

Brigitte Lustenberger, born in Zürich, lives and works in Bern, Swi
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Brigitte Lustenberger, born in Zurich, studied social and photographic history at the University of Zurich, where she completed her thesis on the photographs of Robert Capa and Gerda Taro from the Spanish Civil War. In 2006, she earned her Master's degree in Fine Art Photography and Related Media from Parsons The New School of Design in New York.

Lustenberger is an award-winning artist who exhibits her work both nationally and internationally. Her most notable accolades include the Merck Prize (2018) from the Darmstädter Fototage, the Grand Prize Winner PDNedu, the Golden Light Award, the Photography Award of the Canton of Bern (2002, 2013), the Landis&Gyr Grant (2013), the Prix Photoforum (2005), as well as the Art Grant (2018) and the Artist Book Grant (2022) from the Canton of Bern. Her work has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibitions worldwide, including solo shows at the Musée de l'Elysée in Lausanne and La Chambre in Strasbourg. Additional presentations include the Saatchi Gallery in London, the platform Fotomuseum Winterthur, Kunsthalle Bern, Photo London, Unseen Amsterdam, La Filature in Mulhouse, Paris Photo, and the Walter Keller and Christophe Guye Galleries. A major on-site installation featuring 40 large-format images was shown at the old cemetery in Monthey. Her monograph *An Apparition of Memory* was shortlisted for the Most Beautiful German Books. Lustenberger has also taught as a guest lecturer at the University of Basel and the Bern University of the Arts.

In her artistic practice, Brigitte Lustenberger engages deeply with the photographic medium—particularly its inherent ties to themes such as transience, memory, and the fragility of life. A central aspect of her work is a critical examination of the depiction of the female body in photography, and the related dynamics of seeing and being seen (the gaze). Her work inhabits the intersection of craft, art, and science. Often using her own photographic processes, she fragments, deconstructs, and reassembles images in order to challenge her own gaze. The theme of impermanence and aging also manifests in the materiality of the work itself. She presents wall-based photographs alongside spatial installations. She often blends analog and digital photography—merging historical and contemporary techniques—two eras of photographic image-making converge. It is from this interplay that the essence of her practice emerges: a searching, questioning photographic gaze.

Education

- 2004-2007 Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Photography and Related Media, New School University, New York, Prädikat Grade A (excellent); Master Thesis: *Who am I looking at? And ... who is looking at me? Presence and absence in a photographic image, the concept of the gaze and the impact of virtual reality on our collective memory and visual perception*
- 1989-1996 Lic. Phil. I, Universität Zürich, Prädikat: Insigni cum Laude
Lizentiat: *...schliesslich führen wir alle denselben Kampf - Das Bild des spanischen Bürgerkrieges in den Fotografien von Robert Capa und Gerta Taro*

Prizes and awards (selection)

- 2024 Die schönsten deutschen Bücher, Stiftung Buchkunst: Shortlist
- 2023 Werkbuch Stipendium Pro Helvetia
- 2022 Werkbuch Stipendium des Kantons Bern
- 2021 Continuer Stipendium, Stadt und Kanton Bern
- 2018 Merck Preis 2018
Stipendium für Kunst, Fotografie und Architektur des Kantons Bern
Julia Margaret Cameron Award for best Still Life
- 2013 Landis&Gyr Stipendium, Berlin
Fotopreis des Kantons Bern

2010	IPA (International Photography Awards), Honorable Mention Recipient, New York PWPs 35th Anniversary Call, Juror's Selection, New York
2008	Atelierstipendium Kairo, Stadt Bern Frauenkunstpreis, 2. Platz, Bern
2007	Sélection Voies Off, Arles
2006	Grand Prize Winner, PDNedu, New York Golden Light Award, Maine Dean's Scholarship, New School University, New York
2005	Prix de Photoforum, Biel Epson Art Photo Award, Köln Dean's Scholarship, New School University, New York
2004	Dean's Scholarship, New School University, New York
2003	Atelierstipendium in Maloja, Visarte
2002	Fotopreis des Kantons Bern

Publications

- In progress: Lustenberger, Brigitte: Komplizin der Interdisziplinarität. Vortrag am Symposium «Photography after Immateriality», Hochschule der Künste Bern, 2025.
- An Apparition of Memory, Brigitte Lustenberger. Hg. v. Nadine Barth, Brigitte Lustenberger, Kanton Bern. Hatje Cantz. Berlin 2023.
- Caviezel, Flavia, Dietzsch, Ina, Lustenberger, Brigitte: Arbeiten an den Grenzen. Reflexionen über ein interdisziplinäres Lehr- und Lernprojekt zwischen Kunst und Kulturanthropologie im trinationalen Raum. In: Grenzen aus kulturwissenschaftlichen Perspektiven. Hg.v. Jacques Picard, Silvy Chakkalakal, Silke Andris. Berlin 2016, S. 134-156. (Scientific paper)
- Lustenberger, Brigitte: Stadtforschung und Fotografie – Näher als man denkt. In: Regio Basilensis. Hg.v. Geographisch-ethnologische Gesellschaft Basel 55 (2014), S. 67-76. (Scientific paper)
- Brigitte Lustenberger: Still. Hg.v. Near, Till Schaap Edition. Lausanne, Bern 2014.
- Maloja. Porträts und Text von Brigitte Lustenberger und Patricia Büttiker. Eigenverlag. Bern 2003.
- Imboden, Monika, Lustenberger, Brigitte: Die Flüchtlingspolitik der Schweiz in den Jahren 1933 bis 1945. In: Zuflucht Schweiz. Der Umgang mit Asylproblemen im 19. Und 20. Jahrhundert. Hg.v. Carsten Goehrke, Werner G. Zimmermann. Zürich 1994, S. 257-308. (Scientific paper)

Solo shows (selection)

2026	Museum Franz Gertsch, Burgdorf
2025	Galerie Jasmin Glaab, Bern
2023-24	Galerie Christophe Guye, Zürich
2021	Galerie Béatrice Brunner, Bern Christophe Guye Galerie, Zürich
2020-23	What is Love? Parc de la Torma, Monthey
2016	Christophe Guye Galerie, Zürich
2015	Galerie Kunstkeller, Bern
2012	Walter Keller Galerie, Zürich
2010	etagen (Förderprojekt Loeb und DC Bank), Bern
2009	Kabinett, Kunstraum Winterthur
2007	Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne
2006	Scalo Galerie, Zürich
2004	Photoforum PasquArt, Biel

Group shows (selection)

2025	Saatchi Gallery, London Galerie Jasmin Glaab
2024	La nuit de la photo, La Chaux-de-Fonds Galerie Beatrice Brunner The Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach FL Fotoforum, Zug Christophe Guye Galerie

2023	Kunsthalle Bern Galerie Béatrice Brunner Paris Photo Kunsthaus Interlaken Ras Al Khaimah Fine Art Festival The Society of the Four Arts, Florida
2022	Kunstraum Oktogon, Bern Flora Imaginaria, Sarasota Bay, USA The Pingyao International Photography Festival, China Französische Botschaft in Bern
2021	Paris Photo Photo London Festival Alt. 1000, La Brévine Kornhausforum Bern Kunsthaus Interlaken
2020	Galerie Stephan Witschi, Zürich Paris Photo Kunsthaus Interlaken
2019	Galerie Tart, Zürich Festival Les Boutographies, Montpellier ArtStadtBern
2018	Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie Galerie Béatrice Brunner, Bern Verzasca Foto Festival
2017	ArtStadtBern Galerie Béatrice Brunner, Bern
2016	Unseen, Amsterdam La Filature, Mulhouse La Nuit des Images, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne
2015	Photo London Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery, New York
2014	Stadtgalerie, Bern Kornhausforum, Bern Festival de la Bâtie, Geneva
2013	Mitbringsel, Stadtgalerie Bern Near by Night, Berlin
2012	Das Narrative in der Fotografie, Kunsthau Kaufbeuren, Deutschland Eliza's eating elephants and hates to draw trees, sic! Raum für Kunst, Luzern
2011	After Dark, La Filature, Mulhouse Family Value, Michael Mazzeo Gallery, New York
2010	Inside Out Part II, Kunsthalle Luzern Print Center Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2009	Regionale 09, Kunsthau Langenthal
2008	Faccia a Faccia, Forma, Centro Internazionale di Fotografia, Milano, Italien ART Cologne, Köln
2007	Voies Off, Arles, Frankreich Selected by ..., Kunsthau PasquArt, Biel
2006	The Naked Truth, The Center of Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, USA
2005	FIVE, Scalo Gallery Space, New York Epson Art Photo Award, ART Cologne, Deutschland