



NEW RELEASE 2025

Claude Hofer
Emotional Waves
Butoh and Contemporary Dance

Texts by Romina Achatz, Sebastian Altermatt, Alice Baldock,
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Dance art meets photo art: Performances of Butoh and contemporary dance

Claude Hofer's publication is the first book of its kind to explore and document the internationally renowned dance genres of Japanese Butoh and contemporary dance. Over many years, the Swiss photographer traveled across the globe—Japan, Taiwan, Germany, Austria, and the United Kingdom—meeting and collaborating with more than one hundred dancers and performers, many of whom created improvisations or choreographies specifically for his camera.

The resulting images go far beyond performance documentation: they are intimate, psychological portraits in motion. Hofer's intense black-and-white photography focuses unmistakably on the human face and its expressive power, as well as on bodies and technique. His work captures moments reflecting a range of emotional states—states of being suspended between presence and becoming. The photographs capture moments in which the distinction between performance and personal identity becomes increasingly fluid.

Hofer approaches each encounter as a dialogue—an act of mutual trust and artistic surrender, tracing the fragile and fleeting connection between body and mind. *Emotional Waves* is a poetic and deeply human meditation on movement, becoming, and the emotional resonance of photography.

From the text *Touching the Universe - On the Symbiosis between the Visual and Performing Arts* by **Claude Hofer**:

People are at the center of my photographic work. My main focus is on the face, not on movement itself. I am interested in the facial expression that changes when a person performs a move-

ment and thus reflects the character of the person or figure. I am interested in whether a person reveals more of his or her character when moving than when still and posing for the camera. The dancers and I are united by our indelible love of art and our desire to express ourselves in a universally understood art form. It is our symbiotic relationship that can produce works of art.

From the text *On Transformation* by **Alice Baldock**:

The things that dancers transformed into could be other humans—you could, for instance, become an infant or an old woman. Often, however, the thing that the dancers became was non-human, part of the natural world, and sometimes even supernatural beings like ghosts. What all the dancers insisted on was that the transformation was more than imitation, a change of the dancers' interiority and exteriority into a totally different being.

Claude Hofer is a Swiss photographer who began his career in finance before dedicating himself fully to photography. Deeply influenced by Eikō Hosoe, he studied photography at the Swiss School of Journalism (MAZ) in Lucerne. *Emotional Waves* is the culmination of many years of exploration into the worlds of Butoh and contemporary dance.

Forthcoming Exhibition

IPFO - International Photography Festival in Olten
 Switzerland
 20.–24.08.2025

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