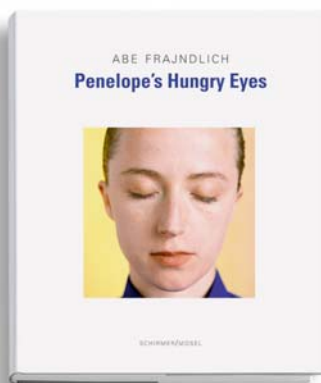


Munich, October 2011



ABE FRAJNDLICH
Penelope's Hungry Eyes
Portraits of Photographers
Texts by Abe Frajndlich and an
essay by Henry Adams
188 pages, 102 color and
duotone plates
ISBN 978-3-8296-0559-5
€ 49.80; US \$ 68,-; £ 49.95
English language edition

PRESS RELEASE

“En *Frajndlich*, if you please!”

Abe Frajndlich: The portrait photographer of the photographers

It is with “hungry eyes”, but also with a tenacity and patience only equaled by Penelope’s firm belief in the return of her husband Odysseus, that over the last 30 years American Abe Frajndlich has taken portraits of his famous fellow photographers. Now, a selection of over 100 pictures from the ever growing portrait collection has been published in book form for the first time under the title “Penelope’s Hungry Eyes”. It features grand old masters of the art and photographic artists, contemporaries of the author and younger masters from the Düsseldorf School.

Abe Frajndlich has succeeded in luring the world’s most famous photographers out from behind their cameras and in front of his. With extraordinary skill, he has trained his lens on people used to hiding their own eyes behind a camera. For each of his portraits (some in color, some black and white) Frajndlich has conceived an individual setup that brings into focus in diverse ways the photographer’s primary organ, namely their eyes, which are as special as the voice of talented singers. Some of the photographers shy away by closing their eyes, wearing a mask or turning away (Cindy Sherman, Annie Leibovitz, Thomas Struth or Hans Namuth). Others use props such as glasses, mirrors or magnifying glasses to set their eyes in scene (Bill Brandt, Duane Michals, Andreas Feininger, Lillian Bassman) and still others draw attention to the vulnerability of their eyes using knives and scissors (Imogen Cunningham, Lucas Samaras). Yet many of the subjects respond to the unfamiliar “change of perspective” by looking directly into Frajndlich’s camera (Candida Höfer, Berenice Abbott, Gordon Parks).

Our book is a special kind of reference work. Here, Abe Frajndlich presents a Who’s Who of recent photographic history, enriched with a highly subtle eye for humorous situations. In images and text (the photographer has added a personal note to each portrait) Frajndlich sets out to discover the ever enigmatic relationship between the real person and their own legend.

Abe Frajndlich was born in 1946 to Polish Jews in Frankfurt. At the age of ten he moved to the United States via Israel, France and Brazil. His role model and mentor was photographer Minor White, from whom he learnt “the art of seeing”.

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