

# PHOTO LONDON 2016

DANIEL BLAU

## ANTHROPOS

Daniel Blau is pleased to present *Anthropos* at Photo London, an exhibition revealing the human body through physical or political gesture. Movement and gesture have captured artists' imagination from time immemorial. The artworks presented here all share the exceptional ability to capture various forms of gesture from posed, formal portraits to iconic, candid moments. Indeed, this year's selection includes a photogram, where the human body had direct contact to light-sensitive material, impressing its outline on the work. The photogram (nudogram) presented here is a unique large-scale work by Floris Neusüss from 1964. This photographic imprint echoes the earliest experiments made by notable pioneers such as Anna Atkins in their cameraless processes, where the work has an inimitable quality and directness.

Photography's ability to preserve and document was recognised at the point of its invention. Movement posed problems for photographers due to the long exposure times required, thus sculpture and architecture provided photographers suitable subjects. Our 19th century selection includes a spectacular albumen print taken by James Anderson in 1855 of Laocoön and his sons being seized by snakes. Set against a black background, the sculpture obtains a strong theatrical presence. Further 19th century works include Édouard Baldus' exceptional photographs of statues in the Louvre as well as the Fratelli Alinari's work and a selection of works by Giorgio Sommer of the human casts from Pompeii. Sommer's photographs preserve and catalogue the remains of Mount Vesuvius' eruption from 79 AD, which destroyed and buried the ancient town along with its inhabitants. These early works demonstrate the distinctive engagement with the aesthetic gestures in art and underline the long-standing interplay between the media of photography and sculpture.

Moving into the 20th century, we explore artists whose work oftentimes reintroduces historical methods (direct impressions of objects made onto light-sensitised material) to a contemporary practice: The London-born Adam Fuss' photogram of a floating baby reflects the aforementioned early photographic explorations of sculpture. As Fuss traces the baby's outline and the water's rippling movement he produces a unique and evocative work outlining the human form.

Political gestures are best described through examples such as an early work by Anselm Kiefer from his *Occupations* series, which is shown alongside various press photographers, unique vintage prints by Weegee, and finally, a selection of vintage NASA prints showing astronauts floating in space. Where Kiefer's work questions art's existence and function since fascism, Weegee's unstoppable urge to capture life's (and death's) dramas shows photography's outstanding ability to fix instances otherwise perhaps invisible to the eye. Combining both sculptural and political qualities, the vintage NASA prints of spacewalks (from the Gemini missions), show dreamlike moments of human weightlessness.

This selection of artists shows the numerous points of intersection between the 'political body' and the 'artistic gesture'.

Photo London  
Courtyard Pavilion  
Stand G6  
Somerset House  
Strand  
London, WC2R 1LA

Public opening hours:  
May 19th: 12 - 8.30 pm  
May 20th: 12 - 7.30 pm  
May 21st: 12 - 6 pm  
May 22nd: 12 - 6 pm

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**Floris Neusüss (\*1937)**

“München 64”, 1964 (detail)  
unique photogram (nudogram)  
200 x 103,5 cm

© Floris Neusüss

Courtesy: Daniel Blau Munich



**Günther Förg (1952-2013)**

“Sturz I”, 1984  
unique silver gelatin print  
180 x 120 cm

© Günther Förg

Courtesy: Daniel Blau Munich



**Adam Fuss (\*1961)**

“Untitled”, 2003  
unique cibachrome photogram  
101,6 x 76,2 cm

© Adam Fuss

Courtesy: Daniel Blau Munich



**NASA · Gemini IV · James McDivitt**

“Ed White Floating in Space over Mexico”,  
June 3, 1965  
c-print on glossy fibre paper;  
printed in 1965  
18,6 (25,3) x 18,4 (20,4) cm

© NASA

Courtesy: Daniel Blau Munich



**Weegee (1899-1968)**

“Whatta Victory!”, August 14, 1945  
silver gelatin print on glossy fibre paper;  
printed in 1945  
20,9 (22,8) × 16,4 (18,1) cm

© Weegee / International Centre of  
Photography

Courtesy: Daniel Blau Munich



**Anselm Kiefer (\*1945)**

“Besetzung 1969”, 1969  
silver gelatin print on glossy fibre paper;  
printed in 1969  
40,6 × 29,6 cm

© Anselm Kiefer

Courtesy: Daniel Blau Munich