

LÉVY GORVY WITH RUMBLER

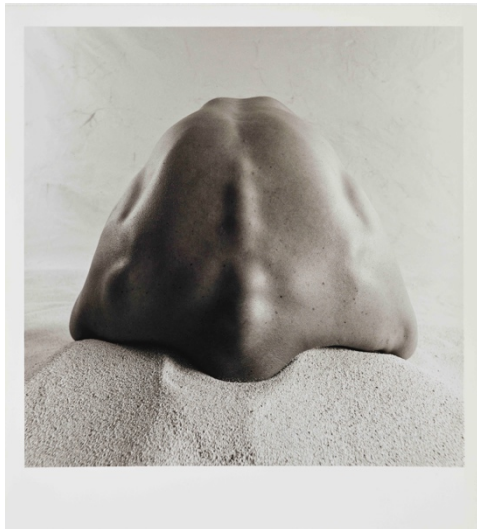
LÉVY GORVY WITH RUMBLER TO EXHIBIT LANDMARK
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WOMEN

Her Gaze
Sixty Years of Women in Photography

24 October 2019 – 10 January 2020

Lévy Gorvy with Rumbler
Kirchgasse 50, 8001 Zürich

Opening Reception: Thursday 24 October, 6-9 PM



Zürich—Celebrating the innovative achievements of female photographers, *Her Gaze: Sixty Years of Women in Photography* opens 24 October at Lévy Gorvy with Rumbler in Zürich. The exhibition is inspired by the life of one of Switzerland’s first female gallerists, Anita Neugebauer-Langer, who in 1976 opened a gallery in Basel solely devoted to the medium of photography and was a photographer herself. Lévy Gorvy with Rumbler is delighted to present this selection of works from the collection of the late Neugebauer-Langer, who ran Photo Art Basel from 1976 to 2004 and championed artists of her generation and beyond for more than five decades.

A lifelong advocate of women photographers, Neugebauer-Langer became close friends with Gisèle Freund (1908–2000) when they met in exile in Buenos Aires. The exhibition will feature Freund and other pioneers of modernist photography including Ruth Mayerson Gilbert (1909–2007), Germaine Krull (1897–1985), and Barbara Morgan (1900–92), alongside images by prominent contemporary practitioners such as Olga Chernysheva (b. 1962), Lucana (b. 1960), and Ute Schendel (b. 1948). The tremendous works of art in *Her Gaze* range from urban landscapes and portraiture to studies of the human figure.

Inherently modern, photography has offered freedom from the patriarchal traditions of more classical art forms, giving women opportunities to establish their economic and aesthetic independence. Photographers like Germaine Krull and Gisèle Freund rose to that challenge to develop images that placed them at the centre of the Parisian avant-garde. Krull’s photo of Métro tracks exemplifies the innovations she displayed in *Métal* (1928), a ground-breaking publication that brought her modernist vision to the industrial landscape. She applied the same eye for abstraction to her portraits, as seen in her image of Louis Jouvét, where the

famed actor partially obscures his face in a dramatic gesture. Freund is represented in *Her Gaze* by photographs in which she captured the liveliness of Parisian street life. The only founding female member of the international photographic co-operative Magnum, Freund became the first photographer to be honoured with a retrospective at the Centre Pompidou in Paris in 1991.



American photographer Barbara Morgan's dynamic image of Martha Graham communicates the singularity of the pioneering dancer and choreographer. Graham is pictured performing her signature solo dance *Lamentation*, seated on a bench and enshrouded in a cloth wrap, contorting her body within it to create riveting lines and sculptural masses. Morgan's photograph embodies Graham's belief that "We are all artists, and we have had this glorious capacity to create and to shape the world." *Her Gaze* also features selections from Ruth Mayerson Gilbert's *Rue de Seine Paris* series, in which the American photographer shot images of *porteurs de viande*—men delivering sides of meat to Parisian butchers. Masterfully composed, Gilbert's striking photographs resemble Baroque paintings. As she stated, "I don't go for what's traditionally considered beautiful. I think what I'm looking for is the spell that charges the commonplace with beauty and mystery. I'm interested in what makes the ordinary strange and wonderful."

Contemporary highlights include *Dos Pechos*, an arresting example from the *Formas* suite by Lucana (Ana Lucia Perez Tobón). A graduate of École supérieure d'arts appliqués in Vevey, Switzerland, the Colombian photographer generated this striking photograph in her Medellín studio. Presenting her model's anatomy as a sculptural abstraction, Lucana casts new light on images of the figure. Also included are photographs from the *Waiting for a Miracle* series by Olga Chernysheva, a multimedia artist who represented Russia at the 2001 Venice Biennale. To capture these images, Chernysheva photographed women with winter hats from behind, rendering them into flowerlike forms while raising questions around individuality and identity. As she has explained, "It's how an image, something simple and so straightforward, can look different when viewed from another perspective. I want to know, what is the miracle that will change our lives?" Transforming the mundane into the miraculous, the myriad images in *Her Gaze* demonstrate the power and vision of these extraordinary artists.

About Lévy Gorvy

Lévy Gorvy cultivates a program devoted to innovation and connoisseurship in the fields of modern, postwar, and contemporary art. Founded by Dominique Lévy and Brett Gorvy, Lévy Gorvy maintains gallery spaces at 909 Madison Avenue in New York, in Mayfair, London, and in Central, Hong Kong. The gallery fosters continued dedication to the living artists and artists' estates that it represents and offers a robust program of exhibitions and multidisciplinary events. The gallery also produces ongoing art-historical research and original scholarship, publishing

exhibition catalogues, monographs, and other key publications. In Zürich, Lévy Gorvy with Rumbler offers bespoke private advisory services to collectors and institutions around the globe.

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TOP IMAGE: **LUCANA** (ANA LUCIA PÉREZ TOBÓN). *Dos 6 Pacho*, 1994. Silver gelatin print, 36.5 x 33.5 cm. © Lucana (Ana Lucia Pérez Tobón). BOTTOM IMAGE: **GISÈLE FREUND**. *Pantouflour*, 1933, reprint from unknown date. Gelatin silver print, 30 x 20 cm. © Gisèle Freund.