



NEW RELEASE

## Allure

Collection Susanne von Meiss

Texts by Birgit Filzmaier, Felix Hoffmann

Designed by Naroska Design

Hardcover

23 x 30,5 cm

252 pages

190 color and b/w ills.

English/German

ISBN 978-3-86828-713-4

Euro 48,00 / US\$ 54.00 / £ 40.00

### First publication of the rich photography collection of Susanne von Meiss

*»Allure is something that does exist. „Allure holds you...whether it's a gaze or a glance in the street or a face in a crowd...it pervades...you are captured by it.«*

– Diana Vreeland, Fashion journalist

It shimmers quietly and timelessly from among all the rapidly changing fashions, trends and opinions. It appears only briefly in a fleeting combination of elegance, poverty and movement. Stance, attitude or allure is intangible, indescribable inconceivable and unattainable in the perpetual white noise of our zeitgeist. Yet it is the essence that radiates from deep within. It oscillates between coolness and naturalness, with a fascinating mixture of staging and authenticity. However, the more it becomes a theme in itself, shifting into focus, the more it dissipates. Should one wish to grasp it, or seek an explanation, it dissolves. Yet how can the fragile, immaterial character of allure be held photographically? Photographers constantly take on this challenge anew—with the goal of capturing this ephemeral phenomenon, sometimes spontaneously, at other times as a visual composition.

Whether fashion photography, street photography, reportage or conceptual approaches—the respective working context of the individual photos is not significant in this compilation of the Susanne von Meiss Collection. Instead, all the photographs share the absence of the direct gaze of the person portrayed into the camera and the subtle play with the hidden and the mysterious—that goes beyond sex or gender. Hence the main focus lies on detail views of individual parts of the body and accessories, as well as on silhouettes, movement or concealment. The individual photographs do not tell any explicit stories. They do not contain any direct narrative. They serve as diverse projection films for the viewers and their interpretation.

Two vintage photographs by Richard Avedon from the 1950s were the initial inspiration for the **Susanne von Meiss Collection**. For 25 years now, the Swiss journalist, publicist and entrepreneur has been collecting photography with the special focus on »allure« —a personal compilation that transcends individual genres, styles and artists. The private collection currently includes approximately 400 works from Japan to South America.

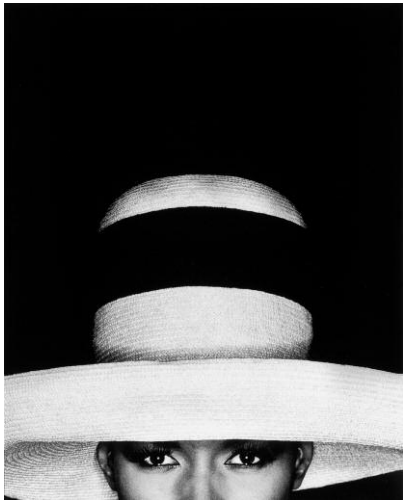
The Susanne von Meiss Collection representatively covers all genres and styles in the history of photography—from the 1920s through to the present. It includes works by internationally renowned photographers, however for the main part it does not give preference to the iconic photographs but rather to unknown classics. The personal selection ranges from **Diane Arbus, Richard Avedon, Rene Burri, Henri Cartier-Bresson** and **Elliot Erwitt** through **Horst P. Horst, Irving Penn, Paolo Roversi** and **August Sander** to contemporary artists such as **Julie Cockburn, Tracey Emin, Nan Goldin, Daido Moriyama, Richard Prince** and **Juergen Teller**.

The collection is presented to the public for the first time at C/O Berlin. The exhibition and this publication encompass approximately 250 photographs—including many unique and vintage prints, as well as photographs that were produced especially for the Susanne von Meiss Collection. The presentation has been curated by Felix Hoffmann and Birgit Filzmaier.

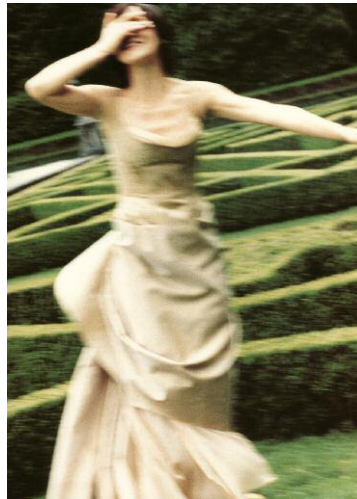
### Exhibition

C/O Berlin, Germany

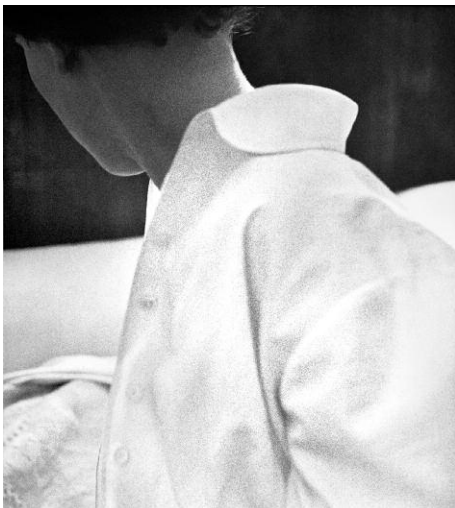
May 28th – September 4th, 2016.



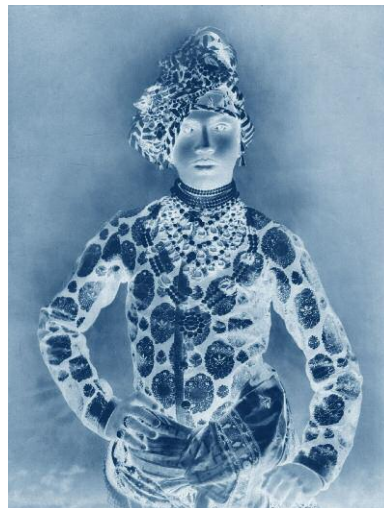
01 Greg Gorman, Grace Jones with hat, 1991 © Greg Gorman



02 Esther Haase, Sophie Rois, Österreich, 1998 © Esther Haase



03 René Groebli, Rita, 1953 © René Groebli



04 Thomas Ruff, neg. india\_01, 2014 © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2016 / Courtesy Konrad Fischer Galerie, Düsseldorf



05 Len Prince, Swimming Cap Profile, New York, 1991 © Len Prince / Courtesy Staley-Wise Gallery, New York



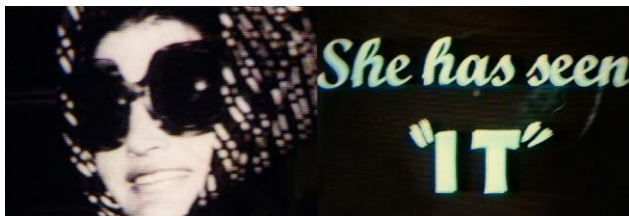
06 Elliott Erwitt, Grace Kelly, New York City, January 1956 © Elliott Erwitt / MAGNUM PHOTOS



07 Frank Horvat, Mode à Longchamp, Givenchy hat, Paris, 1958 © Frank Horvat



08 Julie Cockburn, The Meteorologist, 2014 © Julie Cockburn



09 John Waters, IT, 2000 © John Waters / Courtesy Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York



10 Linder, Fantesse, 2013 © Linder / Courtesy Stuart Shave, Modern Art, London



11 Peter Lindbergh, Tatjana Patitz & Linda Spierrings, Le Tourquet, 1986 © Peter Lindbergh / Courtesy Studio Peter Lindbergh



12 Lillian Bassman, Fantasy on the Dance Floor, Barbara Mullen, dress by Christian Dior, Paris, 1949 © Estate of Lillian Bassman



13 Nan Goldin, Kate Moss in the mirror, Sir John Sloan Museum, London, 2001  
© Nan Goldin



14 Juergen Teller, Kate Moss, London, 1995 © Juergen Teller



15 Saul Leiter, Harper's Bazaar, ca. 1960 © Saul Leiter Foundation / Courtesy  
Howard Greenberg Gallery

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