

NEW PUBLICATION 2023

Deichtorhallen Hamburg *Ralph Gibson: Secret of Light*

Edited by Sabine Schnakenberg, Haus der Photographie /
Deichtorhallen Hamburg

Texts by Matthias Harder, Viktor Hois, Dirk Luckow,
Gilles Mora, Sabine Schnakenberg

Designed by Kehrer Design (Benjamin Wolbergs)

Hardcover, 24 x 32 cm

240 pages

120 b/w and 36 color ill.

English / German

ISBN 978-3-96900-104-2

Euro 49,90 / US\$ 58.00

Comprehensive survey of the work of American photo artist Ralph Gibson, including previously unseen photographs

I have never had a story to tell. My language is not the language of words. There is no allegory in my work. I do not invent anything. What interests me is to express an idea through photography. There is no other reason for my work. And in this respect, I am an absolute formalist. I am in love with the medium of photography itself.

—Ralph Gibson

This wide-ranging exhibition by the photographer Ralph Gibson (*1939) presents the development of his work from the 1960s to the present day based on selected series. The exhibition is being developed in a direct collaboration between the artist and the curator, Dr. Sabine Schnakenberg, and is composed of some 300 analogue and digital works in black and white and color from the artist's private collection as well as works that the collector F.C. Gundlach acquired during his collaboration with Ralph Gibson in the early 1980s for his private photography collection, which is now on permanent loan to the House of Photography at the Deichtorhallen.

Ralph Gibson is one of the most interesting American photographers of our time. His international renown is based on his exceptional work, which is shown and collected by some of the world's leading museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the J.P. Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Creative Center for Photography in Tucson, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, and the Fotomuseum Winterthur in Switzerland.

Gibson's works, which he has created since the early 1960s, completely contradict the conventional purpose of the medium of photography: the meticulous depiction of so-called reality. Gibson is not interested in photographic documentation, and instead understands photography as an aesthetic endeavor. A leitmotif of his work comes from the original meaning of the word "photography": drawing with light. Gibson needs light not only as a material prerequisite for creating each of his photographs; light itself becomes an object of investigation and a creative tool. Playing with its counterpart, shadow, is just as important. Gibson thus elevates light itself to become a theme of his oeuvre.

Exhibitions

RALPH GIBSON – SECRET OF LIGHT

Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Halle für aktuelle Kunst
Hamburg, Germany

21.04.–20.08.2023

Kunstfoyer, Versicherungskammer Kulturstiftung,
Munich, Germany

Fall / Winter 2023

Please note:

These photographs have been copyright cleared for worldwide print and electronic reproduction in the context of reviews of the book only. Print media: No more than THREE photographs plus the cover image from the selection can be used in total – they are not to be used on the cover or cropped. Online media may use a total of TWELVE images in a gallery.

For further details, press images, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher's press office:

Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com or
pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com

Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
Phone +49 (0)6221/649 20-18 | www.kehrerverlag.com

Press images



01_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Infanta*, 2010
© Ralph Gibson



02_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Days at Sea*, 1974
© Ralph Gibson



03_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Days at Sea*, 1974
© Ralph Gibson



04_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Days at Sea*, 1974
© Ralph Gibson



05_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Deja-Vu*, 1972
© Ralph Gibson



06_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Deja-Vu*, 1972
© Ralph Gibson



07_Ralph Gibson, from the series *The Somnambulist*, 1970
© Ralph Gibson



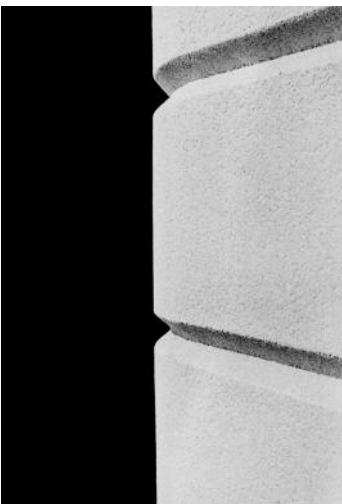
08_Ralph Gibson, from the series *The Somnambulist*, 1970
© Ralph Gibson



09_Ralph Gibson, from the series *The Somnambulist*, 1970
© Ralph Gibson



10_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Quadrants*, 1975–1988
© Ralph Gibson



11_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Quadrants*, 1975–1988
© Ralph Gibson



12_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Nudes*, 1968–2005
© Ralph Gibson



13_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Nudes*, 1968 – 2005
© Ralph Gibson



14_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Political Abstraction*, 2015
© Ralph Gibson



15_Ralph Gibson, from the series *The Vertical Horizon*, 2016 – 2021
© Ralph Gibson



16_Ralph Gibson, from the series *The Vertical Horizon*, 2016 – 2021
© Ralph Gibson



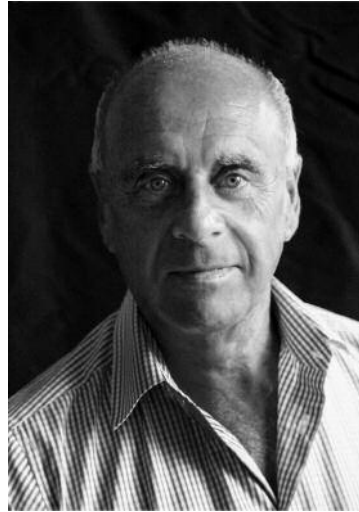
17_Ralph Gibson, from the series *The Vertical Horizon*, 2016 – 2021
© Ralph Gibson



18_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Nature/Object*, 2015 – 2022
© Ralph Gibson



19_Ralph Gibson, from the series *Nature/Object*, 2015 – 2022
© Ralph Gibson



20_Portrait Ralph Gibson, 2012
© Andrea Blanche