

Press Release 06.12.2019

**Photographic exhibition: Anno Wilms  
Identity and Contrast**

**Press preview: Tuesday January 21, 2020 from 11 am to 1 pm**  
**Vernissage: Thursday January 23, 2020 from 6 to 9 pm**  
**Opening remarks at 7 pm by Klaus Honnef**

**Duration: January 24 – April 17, 2020**

We are pleased to announce our new exhibition: Starting January 24, 2020, the Collection Regard, in collaboration with the Foundation Anno Wilms, will present the photo exhibition "Identity and Contrast", curated by Marc Barbey.

A catalog of the Collection Regard with a text by Klaus Honnef will be published on the occasion of the exhibition.



© Anno Wilms

On 21.01.2020, from 11am to 1pm, the press preview will take place in the presence of Dr. Nina Zenker, Curatorial Director of the Foundation Anno Wilms, to which we hereby cordially invite you. Please send an e-mail to [info@collectionregard.com](mailto:info@collectionregard.com).

This exhibition takes place in collaboration with the Foundation Anno Wilms.

**Stiftung Anno Wilms**

<http://stiftung-anno-wilms.com>

The main interest of the Berlin photographer Anno Wilms (1935-2016) was the human being in his individual self-imposed as well as externally-determined living conditions. The topic of social minorities takes an early and central position in her work. In the '60s and '70s, the ever-restless traveler photographed Roma families across Europe, was seeking Bedouin camps in Israel and Egypt, and later lived with the Rastafarians in Jamaica for weeks. Another fascinating focus in her large and well published oeuvre is the performing arts and above all the dazzling world of the Berlin transvestite scene as it was acted out in the famous cabaret theaters Chez Romy Haag and Lützower Lampe. Photographs of The Lindsay Kemp Company furthermore take notice of a theater group that, beyond all classical theater concepts, has created a new, exalted and frivolous world of expression.

Anno Wilms always knows how to create an ease atmosphere of respect and how to capture it masterfully. She approaches her counterpart without personal reservation and with great respect for his specific circumstances of living. This also explains the open access to the private sphere, which the photographer has repeatedly been granted. Her sensitive portraits testify her proximity to the motif and reflect strength and curiosity of children, self-confidence and spiritual conviction of adults as well as authority and dignity of the ancients, who are responsible for the memory of tradition and history. But existential poverty and the cultural endangerment of social minorities also become evident. Anno Wilms was constantly seeking to enlarge our understanding of identity, be it of cultural, religious or gender nature. She examines the fragile balance of self-assertion between private life and stage, between one's own self and the other, between reality and vision.



© Anno Wilms

Anno Wilm's choice of subject made her quite an exotic member within the circle of her colleagues. She developed her own photographic language in a very singular way. Her prints are deliberately strong-contrasted and exceptional in their high-gloss texture. The result is a rather cold, crystal-refined effect in which the photographer consciously breaks the proximity to the motive and the intimacy of the captured moment. These means of expression support the focus on topics outside the mainstream and define a signature by themselves. Her experimental work with solarization and photo-chemical painting also confirm Anno Wilm's interest in finding her own way beyond the usual path.

The exhibition can be viewed from 24.1. - 17.04.2020 every Friday between 2 and 6 pm (except on public holidays) as well as by appointment.

Accompanying program:

**Salon Photographique:** on Thursday February 27 a Salon Photographique with Dr. Nina Zenker and Marc Barbey. Films about the protagonists of Anno Wilm's photographs are still being researched and will be presented on that occasion. Admission from 19 clock, conversation from 19:30 clock, participation 5 €. Reservation / reservation: [info@collectionregard.com](mailto:info@collectionregard.com)

**Guided tours** with Dr Nina Zenker and Marc Barbey on Friday 24.01. and 20.03. at 5 pm.  
Admission free. Reservation / reservation: [info@collectionregard.com](mailto:info@collectionregard.com)

### Biography Anno Wilms (1935-2016)

After studying at the Photography School in Hamburg Anno Wilms received a state degree at the Lette Verein in Berlin. She worked as a freelance photojournalist throughout Europe, Middle-East and US from the early 1960s, focusing on social minorities and in the performing arts. In the search for a comprehensive understanding of identity in the field of tension between reality and vision, her main interest was the human being in his individual self-imposed as well as externally-determined living conditions.



© Anno Wilms

Anno Wilms lived and worked in Berlin. The artistic estate of the photographer, which includes about 40,000 prints and more than 6,000 negative films, was transferred to a foundation during her lifetime. It is the foundations mission to preserve the extensive photographic work and make it accessible to the public. The Anno Wilms Foundation is located in the former living quarters of the artist on Xantener Straße in Berlin-Charlottenburg.

### Collection Regard

The Collection Regard is a photographic collection that focuses on German photography, especially photography related to Berlin. In 2005, Marc Barbey began to expand his collection of German black and white photography, which extends from the beginnings of photography to the 1990s. He also manages the estate of photographer Hein Gorny (1904-1967). With its work as an archive, exhibition space and gallery, the Collection Regard deliberately takes a position between the museum and the gallery.

The Collection Regard is particularly interested to present in a curated context to the public still largely unknown, valuable photographic works that deserve attention. Some works or editions of these works can be purchased in the Collection Regard. Once the exhibition has been completed, the exhibitions produced are proposed to other institutions to introduce these positions to a broader public.

We would be very thankful if you can include this information in your medium. We are available for the agreement of a viewing appointment and would be very pleased to welcome you to the press event on 21.01.2020 (11am to 1 pm) or at the vernissage (23.01.2020 6 to 9 pm) or later.