
PRESS RELEASE

René Groebli
Perspectives

Exhibition	24.02.2022 – 23.04.2022
Opening	Wednesday, March 30 2022, in presence of the artist

Text :

René Groebli, born in 1927 in Zurich, belongs to a generation of Swiss photographers who, after the Second World War, left their mark on the history of 20th century photography. As a student of Hans Finsler in the famous photography class at the Zurich School of Art, which was also attended by Robert Franck, Werner Bischof and René Burri, he freed himself from the research of the new objectivity of the 1920s.

The young photographer made his mark by creating images rather than taking them, and by placing as much emphasis on emotion as on information. A photographer who dissociated himself from professional classifications, René Groebli left photojournalism at the age of 26 and distinguished himself by a personal style of writing in perpetual movement.

The photographer made his mark in 1949 with the series "La Magie du Rail", a black and white railway adventure. Placed in the locomotive, he records with masterly poetry the mechanical odyssey of the steam engine; what he creates at the age of 24 is a cinematographic narrative that imposes the rhythm of another era, the movement takes time, the landscape scrolls to the rhythm of the sleepers and the stone tunnels that mark out the course of the train. In these images, the whistling and the noise, we feel the steam, the smoke, the heat, the whole soul of train travel.

This accurate and poetic view was exalted by René Groebli in 1953 in "L'Œil de l'Amour". In his photographs he conveys the sensual and amorous feelings of the honeymoon in Paris with his wife Rita. It is probably one of the most beautiful declarations of love in the history of photography, created almost twenty years before Nobuyoshi Araki's "Sentimental Journey".

This beautiful series can also be seen in the exhibition "Love Songs" at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie from 30 March 2022.

From the 1960s onwards, René Groebli has been a pioneer in the use of colour and dye-transfer. Whether in commissioned works for industry or in his own work, his experiments with colour image development are impressive. René Groebli is a pioneer in creativity and technicality. He has an international reputation in the creation of new advertising photography. Until the 1980s, he continued to develop this unique and radically modern look.

The Perspectives exhibition looks back at the masterpieces of the artist's major series. It presents a collection of more than fifty platinum-palladium and silver prints from the period.

Images available
for the press



René Groebli, *The Eye of Love*, #512, 1952
Vintage gelatin silver print
30 × 40 cm



René Groebli, *The Eye of Love*, #1582, 1952
Vintage gelatin silver print
30 × 40 cm

The use of images is exclusively reserved for the promotion of the exhibition and valid up to its end.

Obligatory mention : © René Groebli courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

Images disponibles
pour la presse



René Groebli, *La magie du rail*, #582, 1949
Vintage gelatin silver print
23 × 17 cm



René Groebli, *La magie du rail*, #394, 1949
Vintage gelatin silver print
36 × 45 cm

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Obligatory mention : © René Groebli courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

BIOGRAPHY

Artist

René Groebli

René Groebli was born in 1927 in Zurich. He took his first pictures with a Rolleiflex in 1942 and began to learn photography the following year. In 1945, he studied at the School of Arts and Crafts in Zurich with Hans Finsler then worked as a film operator and began experimenting movement photography. In 1949, he published his first book *Magie der Schiene (Rail Magic)*, with a radical aesthetic with creative use of blur and grain in the image. In 1954, *Das Auge der Liebe (The Eye of Love)*, includes photographs of his wife taken during their honeymoon and offers a poetic vision of erotic photography.

In the 1950s, he worked as a photo-reporter for the London agency Black Star and published his pictures in major magazines of that time. He then opened an advertising and industrial photography studio where he worked until his retirement. Recognized as a master of color, he practiced all genres and followed the stylistic and technical evolution of photography over five decades in an approach where cutting edge pictures follow a classic aesthetic.

In 1981, the photographer sold his fund and settled in Provence, where he rediscovered the possibilities of black and white in his personal work.

In 1999 the Zurich Kunsthhaus held a major retrospective exhibition, since then he continues to exhibit and publish his work and keep exploring his fabulous estate.

Solo shows
(selection)**2022**

Rétrospective, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France
Séries 1946-2002, La Filature scène nationale, Mulhouse, France

2021

René Groebli, Icônes et inédits, Bac/Le Commun, Genève, Switzerland
René Groebli, Icônes et inédits, Lumen & Fondation Auer Ory pour la photographie, Hermance, Switzerland

2020-2021

René Groebli, L'Oeil magique, Bildhalle, Zurich, Switzerland
Platin palladium prints 1946-2006, In Focus galerie, Cologne, Deutschland
Farbzauberer, Chaussée 36, Berlin, Deutschland
De la nouvelle vision à la photographie couleur, Kunsthalle Vogelmann, Heilbronn, Deutschland

2018

Magie du Rail, LVR-Industriemuseum, Zinkfabrik Altenberg, Oberhausen, Deutschland

2017

L'Oeil de l'amour, Kyotography, international festival of photography, Kyoto, Japan
L'Oeil magique, Bildhalle, Zurich, Switzerland
Magie du Rail, Galerie Kornhausforum, Berne, Switzerland
Nus, Fototage Münsingen, Switzerland
Various, Galerie Anzenberger/Fotobuchmesse Wien, Vienne, Autria
Platinum Prints, Galerie Johanna Breede, Berlin, Allemagne

2016

René Groebli. Nus, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France
Early Work, Bildhalle, Kilchberg, Switzerland
Magie du Rail, Museum im Bellpark, Kriens, Switzerland
Early Work, 1945-1955, In focus galerie Burkhard Arnold, Cologne, Deutschland
Early Work, 1945-1955, Kunstmuseum im Marstall, Paderborn-Schloss Neuhaus, Deutschland
Early Work, 1945-1955, Museum im Schlosspark, Paderborn, Deutschland

2015

Magie du Rail & L'Oeil de l'amour, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France
Early Work, Bildband, Berlin, Deutschland
Nudes 1950-2002, People 1955-1965, Wehrlehnof Galerie, Dübendorf, Switzerland

2014

Photographies 1946-2002, Photobastei, Zurich, Switzerland
René Groebli, Vintage - en mouvement depuis 1946, Pinter & Milch galerie für fotografie, Berlin, Deutschland
René Groebli, Industrie, Museum für Gestaltung - Schaudapot Toni-Areal, Zurich, Switzerland
 Galerie Christophe Guye, Zurich, Switzerland

2013

René Groebli photographe, Artpassions La Galerie, Genève, Switzerland

2012

Rétrospective, Fondation Auer Ory, Hermance, Switzerland
René Groebli. Nus, Cabinet d'expertise Témoin, Genève, Switzerland
René Groebli, Galerie Fotografika, Gland, Switzerland
René Groebli. Grands formats, Galerie Carry on, Genève, Switzerland
Sitzende Akt, 5th European Month of Photography, Pinter & Milch Galerie für Fotografie, Berlin, Deutschland

2009

Rétrospective, Galerie Hiltawsky, Berlin, Deutschland
Various, Galerie Infocus, Cologne, Deutschland
Photographies 1944-2002, Galerie Hiltawsky, Berlin, Deutschland

2008

René Groebli. Rétrospective, Aplanat Galerie, Hambourg, Allemagne
La vie est mouvement/Life is movement, Galerie deArtis, Zurich, Suisse
Magie du Rail, Simon Studer Art/gem, Genève, Suisse
 Birgit Filzmaier, Zurich, Suisse

2006

Magie du Rail & L'Oeil de l'amour, Kamera und Fotomuseum, Leipzig, Deutschland
 Galerie Andy Jllien, Zurich, Switzerland

2005

René Groebli. Photographies des années 40 et 50, Focus Fotografie, Burkhard Arnold, Cologne, Deutschland
Magie du Rail & L'Oeil de l'amour, Magyar Fotografiai Muzeum, Kecskemét, Hungary

2004

L'homme et la machine, Restaurant 'Au premier' Zurich, Switzerland

2003

Mouvements, Galerie Stasia Hutter, Bâle, Switzerland
Magie du Rail, Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, United-States
Magie du Rail, Maison Robert Doisneau, Gentilly, France
New York Impressions, Galerie deArtis, Zug, Switzerland
Foyer Hotel Eden im Park, Klinik Schützen, Rheinfelden, Switzerland

2002

René Groebli, oeuvres 1949-1954, Paris-Photo, Csaba Morocz Photographies,
Caroussel du Louvre, Paris, France
Black & White Nudes, Galerie des Nikon Image House, Küsnacht/ZH, Switzerland

2001

Irland, Galerie Commercio, Zurich, Switzerland

1999

Magie et Mélancolie. Photographies 1946-96, Fondation Suisse pour la
photographie, Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland

1998

Magie du rail. 1949, Galerie Camera Obscura, Paris, France
Magie du rail, Montpellier Photo-Vision, Montpellier, France

1997

Mamiya Galerie, Bienne, Switzerland

1996

L'Oeil de l'amour, Photosynkyria 96, Zita Mi Gallery, Thessalonique, Greece
Platinotypies. Das Auge der Liebe, A la librairie, Paris, France

1995

Magie du Rail, Chapelle des Pénitents bleus, La Ciotat, France
Magie du Rail, Saint-Gervais Photo, Genève, Switzerland
Magie du Rail, Museo Ken Damy, Brescia, Italy

1993

Sinnliche Bilder, Brandenburgische Kunstsammlungen, Cottbus, Deutschland
Sinnliche Bilder, Bild Photogalerie, Aarau, Switzerland

1992

Photographies 1946-1991, Centre de la Photographie, Genève, Switzerland
Visions, photographies 1945-1991, Mairie du Xe, Paris/Mois de la photo, Paris,
France
Photographien 1946-1991, Galerie Renée Ziegler, Zurich, Switzerland

1991

Retrospectiva 1946-1990, Ex-Convento de la Merced, Tarazona Foto 91, Tarazona,
Spain

1989

Babylon, Babylon, Galerie Ideereal, Zurich, Switzerland

1985-1989

Hommage au féminin, Galerie Djélal, Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France
Galerie Yves Humbert, Nyon, Switzerland

1984

Die Muschel, Galerie Poseidon, Zurich, Switzerland

1983

Galerie Yves Humbert, Nyon, Switzerland

1979-1980

Rêveries sur New York, Fnac Etoile, Paris, France

Fantaisies, Galerie Dieuzaide, Toulouse, France

Fantaisies, Galerie Neufeld, Saint Gall, Switzerland

Fantaisies, Galerie Contact, Bordeaux, France

Babylon, Babylon, Limbach Galerie, Cologne, Deutschland

1978

Images de New York, Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles, France

Images de New York, Images Gallery, New York, United-States

Images de New York, Galerie Portofolio, Lausanne, Switzerland

1966

Dye Transfers, Galerie 58, Rapperswill, Switzerland

1954

Galerie 16, Zurich, Switzerland

1949

René Groebli fotos, Anliker-Keller, Berne, Switzerland

**Group shows
(selection)****2020**

Eros & Photography Behind Desire Part 1, Chaussée 36, Berlin, Deutschland

2019

Magie du Silence, Johanna Breede, Photokunst, Berlin, Deutschland

Amour(s), Arcoop Wall Project & Association Espace JB, Carouge, Switzerland

2018

Photo London, Londres, United-Kingdom

Eros dans tous ses états, Fondation Auer Ory, ArtDynasty Genève, Switzerland

Exposition de Noël, Fondation Auer Ory pour la photographie, Hermance, Switzerland

De l'Archive à l'Histoire, Howard Greenberg Gallery, Campredon Centre d'art, L'Isle-sur-Sorgue, France

2017

Aipad The Photography Show, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, New York, United-States

Haute Photographie Rotterdam, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Art Beirut, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Beyrouth, Lebanon

Photo London, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Londres, United-Kingdom

Nuits photographiques de Pierrevert, parrain du festival, France

2016

Paris Photo, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France

VIS-A-VIS, Johanna Breede Photokunst, Berlin, Deutschland

Jeux d'enfance, Collection Fondation Auer Ory pour la photographie, 19e Biennale internationale de l'image LE JEU, Nancy, France

2015

Paris Photo, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France
 Kunst 15 Zurich, Bildehalle Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland
Drive in, Bildhalle, Kilchberg, Switzerland
Trésors de la Fondation Auer Ory pour la photographie, Le Boléro, Versoix, Switzerland
Expanded Horizons, Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland
 21st International Contemporary Art Fair, Zurich, Switzerland
Love is..., In Focus Galerie Burkhard Arnold, Cologne, Deutschland

2014

10e Mois de la photographie, Moscou, Russia

2013

Livres de photographies, Un Musée de papier pour l'image, Bibliothèque d'art et d'archéologie, Genève, Switzerland
 Winter show 8, Birgit Filzmaier, Zurich, Switzerland
The Family of man the reopening 503 photographs by 503 artists, Clervaux Castle, Luxembourg
Titles & Icons, In Focus Galerie Burkhard Arnold, Cologne, Deutschland

2012

Fumeurs, Fondation Auer Ory pour la photographie, Hermance, Art Genève, Switzerland
Mouvances ou les tribulations de la photographie dans le monde de l'art 1888-2012 Collection M+M Auer, Fondation Auer Ory pour la photographie Hermance, Bac/Le Commun, Genève, Switzerland
Seascapes, Winter Show 7, Birgit Filzmaier, Zurich, Switzerland

2010

Photographie américaine: regards sur la collection M+M Auer, Galerie Françoise Besson, Lyon, France
Aktfotografie, Focus Galerie, Cologne, Deutschland

2009

Olhar e Fingir Fotografias da Colecao M+M Auer, Museu de Arte Moderna, Sao Paulo, Brasil

2008

Trains, Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, United-States
!Mira! Los ninos en la coleccion M+M Auer, Sala 2 del Centro de Cultura Antiguo Instituto de Gijon, Gijon, Spain
!Mira! Los ninos en la coleccion M+M Auer, Valladolid, Spain
Désir photographique et sexualité photographiée, Fotomuseum, Winterthour, Switzerland

2007

Le Monde des Oeufs, Musée du Pays et Val de Charmey, Switzerland
M+M Colleccio Passio per la Fotografia, Museu d'Art Modern i Contemporani, Fundacio Es Baluard, Palma Mallorca, Spain
Livres de Nus une Anthologie 1895-2002, Maison européenne de la photographie, Paris, France
Regarde! Des Enfants. Collection M+M Auer, Photographie Pavillon Populaire, Montpellier, France
 Historischen Museum, Baden, Switzerland

2006-2007

M+M & Friends, Fondation nationale des arts graphiques et plastiques, Maison d'art Bernard Anthonioz, Nogent-sur-Marne, France

2005

Histoires d'Oeufs. Collection M+M Auer, Macedonian Museum of Modern Art, Thessaloniki, Greece

Micha Auer Photographe, Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey, Switzerland

Une collection passion suisse M+M Auer (une sélection), Fundacio Foto Colectania, Barcelone, Spain

2004

Collection M+M Auer. Une Histoire de la Photographie, Théâtre de la photographie et de l'image, Nice, France

Collection M+M Auer. Une Histoire de la Photographie, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Genève, Switzerland

2003

Trains, Maison Robert Doisneau, Gentilly, France

Paris Photo, Paris, France

Fotostiftung Schweiz, Winterthur, Switzerland

2002

New York après New York, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland

Paris-Photo, Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France

2001

Lumière et Ombres, Nikon Image House, Küsnacht, Switzerland

2000

Pâques 2 mille oeufs. Collection M+M Auer, Galerie Photo, Montpellier, France / Almeria, Espagne / Budapest, Hongrie / Nyon, Switzerland

Le Nu photographique, Galerie d'art du Conseil général des Bouches-du-Rhône, Aix-en-Provence, France

1999

Histoires d'oeufs, Marion Meyer, Paris Photo, Paris, France

1998

À la recherche du temps suspendu, Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey, Switzerland

Du coin de l'oeil. La Suisse de 1848 à 1998, Fondation suisse pour la photographie, Zurich, Switzerland

1997

Images de la Fondation Suisse pour la Photographie, Musée suisse de l'appareil photographique, Vevey, Switzerland

Made in Switzerland. Les Collections de Photographies suisses de la Confédération, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland

1996

Une exposition pour enfants, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris, France

À la lumière de l'art, Kunsthaus Zurich, Switzerland

1995

Collection suisse de photographies de la Banque du Gottardo, Galleria Gottardo, Lugano, Switzerland

1994

84-94 Centre de la Photographie Genève, Galleria Gottardo, Lugano, Suisse
Fotodiffusion 94, M+M Auer Hermance, Switzerland

1992

Un Saut dans le Temps, Berlinische Galerie Museum für Moderne Kunst, Berlin,
Deutschland

1991

Vache d'Utopie, Michèle Auer/St Gervais, Genève, Switzerland
La Revue Photographique Camera 1922-1981, Schweizerische Stiftung für die
Photographie, Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland

1990

Le Train, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, France

1989

Érotiques, Ateliers Fontana, Genève, Switzerland

1986

Nouvelles acquisitions et dons, Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland

1984-1986

Subjective Fotografie, exposition itinérante, Allemagne, Suisse, Belgique, United
States

1981

European Museums Collection, Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland
Collection de la Fondation pour la Photographie suisse. 111 photographies, Stiftung
für die Photographie, Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland

1978

Triennale internationale de photographie, Fribourg, Switzerland

1977-1978

La photographie suisse de 1840 à nos jours, Varsovie, Poland

1976-1978

Fantastic Photography in Europe III, Canon Photo Gallery, Amsterdam,
Netherlands

1975

Photo expo Stand Nikon, Zurich, Switzerland

1974

La photographie suisse de 1840 à nos jours, Kunsthaus, Zurich, Switzerland

1966

The Photographer's eye, MoMA, New York, United-States

1963

Europhot, Photokina '63, Cologne, Deutschland

1955

La photographie comme expression, 2e exposition de photo du Collège des
photographes suisses, Helmhaus, Zurich, Switzerland
The Family of Man, Moma, New York, United-States

1954-1955

Photographie subjective 2, Staatliche Schule für Kunst und Handwerk, Sarrebruck, Deutschland

1953

Collège des photographes suisses, Helmhaus, Zurich, Switzerland

1952

Exposition mondiale de la photo, Lucerne, Switzerland

1951

Photographie subjective, Staatliche Schule für Kunst und Handwerk, Sarrebruck, Deutschland

1950

Exposition internationale de Photographie, Sala Podestà, Bologna, Italy

Publications

Magie der Schiene, Sturm & Drang Publishers, 2017
New York 1978, Sturm & Drang Publishers, 2017
London 1949, Sturm & Drang Publishers, 2016
Nudes, Sturm & Drang Publishers, 2016
Beryl Chen A Jamaican girl, Sturm & Drang Publishers, 2015
Early Work, 1945-1955, Sturm & Drang Publishers, 2015
Das Auge der Liebe, Sturm & Drang, 2014 et 2017 (première édition en 1954)
Magie der Schiene, éditions Kubus, 2009 (première édition en 1949)
René Groebli, Ides et Calendes, 1990
René Groebli, Visionen, 1946-1991, éditions Niggli, 1992
Die Muschel, Eigenverlag, Zürich, 1984
Fantasies, Images Gallery, New York, 1978
Photo Variation 2 - Kommunikative Möglichkeiten der Farbfotografie, éditions Arthur Niggli, 1971
Variation, Möglichkeiten der Farbfotografie, Niggli, 1965

Prizes

Bourse helvétique, 1951
Prix d'encouragement, 1953
Membre d'honneur de l'Union suisse des photographes, 1983
Lifetime Award de la Swiss Photo Academie (Schweizer Fotoschaffen Photo 06 Lifetime Award), 2006

Collections

MOMA, New York, United-States
Folkwang Museum, Essen, Deutschland
Fondation suisse pour la photographie, Zurich, Switzerland
Maison européenne de la photographie, Paris, France
Photo Vision, Montpellier, France
Collection Michèle + Michel Auer, Hermance, Switzerland
Banque du Gottard, Lugano, Switzerland
Musée Réattu, Arles, France
Hungarian Museum for Photography, Kecskemét, Hungary