

NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG



Benita Suchodrev

48 Hours Blackpool

Texts by Matthias Harder, Helmut Newton Foundation and Benita Suchodrev

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Benita Suchodrev transforms the street into a stage. She makes something visible that most of us overlook: the face in the crowd.

From sunrise to sunset, on the famous promenade and surrounding alleys in the resort town on the Irish Sea, the Russian-American-Berliner Benita Suchodrev lets life unfold before her camera. Relying on her intuition, during a couple of summer days the photographer documents her encounters with strangers. Her manner is daring and swift, always capturing the »decisive moment.« Like all her documentary and portrait work, housed in private collections in Berlin, Moscow, and New York, the high-contrast black-and-white photographs in 48 Hours Blackpool are intense and devoid of sensationalism.

Suchodrev's debut book is a sociocultural study rich in authenticity and poetry; a contemporary but timeless journey of discovery through bingo parlors, hot dog stands, and burlesque theaters where wacky types, moms and pops, kids and seagulls go to play.

»Blackpool is after all a weekend getaway; a traditional destination for no-holds-barred stag and hen parties and wacky characters. It is also a playground for kids with painted faces wearing candy-colored tops, gangsta hoodies, and fake tattoos, fervently dragging their moms and pops (and vice versa) in and out, to and fro amusement parks, bingo halls, arcades, and restaurants. "Kids eat free!" A sense of self-perpetuating urgency and appetite pervades the air, accompanied by the frantic cry of seagulls. In this vortex of bread and circuses, mouths and hands are always busy with fish & chips, Blackpool rock candy, and cell phones. Mini dramas and the occasional contemplative moment pop up when least expected. I hold them forever still by the click of the shutter.«

– excerpt from *Seagulls and Metaphors* by Benita Suchodrev

Benita Suchodrev was born in the former Soviet Union and immigrated to the United States at the age of fifteen where she received her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts with a focus on Art History from SUNY Purchase College, New York, continuing to a Master of Arts in English Literature at the Freie Universität Berlin, graduating summa cum laude. The subjects of film and photography played a significant role in her curriculum and it was in the university darkroom where she developed and printed her first black and white images. In 2008 Benita relocated to Berlin and began a prolific documentation of the cosmopolitan city's multi-faceted art scene. Suchodrev's photographic work was exhibited in solo and group shows nationally and internationally and is part of the Rafael Tous Foundation for Contemporary Art in Barcelona and private collections in Moscow, Berlin and New York.

<http://benitasuchodrev.com>

Matthias Harder is senior curator at the Helmut Newton Foundation in Berlin since 2004. He studied art history, classical archeology and philosophy and works in addition to his various curatorial activities as author, tutor, juror, consultant and speaker.

Book Signing

Paris Photo 2018

November 8, 14:00, booth SE06

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