007.

Berliner Zeitung, 21st of June 2007.

Photonews, 9/2006.

"Beziehungen mit all ihren Facetten", in: *Berliner Morgenpost*, 4th of July 2005.

http://www.morgenpost.de/printarchiv/tagestipps/article318115/Beziehungen_mit_all_ihren_Facetten.html