

PRESS RELEASE

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NAN GOLDIN

TRÄUME

24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD

OPENING ON 22.03 – AT 18H

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to present in Geneva *Träume*, an exhibition of recent works by Nan Goldin.

The American photographer will present at the rue du Vieux-Billard new assemblages of photographs, belonging to the series of the famous *Grids* (or "grids") that she has been developing for several decades. To create these compositions, Nan Goldin meticulously selects shots according to formal or thematic criteria. The unifying element can be, for example, the colour (pink, red, blue, black), or the subject: bathers, drapes, empty rooms etc. Sometimes, real narrative sequences are also created. The *grids*, as curator Elisabeth Sussman rightly analysed, state a simple postulate, according to which history and time exist as a combination of individual lives.

In addition to the series of photographs that have become iconic, Nan Goldin has been interested since the 1970s in the assemblage of images, in the possibilities offered by the various combinations that can be envisaged, in the juxtaposition of different places and times. It was with *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, a slide show of nearly 700 images, that she achieved international recognition. Other slide shows will follow, including *The Other Side* (1994) and *Sisters, Saints and Sibyls* (2004), presented on three screens. In many ways, the slideshows and grids are the result of the same process, the same selection and review process.

Nan Goldin was born in 1953 in Washington D.C. in the United States. She decided to leave home at the age of 13, shortly after her sister's suicide. Her escape is quickly immortalized by clichés that constitute, one could say, the diary of her life. Known worldwide for her photographic work without taboos, the artist deals mainly with themes related to her experiences in the underground environments of the 70s and 80s: parties, violence, drugs, alcohol, sex, illness, death... It is these marginal environments that were used to create *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, presented once again at MoMA last year. Nan Goldin's work is brutally realistic and highlights issues of confusing topicality. The artist has been featured in numerous institutions such as the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Berlinische Galerie, the Fotomuseum in Rotterdam, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. She was named Commandeur dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2006, was awarded the Hasselblad Prize in 2007 and received the MacDowell Medal in 2012 as well as the honorary prize of the International Festival of Art Books and Film in Perpignan for her body of work.