

Press Release

Hervé Guibert

This and More

10 June – 20 August 2023

KW Institute for Contemporary Art presents *Hervé Guibert – This and More*, a solo exhibition featuring a selection of photographs by the late French artist, writer, and activist Hervé Guibert (b. 1955, FR, d. 1991, FR). Curated by Anthony Huberman, the exhibition explores what lies beyond the grasp of photography.

Better known for his portraits, Guibert also photographed interiors, inanimate objects, and empty rooms—an important body of work that remains relatively unknown. Laconic and reserved, these photographs offer an approach to portraiture where what is missing from the image is what counts. Charged with love as well as with trauma, these interior spaces invite imaginative readings of the people who belong or once belonged there. His photographs lay open the artist's most intimate spaces while also maintaining the secrecy of private moments, with the protagonists kept safely (or tragically) out of the frame or at a distance.

Instead of providing a sense of objectivity or 'truth', this exhibition points to all that is invisible in a photograph: memories, anecdotes, absences, and richly layered subjectivities. Guibert's photographs of objects and domestic spaces are replete with the ghostly absence of those who once inhabited them and left them behind. In that sense, this exhibition considers the 'truths' that lie dormant within a photograph, invisible to the eye and yet central to the image. It proposes images about what is absent from images.

Curator: Anthony Huberman
Assistant Curator: Sofie Krogh Christensen

Hervé Guibert (b. 1955, FR, d. 1991, FR) was a artist, novelist, photographer, and photography critic. He published his first book, *Propaganda Death*, when he was 22 years old, in 1977. That same year, he began writing a column about photography for *Le Monde*, and worked as the newspaper's chief photo critic until 1985, writing about artists, writers, and philosophers such as Patrice Chéreau, Roland Barthes, Isabelle Adjani, Michel Foucault, Miquel Barceló, and Sophie Calle. Between 1977 and his premature death in 1991, he wrote more than twenty-five novels and short narratives, always in the first person, including *Suzanne and Louise* (1980), *Ghost Image* (1982), *Blindsight* (1985), *Crazy for Vincent* (1989), several of which have recently been translated into English and published by Semiotext(e). His 1990 novel *To the Friend Who Did Not Save My Life* brought him media acclaim and public notoriety as it was a thinly veiled portrait of his friend Michel Foucault and played a significant role in changing public attitudes in France toward AIDS. In 1992, French television posthumously screened *La Pudeur ou l'impudeur*, a film Guibert made of himself as he lost his battle against AIDS.

Guibert's photographs were the subject of a retrospective at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris in 2011 and at the Loewe Foundation in Madrid in 2019. Other recent solo exhibitions have been presented at Callicoon Fine Arts in New York (2014 and 2019), Galerie Les Douches in Paris (2018, 2020, 2021), Kristina Kite Gallery in Los Angeles (2018), and Galerie Felix Gaudlitz in Vienna (2020).

Public and Mediation Program

Exhibition Opening

9 June, 7 pm

Curator's Tour

With Anthony Huberman

10 June, 2 pm

Focus Tour

With Oliver Wellmann

21 June, 5 pm

Screening:

Modesty and Shame

6 July, 9 pm

Public tour with German Sign Language

16 July, 2 pm

Reading:

Queer Reading Night

19 July, 8 pm

Public Guided Tours

Sunday, 11 June, 4 pm / in German

Saturday, 8 July, 4 pm / in English

Sunday, 9 July, 4 pm / in German

Saturday, 29 July, 4 pm / in English

Sunday, 30 July, 4 pm / in German

Saturday, 19 August, 4 pm / in English

Sunday, 20 August, 4 pm / in German

Press contact

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Media partner

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