

# KUNSTHAL ROTTERDAM

**Peter Lindbergh**

**A Different Vision on Fashion Photography**

10 SEPTEMBER 2016 - 12 FEBRUARY 2017



An exhibition initiated, produced and toured by Kunsthall Rotterdam, in collaboration with Peter Lindbergh Studio, Paris and curator Thierry Maxime Lorient.

# PRESS RELEASE

## KUNSTHAL ROTTERDAM

### **Peter Lindbergh A Different Vision on Fashion Photography**

10 SEPTEMBER 2016 - 12 FEBRUARY 2017

2<sup>nd</sup> press release, 8 June 2016

#### **Kunsthall Rotterdam presents major retrospective on Peter Lindbergh**

Opening September 10<sup>th</sup>, the first exhibition in the Netherlands devoted to German photographer Peter Lindbergh, which is initiated, produced and toured by Kunsthall Rotterdam will feature more than 220 photographs. This spectacular overview of Lindbergh's extensive oeuvre will also present exclusive material varying from previously unseen material from personal notes, storyboards, props, polaroids, contact sheets and films to monumental prints, in a large-scale retrospective of the photographer's work. His avant-garde images quickly addressed the concerns and stakes of society with his singular vision, in a world with established aesthetic codes. Lindbergh's pure black-and-white photographs have determined the course of fashion photography since the early 1980s.

The exhibition 'A Different Vision on Fashion Photography' is an ode to Lindbergh's multi-faceted oeuvre from 1978 to the present day. Regarded as one of the most influential fashion photographers, the multimedia exhibition is presented in a thematic approach marking his creative development and focusing on his themes, imaginary world and passions through the years, into nine different sections: Supermodels, Couturiers, Zeitgeist, Dance, The Darkroom, The Unknown, Silver Screen, Icons and an exclusive Rotterdam gallery. The 'Rotterdam Gallery', photographed for the October Issue of Dutch Vogue especially made for the exhibition, shows the results of Lindbergh's shooting with Dutch top model Lara Stone and emerging talent Elise Hupkes in the Port of Rotterdam.

Peter Lindbergh introduced a new realism into photograph with timeless images redefining the norms of beauty. Lindbergh's visual idiom is influenced by the language of film and by playing with the type of the strong, self-willed woman, from the femme fatale to the heroine, but also the female dancer and the actress. His oeuvre is characterised by portraits that radiate a certain lack of inhibition and physical grace. Based on an original concept by curator Thierry-Maxime Lorient, he explains that: « *This exhibition is not a chronological survey, but a narrative in which you discover the universe of Peter Lindbergh through his unique eye, his strong themes and his collaborations with artists like Pina Bausch and Jenny Holzer, but also reveals the humanism found in his work, seen in a social context. It says a lot about his own values, his vision on ageism, beauty and femininity, on social issues and about the boundless creativity and imagination found in his photographs.* »

#### **Press preview Friday 9 September, 1 pm - Opening Saturday 10 September, 5:30 pm\***

The press conference will be held on Friday 9 September in the presence of Kunsthall Rotterdam Director Emily Ansenk, Peter Lindbergh, curator Thierry-Maxime Lorient and the supermodels.

\*Accreditation is mandatory as capacity is limited for both events. Please register via : [communication@kunsthall.nl](mailto:communication@kunsthall.nl)

# Peter Lindbergh

## A Different Vision on Fashion Photography

### A word from the Director

It is an honour for me to work with curator Thierry-Maxime Loriot again after the major success of the Jean Paul Gaultier. From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk exhibition in Rotterdam in 2013, especially because now we are initiating, producing and touring this project together.

Peter Lindbergh is a child of his time, but at the same time his work is difficult to date. Today's photos could just as easily have been made decades ago and vice versa. He has clung as long as possible to his analog photography which enabled him to 'sculpture' his models. The artistic process is one of letting something emerge, full of unexpected events.

Precisely now, when the younger generation is inundated by images via Instagram, Facebook and other social media, the Kunsthall considers it important to show his large and small photographic prints, framed and hung on the wall, grouped around a prior idea of the curator. The genuine work appeals to the imagination and often makes much more of a visual impact than a small image on a smartphone or in a magazine.

This exhibition is not just the story of a different take on fashion and fashion photography, but also a new vision of fashion and society. It has been great to work with Peter Lindbergh, who has been most generous and sharing his ideas and experiences with us.

Emily Ansenk,  
Kunsthall Rotterdam Director

# Peter Lindbergh

## A Different Vision on Fashion Photography

### About the exhibition

#### From Supermodels and Couturiers to Dance

The 'Supermodels' gallery presents Lindbergh's photographs of models who were young and unknown at the time: Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford, Linda Evangelista, Christy Turlington, and Tatjana Patitz among others. Complemented with video interviews and recent photographs from the recent reunion of the Supermodels, Lindbergh shows that twenty-five years later they have hardly lost any of their beauty and personalities. In the early 1980s, Lindbergh managed to disrupt the fixed codes of the fashion industry and made a reputation for brands like Comme des Garçons, Giorgio Armani, Prada, Donna Karan and Azzedine Alaïa. His collaborations with twenty-five fashion designers from various eras and the way in which Lindbergh helped shape the image of fashion houses is amply covered in the section 'Couturiers'.

For years, dance is one of Lindbergh's major sources of inspiration. He worked on a visual history of dance with series of photographs based on famous dancers and choreographers, from Sergei Diaghilev, Georges Balanchine and the Bolshoi, to contemporaries like Spanish dancer and choreographer Blanca Li and the New York City Ballet. He made a film titled *Der Fensterputzer* on his late friend Pina Bausch in 2001, and portrayed Madonna dressed by Japanese designers in a tribute to the great American choreographer Martha Graham.

#### Zeitgeist and Science Fiction

Lindbergh's humanist approach was inspired by gender duality, and subverted the fashion industry rigid conventions with his play on masculinity and femininity. Gender issues and political statements are covered in the 'Zeitgeist' section with series raising issues and taboos including 'Give peace a Chance', that he made for Harper's Bazaar in 2004 and a series titled 'A New Age' for Italian Vogue in 2014, in close collaboration with American conceptual

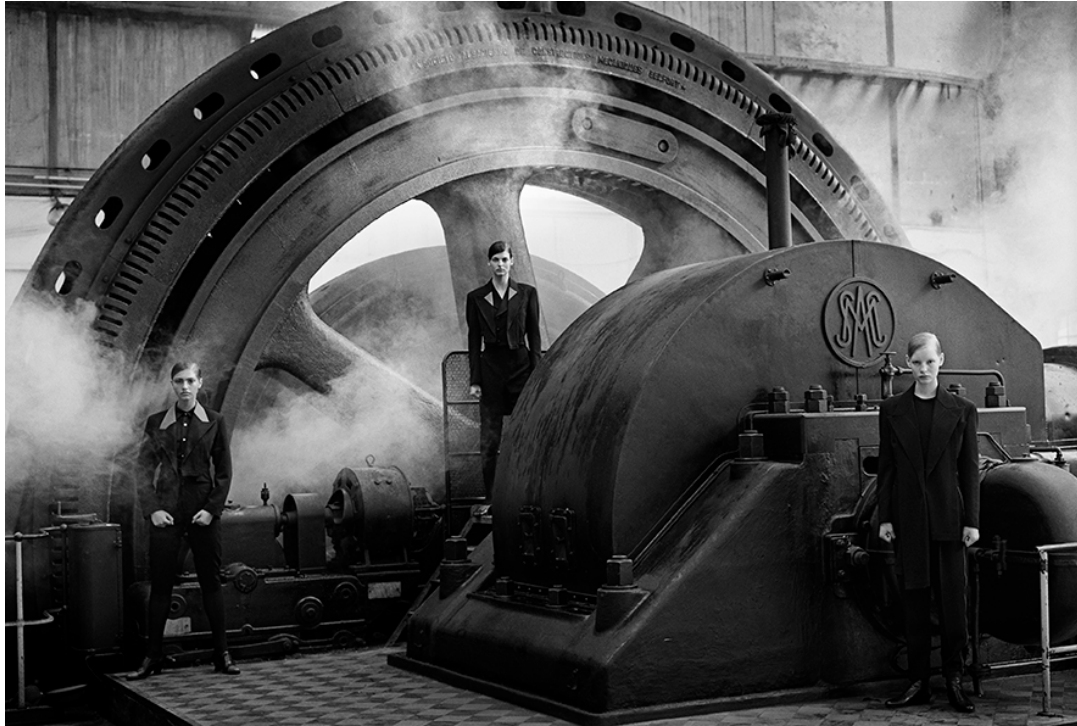
artist Jenny Holzer. Having drastically changed the standards of fashion photography in times of excessive retouching, Lindbergh chooses natural beauty, with as much emphasis on personality as on outward appearance – celebrating the elegance and sensuality of older women. In a 2014 interview, he declared that: « *This should be the responsibility of photographers today: to free women, and finally everyone, from the terror of youth and perfection* », believing that there is something more than standards of beauty and youth that makes a person interesting beyond their age.



'The Unknown' reveals Lindbergh's fascination by science fiction and includes his famous 1990 series with the Danish model Helena Christensen and the actress Debbie Lee Carrington which many consider the pioneering story of narratives in fashion magazines. An interactive video installation in which visitors will take part will also be featured along with storyboards, notes and alien costumes and props used for his shootings.

# Peter Lindbergh

## A Different Vision on Fashion Photography



### Silver Screen & Icons

Often referred to as the «*The Poet of Glamour*» or «*Photographer of Truth*», Lindbergh considers himself more anti-glamour as he dismisses all notions of social status in his images. Erasing all hierarchy in his pictures, he captures moments of truth, celebrating the natural beauty and elegance of the person in front of his camera. The 'Icons' gallery is presented as a visual journey through four decades of timeless images, he captured iconic figures of pop culture, from Kate Winslet to Charlotte Rampling, from Eddie Redmayne to Keith Richards, all with a powerful emotional appeal. 'SILVERSCREEN' shows the influences of early German cinema and sets on Lindbergh's work.

### Lindbergh's œuvre in context

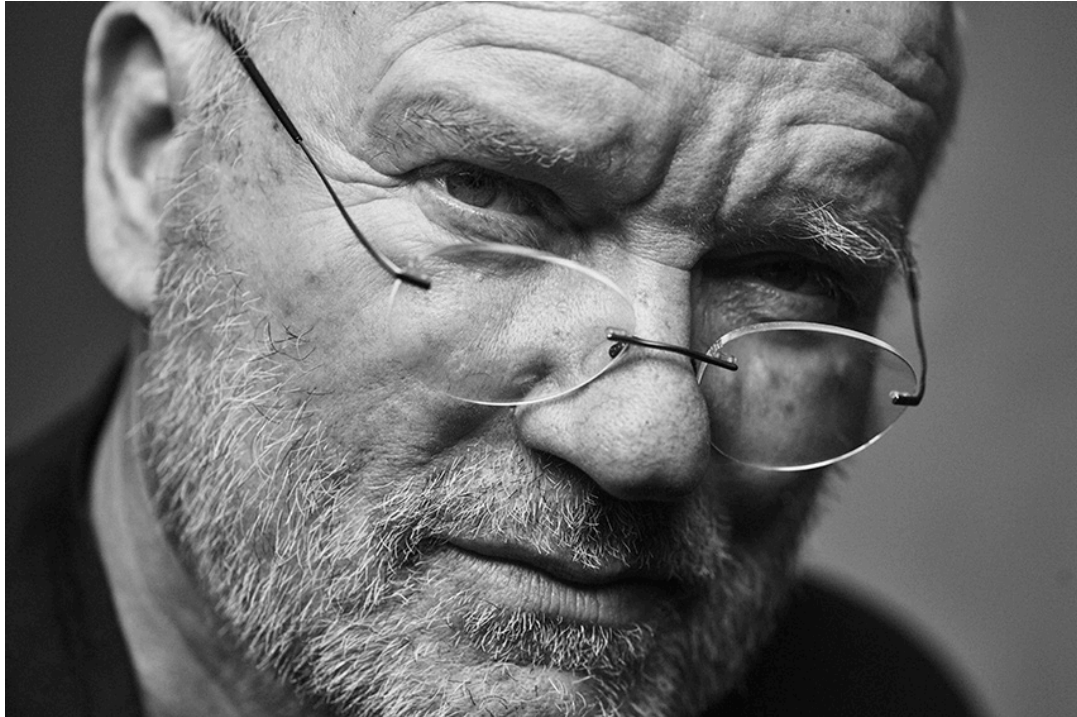
Film excerpts and interviews with collaborators, models and actors throw light on Lindbergh's œuvre on the basis of their collaboration with the photographer. Lindbergh's film *Models, The Film* (1991, 52 minutes) will also be screened, containing interviews with Grace Coddington, Nicole Kidman, Mads Mikkelsen, Cindy Crawford and Nadja Auermann among others.



# Peter Lindbergh

## A Different Vision on Fashion Photography

### About the artist



#### Pioneer in fashion photography

Known for his memorable cinematic images, Peter Lindbergh is recognized as one of the most influential contemporary photographers. Born in Lissa (Germany) in 1944, he spent his childhood in Duisburg (North Rhine-Westphalia). He worked as a window dresser for a local department store and enrolled in the Berlin Academy of Fine Arts in the early 1960's.

He remembers these years: « *I preferred actively seeking the inspirations of Van Gogh, my idol, rather than painting the mandatory portraits and landscapes taught in art schools...* »

Inspired by the work of the Dutch painter, he moved to Arles for almost a year, and then embarked on a journey hitchhiking through Spain and North Africa. He later studied free painting at the College of Art in Krefeld. Influenced by Joseph Kosuth and the Conceptual movement, before graduating he was invited to exhibit his work at the renowned avant-garde Galerie Denise René-Hans Mayer in 1969.

After moving to Düsseldorf in 1971, he turned his attention to photography and worked for two years assisting German photographer Hans Lux, before opening his own studio in 1973. Becoming well known in his native country, he joined the *Stern* magazine family along with photography legends Helmut Newton, Guy Bourdin and Hans Feurer, and moved to Paris in 1978 to further his career.

# Peter Lindbergh

## A Different Vision on Fashion Photography

Considered a pioneer in photography, he introduced a form of new realism by redefining the standards of beauty with timeless images. His humanist approach and idealization of women set him apart from the other photographers as he prioritizes the soul and the personality. His singular vision presents them in their pure state, « *in all honesty* », avoiding all stereotypes as he favours a face with hardly any make-up, bare in a way that enhances the authenticity and the natural beauty of the women he photographs. He offered a new interpretation of women post-1980's without paying too much attention to clothing, believing that, as he said, « *If you take out the fashion and the artifice, you can then see the real person.* »

British journalist Suzy Menkes points out that « *refusing to bow to glossy perfection is Peter Lindbergh's trademark – the essence of the images that look into each person's unvarnished soul, however familiar or famous the sitter.* » Lindbergh was the first photographer to include a narrative in his fashion series, and his storytelling introduced a new vision of art and fashion photography. Over the years, he has created images that marked the history of photography, characterized by a minimalist approach to post-modernist photography. Back in 1988, Lindbergh garnered international acclaim and launched the careers of a new generation of models he had recently discovered, showing them all dressed in white shirts.

A year later he photographed Linda Evangelista, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford, Christy Turlington and Tatjana Patitz, young models then, together for the first time, for the legendary January 1990 *Vogue UK* cover.



Pop singer George Michael, the initiator of the « Supermodels movement » later followed by Gianni Versace, was inspired by Lindbergh's *Vogue* photos to create the iconic video for his song « Freedom '90 », marking the beginning of the era of celebrity models, which redefined the image of the modern woman.

In the May 2016 issue of the prestigious magazine *Art Forum*, Lindbergh declares in his interview with journalist Isabel Flower that: « *A fashion photographer should contribute to defining the image of the contemporary woman or man in their time, to reflect a certain social or human reality. How surrealistic is today's commercial agenda to retouch all signs of life and of experience, to retouch the very personal truth of the face itself?* »

# Peter Lindbergh

## A Different Vision on Fashion Photography



Famous for his narrative fashion series, Lindbergh's work is best-known for his simple and revealing portraits, his still lifes, and strong influences from early German cinema and the industrial surroundings of his childhood, dance and cabarets, but also landscapes and outer space. Lindbergh has worked with the most prestigious fashion brands and magazines since the late 1970's, including international editions of *Vogue*, *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's Bazaar US*, *Wall Street Journal Magazine*, *Visionaire*, *Interview* and *W*. In 2016, Lindbergh was commissioned for a record third time to create the 2017 edition of the Pirelli calendar, being the first one to photograph it more than twice in the fifty years history of the iconic calendar. He previously photographed the 1996 and 2002 editions. His work is part of the permanent collections of many fine arts museums around the world and has also been shown in prestigious museums and galleries.

Among these are the Victoria & Albert Museum (London), Centre Pompidou (Paris) and the upcoming exhibition *A Different Vision on Fashion Photography* at Rem Koolhaas' Kunsthal in Rotterdam (September 2016), as well as solo exhibitions at Hamburger Bahnhof (Berlin), Bunkamura Museum of Art (Tokyo) and the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts (Moscow).

Lindbergh has directed a number of critically acclaimed films and documentaries: *Models*, *The Film* (1991); *Inner Voices* (1999) which won the Best Documentary prize at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2000; *Pina Bausch*, *Der Fensterputzer* (2001) and *Everywhere at Once* (2007), which was narrated by Jeanne Moreau and presented at the Cannes and Tribeca Film Festivals. Lindbergh is represented by Gagosian Gallery and 2b Management. He currently lives between Paris, Arles and New York.



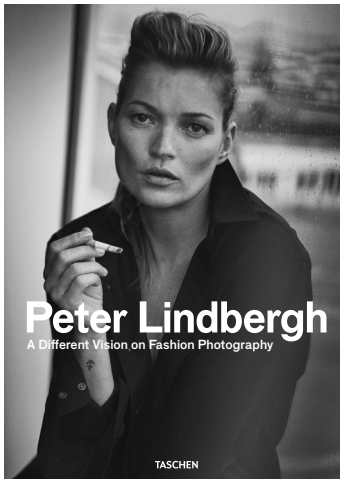
# Peter Lindbergh

## A Different Vision on Fashion Photography

### The Lindbergh lens - major monograph

#### Unique fashion storytelling that first launched the supermodels

The exhibition is accompanied by a major monograph on the German photographer published by Taschen and designed by award winning graphic design firm Paprika (Montreal). When Peter Lindbergh shot five young models in downtown New York City in the summer of 1989, he produced not only the iconic British Vogue January 1990 cover but also the birth certificate of the supermodels. The image didn't just bring revered faces together for the first time; it marked the beginning of a new fashion era and a new understanding of female beauty.



Coinciding with his major retrospective at the Kunsthall in Rotterdam, this book gathers more than 400 iconic and unpublished images from four decades of Lindbergh's photography to celebrate his unique and gamechanging storytelling presented through twenty-five fashion designers. Raw and seductive at once, his trademark monochrome pictures are marked by a romantic and narrative vision which brought a new vision and artistry to the art and fashion world.

In a testimony to Lindbergh's illustrious status in the fashion world, his images are contextualised by an introduction by Kunsthall Director Emily Ansenk and an essay on Lindbergh's work by Canadian curator Thierry-Maxime Lorient with commentaries from collaborators such as Jean Paul Gaultier, Nicole Kidman, Grace Coddington, Cindy Crawford and Anna Wintour. Their tributes explain what makes Lindbergh's images so unique and powerful.

#### Monograph Peter Lindbergh. A Different Vision on Fashion Photography

Curated by Thierry-Maxime Lorient. Published by Taschen.

Hardcover, 23.9 x 34.0 cm (9,4 x 13,4 in.), 500 pages. Designed by Paprika ([www.paprika.com](http://www.paprika.com))  
ISBN 978-3-8365-5282-0 (English, French, German) US\$ 69,99 | £ 44,99 | € 59,99

#### Save the date

##### Public event, Saturday 10 September, 1pm Introduction and booksigning

To celebrate the opening, Peter Lindbergh will take part in a special public event organized by the Kunsthall Rotterdam where he will discuss his work, inspirations and stories with curator Thierry-Maxime Lorient offering insight into the mind of one of the world's greatest photographer.

#### Travelling exhibition

After the World premiere at the Kunsthall Rotterdam, the exhibition *Peter Lindbergh. A Different Vision on Fashion Photography* will travel to prestigious museums around the world, dates and venues to be announced soon.

# Peter Lindbergh

## A Different Vision on Fashion Photography

### About the Kunsthall Rotterdam

Situated in the cultural hub of Rotterdam with an average of 200.000 visitors annually, the Kunsthall Rotterdam is one of the leading art institutions of The Netherlands.

The Kunsthall was designed in 1992 by the renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas and boasts seven different exhibition spaces. Today, the Kunsthall stages 25 exhibitions a year (five at the same time, focused on different types of target audiences and stakeholders), presenting culture in the broadest sense of the word: historical and classical art, modern and contemporary art, design, fashion and photography.

Varying from high art and low culture, multidisciplinary and always accessible for a broad public. Previous exhibitions in the Kunsthall included *Maillol* (2012), *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier* (2013), *Designing 007: Fifty Years of Bond Style* (2014) and *Keith Haring, The Political Line* (2015). All the exhibits are complemented by an extensive educational- and side program.

Since 2008 Emily Ansenk is Director of the Kunsthall.

The exhibition *Peter Lindbergh. A Different Vision on Fashion Photography* is initiated, produced and toured by the Kunsthall Rotterdam in close collaboration with curator Thierry-Maxime Loriot and Peter Lindbergh. The exhibition benefits from the talent of the world renowned Dutch based architectural team Mecanoo who created the exhibition design ([www.mecanoo.nl](http://www.mecanoo.nl)).

This exhibition is made possible with the support of Swarovski.

#### More information

For further infos, please visit : [www.kunsthall.nl/en/exhibitions/peter-lindbergh/](http://www.kunsthall.nl/en/exhibitions/peter-lindbergh/)  
Press images are available upon request

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# Peter Lindbergh

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