

ALEX KAYSER

Biography

- 1949 Alex Kayser, born in Zurich on 29 December, a citizen of Stans, grew up in Basel.
- 1965 First guitar and first camera, first trip to Paris.
- 1966 Studies at the Kunstgewerbeschule and apprenticeship as a photographer with Hugo Jaeggi, Basel.
Pianist/guitarist in the rock-blues group «The Selects».
- 1970 Works in various Swiss photo studios.
- 1971 Moves to Cologne and studies experimental photography, then on to Essen.
Starts studying photography with Otto Steinert at the Folkwangschule für Gestaltung, Essen.
Portraits and first photo sequences.
- 1971-73 Photojournalistic trips to Tunisia and Libya, Sahara and West Africa.
Various project-related stays in London, Paris, Holland and Spain.
First hand-coloured photographs; expands the creation of photographic sequences.
Receives the 'Grand Prix de la ville de Romainville' on the occasion of the exhibition 'Sequence 72' in Paris.
- 1973-74 USA trip, 7 months
Portraits of European and American Photographers.
First series of 'TV comics' (persiflage quoting film/television in image sequences).
- 1975 Annual stays in the USA follow, based in New York.
Begins the Artist Portraits series (the hand-coloured series of international artists grew to a good 250 portraits by 1979).
- 1976 Studied with Alfonso Hüppi, Düsseldorf Art Academy.
Gives thematic art courses at the University of Essen, e.g. 'Blind-Walk', 'Household Resolution'.
Guest lecturer (literary/conceptual photography) at Salzburg College.
Holds workshops in Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Spain (photo and video experiments with students).
'The Journey to Amsterdam', project with André Thomkins, George Brecht and Milan Mölzer.
First 'zak races' street actions and documentation.
- 1977 X-mas Tree' sculpture and environment, zak & kingbee, 31 poodles (polyurethane casting).
Zak & kingbee, performances and videotapes in Europe and the USA; photo canvases partially coloured.
Thematic short film 'The Kingbee' (RT 20 mins)
- 1977-78 'Electronic Fashion Show' Polaroid Series, German TV Announcers.
'Plastic Plates and Forks', Unauthorized Performance, Uni Essen.
Audio Tapes (Telephone Portraits, Private Documents).

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- Music for Little Groups, with Ben Vauthier (Nice) and Krokus in Spain, among others.
- 1978 Moved residence to New York.
Makes instant photography his instrument for various conceptual long-distance series with ongoing developments, e.g. '211 people', 'SX-cult'.
- 1980-82 'NYC Rock' Series, Polaroid Patterns of 300+ Bands/Performers, shot Backstage (~1500 Individual Portraits).
- 1981 Nu London' series, portraits of the London avant-garde scene, hand-coloured photographs.
- 1982 7 Federal Councillors, Bern
Vienna Boys Choir, New York
Son & Daughters 'Selected Faces', B/W Portrait Series
- 1983 Portraits of Swiss Bankers, Zurich and Geneva
Bruno Kreisky and Cabinet, Vienna
Vienna Boys' Choir, Vienna
- 1984-86 Focuses on physiognomy studies, B/W Series of 'Heads', 'Neuts' (Androgyns), Buddhist Monks, Barbus de Gruyère et al.
- 1985 American Jazz Musicians, Portrait Series.
Multi-Projector Installation of 'Heads', Area Club, New York
- 1986 One Hundred Swiss Soldiers, B/W Portraits (Company of the Anti-Tank Recruit School, Chamblon)
Portraits of the Basel Drum Major, Studio
The Basellers' Cibachromes on Aluminum
Headworks' and 'BPC' Cibachrome Series, New York
- 1986 Starting with continual Video Documentations of 'everything under the sun' (formats over time: VHS, VHS-C, Hi-8, DV, Mini DV, HDDV)
- 1987 'Mania', 'More Rock'n'Roll, Video
- 1988 'Bowery Men' series, 35mm color & 6x6 B/W Portraits, staged at the Bowery Mission, on-site recording of individuals' stories.
'Even More Rock'n'Roll', Video
- 1989 'Crack'n Junk', Video
- 1990 First Experimentations with Digital Imaging
- 1991 'Of Bankers and Soldiers' and select portraits for Friedrich Dürrenmatts 'Václav Havel In Zürich',
3 Photo Portfolios for Granta #35, London/New York (first digitally produced layouts, delivered as offset film)
First Interactive Works: 'Portraits and Observations', 'NYMUG' Manhattan User Group CD (Animations)
Development of 'StuKa Tower': Interactive Touchscreen Display

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Kiosk running Picture Shows, Animations and Video.

- 1992-1994 StuKa Tower 2.0, w/ built-in camera (pre web-cam), remotely controlled by connections over phone lines, allowing to take pictures worldwide from the NYC studio, also tracing/collecting of user interactions for exploratory developments.
StuKa Tower Exhibition Installations in New York at: Swiss Institute, McGraw-Hill, AMS; Las Vegas at NAB; Art Basel Kunstmesse '93 und '94.
- 1992 «Smartphone 2000» Development, an Interactive Prototype and Multimedia User Interface for Bell South.
- 1992-1993 Custom StuKa Tower for Banking Software Client IBS.
Multimedia Presentation Prototypes for AT&T.
Interface Designs for Reach Networks and Coopers & Lybrand.
Studying The Internet Companies.
- 1994 CFO Network: A Multimedia IT Network Prototype for Wall Street Executives (Reach Networks)
- 1995 MedNet: An Intranet for Doctors, Blueprint & Interface design (Reach Networks)
- 1991-96 Portraits of Pioneers of The New Media and Information Technology (Mostly Video Clips, Video Stills & Loops)
- 1998 Starts the Rhythmclub, a Jazz-Funk-Punk Club in Tribeca with co-founder/singer-songwriter Joy Ryder, and producing Videos for the Rhythmclub TV Show.
- 1998-00 Production of «Raw Footage», Weekly Mnn TV Show.
- 2001-15 Fortlaufende thematisierte Erzählstränge (digital photography and videography) such as: 'The Hood', 'Daily Walks', 'Hand-y-men', 'POI' (Persons of Interest), 'Punks & Poets', 'food4face', 'Objectified'.
- 2004-05 'Arm & Nel' Kassabuch Projekt.
- 2005-15 Starts an ongoing series of 'Skype portraits' with a broad range of select individuals, capturing the essence of long-ranging conversational threads, abstracted into sequences of expressions and gestures.
- 2006-12 Concept & development of crowdsourcing platform 'beat-cast': a multi-threaded Artists Network of individual story lines, artistic stance and their elective forms of medial creation. The blueprint forges multitudes of interrelated pathways for intuitive exploration by way of associating, nesting and linking X degrees of separation, in tracing affinities and influences that, as a whole, ultimately constitute an ever-growing 'tribe'.

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2009-2014 'Quartets' series: a concept in which 4 related video stills are fused into a situational narrative that portrays people and circumstance, thereby capturing the ambience and accentuating a transient expressiveness.

2010-2015 Processing of the entire archive and digitisation of analogue media. New works, various installation concepts, experimental series for implementation and production.

2015 Died in July in New York.

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- Exhibitions**
- 1970 Galerie für zeitgenössische Photographie, Aachen
- 1972 Sequence 72, Centre Culturel de Romainville, Paris
- 1973 Galerie 315, Gesamthochschule, Essen
Gewerbemuseum Bern
Mit Kamera, Pinsel & Spritzpistole, Kunsthalle Recklinghausen (Ruhrfestspiele)
Sequenzen, Apteil, Essen-Werden
Séquence et Conséquence, A.R.C.2, Musée de l'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris
- 1974 3. Weltausstellung der Fotografie (Wanderausstellung)
The Photographers Gallery, London
Galerie Mascotte, Basel
Schweizerische Stiftung für die Photographie, Kunsthaus Zürich,
Photographie in der Schweiz von 1840 bis heute, Kunsthaus Zürich
50 Salón Internacional de Fotografía, Zaragoza
Galerie Lichttropfen (Kicken & Schürmann), Aachen
Galerie Im Riek, Essen
- 1975 Art 6'75, (Kicken/Lichttropfen), Basel
Portraits of Photographers, Centre International de Séjour, Paris
Photography as Art – Art as Photography, Maison de la Culture, Ile-de-France, Paris
Internationaler Kunstmarkt (Kicken/Lichttropfen), Köln
- 1976 Art as Photography, Schloss Bellevue, Kassel
Galerie Lichttropfen, Aachen
Spectrum Gallery, Barcelona
Galerie Im Riek, Essen
Canon Gallery, Amsterdam
Select Works 1974-76, Sequences & Comics, Galerie Stampa, Basel
- 1976 Art 7'76 (Denise René - Hans Mayer), Basel
Galeria Cadaqués, Cadaqués
Galerie Media, Neuchâtel
Made In... 'The Family Album' (Denise Rene - Hans Mayer), Düsseldorf
Foto-Sequencies, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
- 1977 Kunstmesse Wien (Galerie Stampa), Wien
Artists by Artists, Museum of Modern Art (Penthouse), New York
Salzburg College Gallery, Salzburg
Kunstmesse Bologna (Diaframma), Bologna
Kunstverein Salzburg
Zeitungskunst, Galerie Michael Leaman, Düsseldorf
Zak & kingbee new canvas pieces, Galerie Handschin, Basel
The first zak & kingbee tape, Galerie Stampa, Basel
Sequenzen, Il Diaframma, Milano
Das Sofortbild, Aktionsgalerie Bern
Die Reise nach Amsterdam, Galerie Leaman, Düsseldorf
Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf (Foyer), Düsseldorf
Galerie Il Diaframma, Brescia

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Exhibitions

- Die Reise nach Amsterdam, Galerie Ecart, Genf
The Family Album of Alex Kayser, Künstlerportraits, PPS. Galerie Hamburg
Das Sofortbild, Galerie Stadler, Paris
Zak X-mas Tree, Konrad Fischer, Düsseldorf
- 1978 Galerie Lichtblick, Dortmund
Galerie Canon, Genf
Chez Ben Vautier Galerie, Nizza
- 1978 Hammeraustellung, Jewels – participatory Video Installation, Basel
Censored, Basel
Electronic Fashion Show, PPS Galerie, Hamburg
Artists' Portraits, Carpenter Center for Visual Arts Harvard University, Cambridge
- 1978/79 Breakfast in Germany zak & kingbee, Galerie Krebaum, Weinheim
- 1979 About Food & Other Pleasures, CC/Floating Foundation of Photography, New York
The Altered Photograph, PS1, New York
The New Season, Lee Witkin Gallery, New York
Art as Photography 3, Galerie Neusüss, Kassel
Essener Kunstszene, Grugahallen, Essen
Four Contemporary Photographers, Public Library, Port Washington
Artists by Artists, Downtown Whitney Museum, New York
- 1980 Recent Polaroid Color Photographs, Clarence Kennedy Gallery, Cambridge
Exposition NU, Galerie Ufficio Dell'Arte/Créatis, Paris
Exploration of a Medium: Sofortbildfotografie, Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn
Work Gallery, Alex Kayser, Larry Fink, Zürich
- 1980/81 New York City Rock Series und Neue Portraits, CCD Galerie, Düsseldorf
- 1981 Artists' Portraits, Mudd Club Gallery, New York
Symposion über Fotografie III, Fotogalerie im Forum Stadtpark, Graz
- 1982 Rock'n'Roll, Galerie Handschin, Basel
Künstlerportraits, Spectrum Photogalerie im Kunstmuseum Hannover
- 1982-83 Künstlerportraits, PPS. Galerie Hamburg
- 1985 Heads, Multi-Projection Installation, Area Club, New York
- 1986 Galerie Watari, Tokyo
- 1987 Alex Kayser Kopfwerke u. Panja Jürgens Kopf-träume, Nikon Live

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- Galerie, Zürich
'Basler Portraits' Alex Kayser, Galerie Littmann, Basel
- 1992 Interactive Installation (StuKa Tower), Swiss Institute, New York
StuKa interactive collage, NYMUG, New York
- 1992 StuKa Tower, Interactive Installation, McGraw-Hill, New York
- 1993 StuKa Tower, Interactive Installation, AMS, New York
StuKa Tower, Silicon Graphics, NAB, Las Vegas
Art'93 (Littmann), StuKa Tower, Basel
- 1994 Art'94 (Littmann), StuKa Tower II, Basel
StuKa Tower II, Interactive Installation, Kunsthaus Langenthal
- 1995 Comme dans un miroir, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne
Le portrait dans la collection du Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne
- 1996 StuKa Tower, Interactive Installation, Laax
- 1998 Rock'n'Roll, large black, New York
- 1999 Video Installation, Rhythmclub, Tribeca, New York
- 2000 Stuka Tower, Rhythmclub, Tribeca, New York
- 2003 Artists' Portraits, Galerie Hans Mayer, Düsseldorf

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Collection

Fotostiftung Schweiz, Winterthur
 Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne
 Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris
 MACBA: Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona
 Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
 Sammlung Kicken, Kunstpalast Düsseldorf
 Sammlung der Stiftung F.C. Gundlach, Hamburg
 MFAH The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston TX
 Yale University Art Collection, New Haven CT

Books

1975 «Die Reise nach Amsterdam», Z&K limited edition,
 Verlagsgalerie Leaman, Düsseldorf
 1981 «Artists' Portraits», Larry Harry Abrams Inc., New York
 1981 «Künstlerportraits», Du Mont, Köln
 1985 «Heads», Abbeville Press, New York
 1985 «Köpfe», Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel
 1991 «Of Soldiers and Bankers», Granta #35 The Unbearable Peace,
 Penguin, London

Catalogues

1972 Sequence 72, Centre Culturel de Romainville, Paris
 1973 Mit Kamera Pinsel & Spritzpistole, Kunsthalle Recklinghausen
 1974 Fotografie In der Schweiz, Kunsthaus Zürich
 1975 Photography as Art - Art as Photography, Kassel
 1975 Portraits de Photographes ', Club Photographique de Paris
 1975 Lichttropfen Catalog, Kicken & Schürmann, Aachen
 1976 Foto - Sequenties, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
 1977 Art as Photography - Photography as Art II, Kassel
 1979 Essener Kunstszene, Arbeitsausschuss Essener Künstler,
 Essen
 1979 The New Season, Lee Witkin Gallery, New York

Features stories

1976 «Alex Kayser, Un Photographe en choisit d'Autres» présentant
 38 Portraits de photographe, Zoom /Le Magazine
 1980 Polaroids von Fernsehgrößen «Bilder vom Bildschirm»
 Fotograf Alex Kayser, ART /das Kunstmagazin
 1982 Sons & Daughters «Select Faces» by Alex Kayser, Camera
 Austria No. 8 (Reprint in Symposium on Photography III)
 1982 «Waves of Change» London Youth Culture Portrait Series, GEO
 Magazine (Award of Excellence, IED Competition II)
 1983 The World Economy «Gnomes At Home» Swiss Bankers by
 Alex Kayser, A Fortune Portfolio
 1984 Heads Titelgeschichte «Glatzköpfe», Frankfurter Allgemeine
 Magazin, Heft 248