Those who die leave behind traces in the lives of their families and loved ones, in their surroundings, in the world. Objects, pictures, clothing, or places spark memories of loved ones. The capturing of a moment in a photo also plays a significant role here. Walter Benjamin, Siegfried Kracauer, Roland Barthes, and Susan Sontag have all emphasized the connections between photography and death. For ten years, Tina Ruisinger photographed all the things that are left behind when one dies. In doing so, she focused not only on death, but also on the lives of those left behind. The objects are depicted out of their original context. As an artist, she is committed to a topic that remains taboo.

»There are some things that we associate with only one single person. Even when the object is a mass product. A leather belt, for instance; a pair of jeans; a pearl necklace. But for us, it is the leather belt; the pair of jeans; the pearl necklace. How very little is required to spark so much?«
– from the text by Nadine Olonetzky

Biographies

Tina Ruisinger (b. 1969 in Stuttgart) studied at the Hamburg School of Photography, the International Center of Photography in New York, and the Zurich University of the Arts. Since 1992, she has been working as a freelance photographer in the fields of reportage, portrait, and dance.

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Nadine Olonetzky, born in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1962, writes for the NZZ am Sonntag about photography, art, and cultural history. She has written and edited several books.

Petra Zudrel, born in Altstätten, Switzerland, in 1969, studied German and Jewish Studies in Vienna, Berlin, and Potsdam. She was awarded a doctorate for a thesis on Max Nordau and, since 2009, has been working as a freelance curator for the Angelika Kauffmann Museum in Schwarzenberg.

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