

JULIAN SCHNABEL

Polaroids

07.06.–04.08.2018

Press conference: Wednesday, 06.06.2018, 10:30 am

Opening: Wednesday, 06.06.2018, 7 pm

Julian Schnabel will be present



Julian Schnabel, *Ohne Titel (Palazzo Chupi, Studio)*, 20 x 24" Polaroid Kamera, approx. 84 x 56 cm, 2008 © Julian Schnabel

»I never intended to show the pictures I took. The Polaroids are documents of places I built, sculptures I made, people I know, the process of painting. I used the camera as a medium. Because of the camera I had the experience. Anomalies, idiosyncrasies, light leaks and accidents form the character of these photographs – I just happen to press the button. Using this camera is like riding a good horse, you just hold onto the reins and let her run. I don't have a camera. I don't walk around taking photos. It was this particular camera that I became engaged with.«

– Julian Schnabel, 2018

For the first time in Austria, OstLicht Gallery presents Julian Schnabel's Polaroids. The American painter, sculptor and filmmaker has been taking unique photographs for over a decade using a rare twenty by twenty-four inch Polaroid Land camera made in the 1970s.

Schnabel doesn't take pictures so much as makes them. Many of the works brought together here are portraits of the artist's family and friends. These photographs are sketches of Schnabel's life.

There are charismatic portraits of Lou Reed, Plácido Domingo, Mickey Rourke, and Max von Sydow; private rooms in the Palazzo Chupi in New York; his studios in Montauk and Manhattan. Highly personal, poetic images result. Their immediacy and warmth account for much of their magic. These works embody the spontaneous act of trying to take a picture – they are pretty simple in that way. They are images of friendship, of love, of an engaged life, and of melancholy too. They record the transformation of life into art.

Schnabel took his first Polaroid picture in 2002 with the twenty by twenty-four inch handmade camera. Only six of these cameras are still known to exist. Because of its massive construction, its slow lens and the necessity to use powerful flash units, it was originally conceived for studio shoots, but the bulkiness of this apparatus leaves Schnabel unaffected. He resists its predetermined handling and operates this giant machine in various spaces, even outdoors. The large-format Polaroid film allows for a wide range of tones and shades that are unrivalled in their nuances.

In addition to the Polaroids, Schnabel will also show two paintings from 2010, *Untitled (Crazy People)*. These paintings are Polaroid pictures taken of photos from the 1920s that Schnabel found in France, enlarged onto a polyester canvas and painted on with purple ink.

On the occasion of his exhibition at OstLicht Gallery the artist will again use the twenty by twenty-four inch Polaroid camera for the first time in Vienna.

Sale

All Polaroids in the exhibition are for sale. For any purchase enquiries please contact Corina Lueger:
lueger@ostlicht.at

Biography

Julian Schnabel was born in New York City in 1951. Schnabel's first major solo exhibition was at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston in 1976, followed by a solo show at Mary Boone Gallery in 1979.

Schnabel's work has been exhibited all over the world: The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1982; Tate Gallery, London, 1982; Whitechapel Gallery, London, 1987; Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, 1987; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, 1987; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 1987; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, 1987; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1987; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nîmes, 1989; Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich, 1989; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, 1989; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1989; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Monterrey, 1994; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, 1995; Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna, 1996; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt/Main, 2004; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, 2004; Museo di Capodimonte, Naples, 2009; The Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, 2010; Museo Correr, Venice, 2011; J.F. Willumsens Museum, Frederikssund, 2013; The Brant Foundation Art Study Center, Greenwich, 2013; Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, 2014; Dairy Art Centre, London, 2014; Museu de Arte de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2014; NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale, 2014; University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, 2015; Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, 2016; Pace Gallery, New York, 2017; The Glass House, New Canaan, 2017; Hall Art Foundation, Schloss Derneburg, 2017; Almine Rech Gallery, New York, 2017.

Schnabel wrote and directed the films: *Basquiat* (1996), *Before Night Falls* (2000), *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (2007), *Berlin* (2007) and *Miral* (2010).

His work is included in the public collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Guggenheim Museum, New York and Bilbao; Tate Gallery, London; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; and Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, among others.

Julian Schnabel lives and works in New York City and Montauk, Long Island.

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Opening hours

Wed–Sat 12–18 pm
and by appointment