

Press release:

The Day May Break, chapter 1 - 3 by Nick Brandt

The in focus gallery, B. Arnold in Cologne, is pleased to present:

Nick Brandt: The Day May Break is an ongoing global series portraying people and animals that have been impacted by environmental degradation and destruction.

Chapter One was photographed in Zimbabwe and Kenya in 2020, Chapter Two in Bolivia in 2022.

The people in the photos have all been badly affected by climate change, from extreme droughts to floods that destroyed their homes and livelihoods.

The photographs were taken at several sanctuaries and conservancies. The animals are almost all long-term rescues, victims of everything from habitat destruction to wildlife trafficking.

These animals can never be released back into the wild. As a result, they are almost all habituated to humans, and so it was safe for human strangers to be close to them, photographed in the same frame at the same time.

The fog is symbolic of a natural world now rapidly fading from view. Created by fog machines on location, it is also an echo of the smoke from wildfires, intensified by climate change, devastating so much of the planet. However, in spite of their loss, these people and animals are the survivors. And therein still lies possibility.

SINK / RISE, the third chapter of **The Day May Break**, focuses on South Pacific Islanders impacted by rising oceans from climate change. The local people in these photos, photographed underwater in the ocean off the coast of the Fijian islands, are representatives of the many people whose homes, land and livelihoods will be lost in the coming decades as the water rises. Everything is shot in-camera underwater.

*"Faced with a seemingly impossible task, **Nick Brandt** has created a profoundly original body of work, one that represents an entirely new approach to climate-conscious photography.*

Although they are several meters below the surface, the subjects of Brandt's mesmerizing photographs do not float or swim. Incredibly, they sit on sofas, stand on chairs, use seesaws, and pose in ways they might on land. The effect is otherworldly, as though the familiar laws of physics have stalled in this strange, liminal zone between land and sea."

Despite the surreal, semi-theatrical settings in which these portraits occur, Brandt's images are direct, uncluttered, and free from distractions. This combination of ambitious fantasy and exquisite restraint is a signature of Brandt's work rarely seen elsewhere.

*The photographs comprising **SINK / RISE** are remarkable in their ability to be simultaneously approachable and enigmatic, to be political and inclusive. They invite us to linger, to look harder, and to go deeper. With every return, there is something new to discover— within the images or within us. With the portraits in **SINK / RISE**, Brandt gives us a vital means of considering what we all stand to lose."* (Excerpts from the foreword to the book Chapter 3, Sink/Rise by art writer Zoe Lescaze.)

"Nick Brandt is an artist and witness who seizes bleak and desperate fates, and by some mystery and alchemy, transmutes these into a gesture of poignant and painful beauty." (Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, from the Foreword to *The Day May Break*, Author of *Dust* and *The Dragonfly Sea*.)

"A landmark body of work by one of photography's great environmental champions. Showing how deeply our fates are intertwined, Brandt portrays people and animals together, causing us to reflect on the real-life consequences of climate change. Channeling his outrage into quiet determination, the result is a portrait of us all, at a critical moment in the Anthropocene." (Phillip Prodger, curator, author, photo historian, former Head of Photographs at the National Portrait Gallery, London)

Exhibition from March 23, 2024 to August 15, 2024

Opening on Saturday, March 23 from 6:45 – 9:00 pm

until May 5: Wed. - Fri. 4 - 7 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and by appointment
(closed on Good Friday and Easter Saturday)

May 5 to August 15 by appointment only on ++ 49 (0)177 3202913.

Prof. Theo B. Pagel will speak at the opening on Saturday, March 23 at 7pm,

Zoo Director / Chairman of the Board Cologne Zoo, Chair of the Reverse the Red Committee,
Past-President of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

Please note: Since Prof. Dr. Pagel has another appointment after the opening speech, he will speak at 7 p.m. on the dot. We will therefore open the gallery at 6.45 pm.

Press releases and images can be downloaded from our website under Press:

(www.infocusgalerie.com/de/presse). If used free of charge, please note the following:

- A maximum of 2 images may be used in announcements or for reviews.
- If you are interested in a longer photo series (only possible from March 2024), permission from the gallery must be obtained in advance.
- The images may not be cropped or text placed in the images.
- Captions must be given in full as specified in the file name.
- A clear reference must be made to the exhibition with the artist's name, title of the exhibition, gallery name, location, web address and exhibition dates.
- Indication of: © Nick Brandt; Courtesy in focus Galerie, B. Arnold, Cologne
- In the event of publication, we request a specimen copy or link.