

Andreas Rentsch

The fascination and magic in the ability of capturing light and making it visible within the photographic process has been an obsession of mine since I took my first image at the age of 12. The etymology of photography (drawing with light, light recording, documenting and writing with light) has always been an inspiration for experimentation. In that regard, I consider my more recent work to be the purest form of photography, with light as my guiding force and constant companion.

My photographic work of late possesses a close aesthetic relationship to performance, drawing and painting. Process has become more and more important in my art practice. My aim has consistently remained within the parameters of the photographic medium in order to discover new ways to articulate my ideas visually. Experimentation and chance have become important tools in my research. A large part of my methodology has been to abandon a considerable amount of control and allow the material to take over in some unexpected and unpredictable ways. In the case of my Entangled with Justice series, I circumvent the manufacturer's specification of separating the negative from the positive of the Polaroid Type 55 film and instead of fixing and washing it immediately, I allow it to develop and decay over a period of weeks or months before I tone it for permanence. By allowing the chemical phenomena to randomly and arbitrarily impact the once available information in the image, the resulting shapes and forms in essence become metaphors for our own unpredictable existence.

In the series X-Ray, I eliminate the apparatus altogether while the double-sided emulsion is continuously exposed to light. The mark-making is created through my application of traditional black and white photographic chemicals by hand onto the film's surfaces. Its temporality is an integral part of the process, as the evidence of my actions is often revealed after several days or weeks, or is completely deconstructed by the chemistry. The X-ray film becomes a revelatory tool, exposing hidden appearances, almost like a forensic expert unearthing concealed truths under the layers. My interest in the discourse of the medium's potential can't hide the fact that my work is anchored in a moral sensibility that relates to my upbringing. I spent the first 18 years of my life on a prison compound where my father was the warden and where daily interactions with convicts were common. These visual and real life experiences nurtured a sense of empathy in me for the human condition that has been a guiding force in my life as well as my work.

My two recent series, Entangled with Justice and X-Ray, were triggered upon seeing the horrifying images of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the hand of American soldiers at Abu Ghraib and the public stoning in Afghanistan of a loving couple by their own community, including relatives. These works continue an ongoing exploration of the connection of fate, geography and politics in the direction of justice.

In the video piece The Wanderer, my interdisciplinary approach includes still images, video and avant-garde music to create a work that is as much an homage to early German Expressionist cinematography, as well as a piece of remembrance of a kindred spirit that went through life endlessly searching.

My unconventional approach to photography raises the question of medium specificity. As photography has been closely identified to the apparatus and to its reproducibility, the questions and limitations as defined in the past have given way to new explorations of alternative fields of study. The incorporation of other mediums has been a vital aspect of my art making, and this expansion opens up new avenues of expression.



Untitled, 2008
From the series Entangled with Justice

Unique Polaroid Type 55 Negatives
4 x 5 inches



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EDUCATION

- 2011-13 Stony Brook University, MFA in Studio Art (concentration in photography)
- 1989-90 International Center of Photography, New York City, Certificate in General Studies (full time program)
- 1983-87 Ecole d'Arts Appliqués, Vevey, Switzerland, B.F.A in Photography

COLLECTIONS

- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
- Polaroid Collection, Waltham, Massachusetts
- Musée de la Photographie, Charleroi, Belgium
- Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Museet for Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark
- Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, New York
- Swiss Foundation of Photography, Winterthur, Switzerland
- Museum at Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin, Germany
- Fondation Gianada, Martigny, Switzerland
- City of Biel, Switzerland
- William M. Hunt, New York City

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2012 Goldberger Award, Stony Brook University, New York
- 2008 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (Photography), New York
- 1999 Polaroid Artists Support Grant, Polaroid Corporation
- 1998 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (Photography), New York
- 1991 Polaroid Artists Support Grant, Polaroid Corporation

SELECTED ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Candela Gallery, Richmond, Virginia
- 2013 Lawrence Alloway Gallery, Stony Brook University, New York
- 2010 LaCabane, *Entangled with Justice*, Murten, Switzerland
- 2009 Musée de l'Elysée, *Entangled with Justice*, Lausanne, Switzerland

- 2001 Sag Harbor Picture Gallery, Sag Harbor, New York
- 1999 Centro de Formación Técnica ALPES, Santiago, Chile
Alliance Française, Bogota, Colombia
- 1998 Centro Colombo Americano, Medellin, Colombia
Centre de la Photographie, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1996 Houston Center for Photography, *The Flesh in the Spirit*, Houston, Texas
SOHO Photo Gallery, New York City
- 1995 Photoforum Pasquart, *Corps à Corps*, Biel, Switzerland
- 1994 The Old Pink School House, Tres Piedras, New Mexico
- 1993 Midtown Y Gallery, curated by Michael Spano, New York City
- 1990 SOHO Photo Gallery, New York City

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 Islip Art Museum, *IAM Pocket-Sized*, East Islip, New York
Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery, Stony Brook University, New York
The Big Picture, Month of Photography Denver, Denver
Gallery North, *Deck the Halls: Small Works*, Setauket, NY
- 2014 Heckscher Museum of Art, *Modern Alchemy: Experiments in Photography*, Huntington, New York
East China Normal University, *Resilience*, Shanghai, China (catalog with image)
NO AD, *RE + IMAGINING PUBLIC SPACE* in the NYC Subway system in collaboration with ICP
Helen Day Art Center, *The Appearance of Clarity: Works in Black and White*, Stowe, Vermont
Southampton Arts Center, *Off The Block: NYFA Fellows at Southampton Arts Center*, Southampton, NY
St. John's University, *Faculty Exhibition*, Queens, New York
- 2013 International Center of Photography, *Stories in the Social Landscape*, faculty exhibition, New York
Gallery North, *Deck the Halls: Small Works*, Setauket, NY
International Center of Photography, *I'll be Your Mirror*, New York City
Staller Art Gallery, Stony Brook University, New York (catalog with image)
- 2012 International Center of Photography, *Strike Anywhere*, New York City (catalog with image)
- 2011 The George Eastman House International Museum of Photography, *The Unseen Eye: Photographs from the W.M. Hunt Collection*, Rochester, NY
LiShui Museum of Photography, *Pictures Are Words-Not-Known*, LiShui, China
LiShui Photography Festival, *Pictures Are Words-Not-Known*, LiShui, China (catalog with image)
Galerie BMG, *Work by New Artists*, Woodstock, NY
- 2010 Governors Island Art Fair, *Swiss Art + Other Machinations Part 1*, New York City
Heckscher Museum of Art, *The Heckscher at 90: Then and Now. Recent Acquisitions*, Huntington
Staller Center for the Arts, *Faculty Show*, Stony Brook University, NY
Forum Vebikus, *Zeichen*, Schaffhausen, Switzerland
- 2008 Cohan and Leslie, Benefit for the FCA, organized and curated by G.Crewdson, N.Goldin, J.Johns, A. Leibovitz, L.Simmons, J.Lethbridge, K.Walker, New York City
- 2007 International Center of Photography, *Faculty Show*, New York City

- Islip Art Museum, *Free Play*, East Islip, NY
- Heckscher Museum of Art, *Picturing Long Island: Abstract, Figurative and Historical*, Huntington, NY
- Rosenberg & Kaufman Fine Art, Palm Beach 3 Art Fair, West Palm Beach, FL
- 2006 Rosenberg & Kaufman Fine Art, *Gallery Artists*, New York City
- 2005 Rosenberg & Kaufman Fine Art, *Summer Show*, New York City
- 2003 Photoforum Pasquart, *Nackt, Nu, Nude...*, Biel, Switzerland
- 2001 Williamsburg Art & Historical Center, *The Alchemical Body*, Brooklyn, NY
- Stephen Bulger Gallery, *White*, Toronto, Canada
- 2000 Portland State University, *Photo America's: Director's Choice*, Portland, OR
- Arts Center of the Ozarks, *Photo America's: Director's Choice*, Springdale, AR
- Stephen Bulger Gallery, *Summer Show*, Toronto, Canada
- Cheryl McGinnis Gallery, *Preview 2000*, New York City
- Photoforum Pasquart, *Au Centre, l'Artiste*, Biel, Switzerland
- The Discovery Museum, *Forces of Nature: Fire, Water, Earth and Air*, Bridgeport, CT
- 1999 Central Fine Arts, *Six Degrees of Seduction*, New York City
- White Columns, *Outer Boroughs*, New York City
- 1998 Focal Point Gallery, two person show, City Island, New York
- 1997 Z Gallery, summer group show, New York City
- 1996 Afterimage Gallery, *Shots*, Dallas, TX
- Stuart Levy Gallery, *Spirit in the Flesh*, New York City
- Salon del Retrato, Galeria Jose Peon Contreras, *Mes Internacional de la Fotografia*, Merida, Mexico
- Museo Leon Trotsky, *Fotoseptiembre*, Mexico City
- Instituto Nacional De Bellas Artes, San Miguel De Allende, Mexico
- 1995 NAFOTO, International Photo Meeting, *Fotografia Contemporânea Norte-Americana*, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- University of Minnesota, *The Nude Human Figure in the Visual Arts*, Morris, MN
- 1993 Deutsche Fototage, *The Dream of Flying*, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- CB's 313 Gallery, *Disposable Generation*, curated with Spencer Tunick, New York City
- Swiss Institute, *A Grand Tour*, New York City
- Bergen Museum, *Rising European Photographers*, Paramus, NJ
- 1992 CB's 313 Gallery, *Ultima Thule*, curated with Spencer Tunick, New York City
- Robin Rice Gallery, *Spiritual Travels*, New York City
- 1990-91 *Die Mauer - Faszination der Fotokunst*, Moscow/Riga/Tiflis, Russia
- 1987 Museum at Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin, Germany
- 1986 Photoforum Pasquart, Biel, Switzerland
- 1985 Fondation Gianada, Martigny, Switzerland

CURATED/JUDGED EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Huntington Arts Council, juror of the *THE SELF, 9th Annual Juried Photography Show*, Huntington, NY
- 1993 CB's 313 Gallery, *Disposable Generation*, curated with Spencer Tunick, New York City
(full page review in *USA Today*)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2015 [New York Times](#) (with image), *In Huntington, an Exhibition of Pioneering Photography Through the Ages*, review of *Modern Alchemy: Experiments in Photography* exhibition at the Heckscher Museum of Art (February 13)
[Long Islander News](#), interview in conjunction with the *Modern Alchemy: Experiments in Photography* exhibition at the Heckscher Museum of Art (January)
- 2014 Metropolitan Museum of Art website, review of *The Appearance of Clarity: Works in Black and White* exhibition at the Helen Day Art Center
[Long Islander News](#), *Heckscher Welcomes 'Experimental Photography'*, review of the *Modern Alchemy: Experiments in Photography* exhibition at the Heckscher Museum (December 11)
 Push/Pause FIOS Cable TV, *In the Art Studio with Andreas Rentsch*, (February 6)
- 2012 International Center of Photography, catalog *Strike Anywhere* exhibition, New York City
- 2011 LiShui Photography Festival, catalog with image (p. 44), LiShui, China
[Photocritic International](#) – A.D. Coleman, letter by Bill Ewing (May 8)
- 2010 [Schaffhauser Nachrichten](#), review of Forum Vebikus' *Zeichen* show (November 11)
[Ausgang.sh](#), review of Forum Vebikus' *Zeichen* show (November 18)
[Express](#), review of Forum Vebikus' *Zeichen* show (November 25)
[AZ](#), review of Forum Vebikus' *Zeichen* show (November 25)
[Fotointern](#), review of Forum Vebikus' *Zeichen* show (Dec. 12)
[Freiburger Nachrichten](#), review of LaCabane show (March 27),
[Murtenbieter](#), review of LaCabane show (March 23)
- 2009 [Berner Zeitung](#), review of Musée de l'Elysée show (September 7)
[Murtenbieter](#), review of Musée de l'Elysée show (September 11)
[Freiburger Nachrichten](#), review of the Musée de l'Elysée show (September 7)
 Swiss-French Public Radio, Interview of the Musée de l'Elysée show (June 25)
- 2008 [Double Exposure](#), interview by Robert A. Schaefer about the *Entangled with Justice* series (October 20)
- 2001 [Dan's Paper](#), review of show at the Sag Harbor Picture Gallery, (June 7)
[The East Hampton Star](#), review of show at the Sag Harbor Picture Gallery, (May 10)
- 2000 [El Metropolitano](#), review of the show at Alpes, Santiago, Chile (January 2)
- 1999 [Aperture](#), portfolio, New York City (#154, p. 28-35)
[Reflex](#), portfolio, Mexico City (#23, p. 37-42)
[Photo Review](#), review of FotoFest Houston, Philadelphia (#22, p. 25)
- 1998 [Colombiano](#), review of show at the Centro Colombo Americano, Medellin, Colombia (November 21)
[Photo Metro](#), portfolio, San Francisco (#151, p. 7)
[Tribune de Genève](#), review of Centre de la Photographie show, Geneva, Switzerland (May 23)
[Viewfinder](#), Focal Point Press, City Island, New York (#22, p. 4-5)
- 1997 [Fotophile](#), portfolio, New York

- 1996 Mes Internacional de la Fotografia, catalog with image, Merida, Yucatan (April, p. 16-17)
Photo Metro, portfolio, San Francisco (# 140, p. 30)
La Fotografia, portfolio, Barcelona (#55, p. 38-41)
- 1995 NAFOTO, International Photo Meeting, catalog, Sao Paulo, Brazil (May, p. 14)
Schweizer Illustrierte, review of Photoforum Pasquart show, Biel, Switzerland (July 3)
Tages Anzeiger, review of Photoforum Pasquart show, Biel, Switzerland (July 12)
Berner Zeitung, review of Photoforum Pasquart show, Biel, Switzerland (July 25)
Journal du Jura, review of Photoforum Pasquart show, Biel, Switzerland (July 28)
Swiss-French Public Television
Das Magazin, portfolio, Berlin (August, pp. 68-71)
- 1993 USA Today, review of Disposable Generation show at CB's 313 Gallery (July 8, p.50)

LECTURES

- 2015 NYC Photo Salon, School of Visual Arts, New York City
- 2011 Photographic Federation of Long Island, Plainview, NY
- 2010 Photographic Federation of Long Island, Plainview, NY
- 2010 OLLI, Stony Brook University, NY
- 2009 Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY
- 2008 St.John's University, New York City