DISCOVERY

Is photography all about consummate control of the final image? "Nein!" says Gundula Schulze el Dowy.

All photos © GUNDULA SCHULZE el DOWY / Courtesy of Deborah Bell, New York



"Red Neon Silence": (New York, 1991, from "Spinning On My Heels" series.) "For this double exposure in camera, I chose to take the bright red neon sign as the first layer, because the intensity of the color is attenuated by subsequent exposure." Nikon FE with 50mm f/1.8 Nikkor lens. Exposure on Kodak Vericolor III Professional, unrecorded.



Woman's face with two small women: ("Untitled," New York, 1992, from "Spinning On My Heels" series.) "This is a triple exposure in camera. First I took a picture of a Gova painting (two small figures). Five minutes later I found this nice girl and decided to take her picture. A little later I made an exposure of tree bark on the same frame." Nikon FE with 50mm f/1.8 Nikkor, exposure on Kodak Vericolor III Professional, unrecorded.



he creation of photographic art is neither rational nor intellectual according to Gundula Schulze el Dowy, the 41-year-old, East German-born photographer who made the haunting, enigmatic images on these pages. As commentators have noted, much of her earlier work was in the tradition of social criticism, depicting, for example, the "brokenheartedness and deprived development" but also the "inviolable dignity" of East Berliners. Then, in 1990, she received a stipend from the Kunstringes color neg film, unrecorded. Folkwang in Essen. Her stay in that cultural, industrial city on the Ruhr marked the beginning of a new phase in her artistic development and eventually led to the production of atmospherically seductive, seemingly weightless and timeless pictures like those presented here. Why and how does she create them and what is she trying to achieve? We'll let her speak for herself.

"Much of the photography I see today is far too cerebral and calculated—rational creations of the continued on page 144

Hand and man's head with hat as shadow: ("Untitled," August 1992, Jones Beach, Long Island.) "The image is an in-camera double exposure made without pre-visualizing the final result. First I shot the picture of the shadow; one minute later I double exposed a deliberately out-of-focus image of my red pants on the same frame." Nikon FE with 50mm f/1.8 Nikkor lens. Exposure on Kodak Vericolor III Professional

New York City window reflection with Titian painting: ("Untitled," 1992, from "Spinning On My Heels" series.) "This was completely serendipitous. I had forgotten that the picture of the painting I shot at the museum was in the camera when I took the second exposure of Fifth Avenue!" Nikon FE with 50mm f/1.8 Nikkor lens. Exposure on Kodak Vericolor III Professional: Painting, f/8 at unrecorded shutter speed; street scene, exposure unrecorded.







"Man Reading Newspaper": (Madison Square Garden, New York, 1990.) "This is a single exposure, one of my early attempts at playing with different layers on a single frame." Nikon FE with 28mm f/2.8 Nikkor lens. Exposure on Fujichrome Velvia, f/4, shutter speed unrecorded.

F1-N F-1 B Waist Waist Waist Waist Waist NEFIN NEC FN Fict Scree Flash Data I Eye Cu

480 EL 540 EZ 300 EZ 200 E 188A 200 EZ 200 E 188A 200 EZ 2777 166A 200 EZ 777 166A 200 EZ 777 171 Ho Off Came 177 Ho Off Came 177 Ho Off Came 177 Ho Off Came 200 EZ 200 E

CA!

Profession Ball Head 1 Deluxe Trip Ball Head 10

CANO



EX-EE W/50/1.8 PELLIX W/58/1.2

MECHANICAL

PROGRAM W/AC 50/1.8

A BACK A R SSC BR w/cs

MACRO SSC BR SSC BR w/cs EXTENSION TUBE

MACRO W/TUBE B/H .5 SSC BR

ANOMATIC R 100/2.0 bx

MACRO

Old F-1 Accessories

VOIGTLANDER

YASHICA

KONICA

OLYMPUS

TOREFLEX A (METER NG)

ONICA HEXAR W/35/2.0

MACRO VIVITAR

-2S Mpus record data back -4 blk w/bx Mpus data back 4

O W/DATA BACK blk O MANUAL ADAPTER

) w/cs 5 VIVITAR SER-1 MACRO w/cs

UNDERWATER

.8 TOKINA AT-X

W/35/3.5 FLASH

70-150/4.0 w/cs AUTO WINDER AR

W/SKOPAR 50/3.5 MATIC W/ 50/2.8 w/bx

AREX 35/3.5
R-DYNAREX 135/4.0 w/cs
NINENT WULTRON 50/2.0
EX HOUSING W/100/5.6
OSCOPE ADAPTER w/bx
TLANDER KONTUR FINDER

IVE MA SET NICAD FN W/BX

300-EZ FLASH CANOLITE D FLASH w/cs

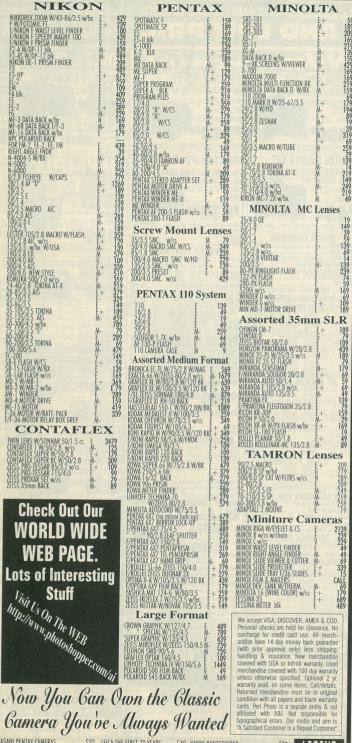
SSC BR

BR SSC BR

hlk

Store & Mail Order Hours: M-Th: 9am - 6:30pm Friday: 9am - 2pm Sunday: 11am - 5pm WE SHIP WORLDWIDE

Orders recieved by 12 PM. Shipped the Same Day



Now You Gan Own the Glassic Gamera You've Always Wanted

O		A Salislied Gust	-
ASAHI PENTAX CAMERAS\$32	LEICA THE FIRST 70 YEARS\$49	NIKON RANGEFINDER	532
ASHAI PENTAX CAMERAS PRE 1959\$17	LEICA RANGEFINDER M6 to M1\$32	NIKON MODERN CLASSICS	\$19
BLUE BOOK PRICE GUIDE\$24			
CANON MODERN CLASSICS	LEICA REFLEX R-5 TO R-3\$32	NINON F-2 MODERN CLASSICS	\$19
CANON COMPENDIUM	LEICA R-6 \$32 LEICA R-7 \$32	ROLLEI TLR COLLECTERS GUIDE	\$22
CANON RANGEFINDER 1933-68\$32	LEICA POCKET GUIDE	ROLLEI TLR USER'S MANUEL	\$22
EXAKTA CAMERAS 1933-78	LEICA ACC. GUIDE\$13	ROLLEI T.L.R. THE HISTORY	\$24
KODAK CAMERAS FIRST 100 YR\$51	LEICA PRICE GUIDE	RUSSIAN AND SOVIET CAMERAS	.\$39
LEICA "M" COMPENDIUM	LEICA INSTRUCTIONS /	SPY CAMERAS - MINOX STORY	\$33
LEICA "R" COMPENDIUM	M-5, CL, SL & SL2	SPY CAMERA	\$59
LEICA AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY -	LEICA COPIES	ZEISS CONTAX REPAIR MANUAL	
VOLUME 1 and 2 by: James Lager\$119	MINOX VARIATIONS IN 8X11\$52	#182	.\$26
LEICA COLLECTORS GUIDE	MCKEOWN PRICE GUIDE	ZEISS IKON CAMERAS 1926 - 1939	.\$32
LEICA THE FIRST 60 YEARS\$32	NIKON COMPENDIUM	ZEISS COMPENDIUM	.\$44
AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PERSON OF THE PERSO	\$170 Charles and Park the hard \$25		

DISC®VERY

continued from page 64

head. However, whatever is in your head is already dead, in the sense that it has been reacted to and analyzed. I don't want to think about the things I see, or to know about them in any intellectual way. I am fascinated with what is unknown, and I want to follow my own impulses, to react spontaneously to what is in front of the camera. That's how I came up with the concept of 'Spinning On My Heels,' a metaphor for random, almost uncontrolled, instantaneous creative responses to the things around me.

"My earlier work was a kind of stagnation-social documentary, yes, but also without life or movement. Now what I seek to capture is energy and light, to be playful and free-it's a little bit like improvising music, and it expresses, in its rapidity and spontaneity, the furious pace of change in modern societies."

It there's any single technique that characterizes Gundula Schulze el Dowy's present work, it's capturing and exploring multiple layers of reality on a single frame of film. To achieve this, she often makes double or triple exposures in camera. The overwhelming majority of these are unplanned, the second and third exposures being based on artistic intuition.

However, she does adjust her exposures based on experience, often underexposing each component of a multiple exposure, or giving more exposure to an indoor scene lit by artificial light, and less to the outdoor scene that's to be superimposed upon it. And while she detests such popular techniques as multiple printing, sandwiching, and computer-manipulated images, she is not above shooting two frames, each with a different camera if a certain subject intrigues her, and later combining each with different elements. She has also been known to return to a place (say, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York) to re-shoot something that inspired her but didn't combine well the first time.

"Movement, energy, emotions, and a sense of unfettered immediacy are what I am trying to convey and that is not possible without an unrestrained freedom of expression. I am not saying that my pictures don't have content or meaning, and even a certain technical facility, but finding these aspects comes afterwards, when editing and analyzing-never at the moment of creation." —J.S.

LEGEND

(V) = Very Good

(E) = Excellent

(LN) = Like New

(N) = New

(C) = Case

(G) = Good

M = Mint(D) = Demo