

26.01.22 Press Kit

Naked Beauty

SYLVIE BLUM

ONLINE EXHIBITION

Naked Beauty

Sylvie Blum

B. 1967, Taxenbach, Austria

DATES:

01.02.2022 - 27.03.2022

LOCATION:

[echofinearts.com/exhibition/
naked-beauty/](https://echofinearts.com/exhibition/naked-beauty/)

READING ROOM:

[echofinearts.com/viewing-
room/naked-beauty/](https://echofinearts.com/viewing-room/naked-beauty/)

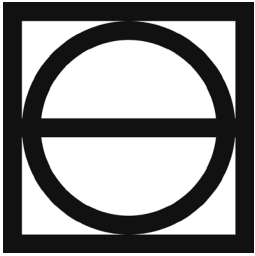
CONTACT:

Eve d'Oréface
+33 (0) 32 00 28 89
eve@echofinearts.com



Credits: © Sylvie Blum, Fish Eye, 2019 by courtesy of Echo Fine Arts

From February 1st, 2022 until March 27th, 2022, Echo Fine Arts is pleased to present Sylvie Blum's first online solo show. Exploring the nude genre, the Los Angeles-based photographer Sylvie Blum appropriates the notion of beauty. She reviews its moral and physical canons by adjusting them to the plurality of contemporary women. Through a selection of her most iconic photographs from her Naked Beauty, Big Cats, and Animals series, this exhibition offers a transversal approach to the Los Angeles based artist's career spanning over 20 years.



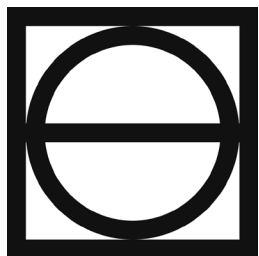
About
Naked Beauty
SYLVIE BLUM

“A naked body is endlessly exciting and timeless.”

Sylvie Blum



Alike many female counterparts such as Sarah Moon or Ellen Von Unwerth, Sylvie Blum's first steps into the world of photography began in front of the lens as a model. Her style distinguishes itself from other nudes for it embraces the classic aesthetic of hard light, clean angles and strong graphic elements in order to resume to the female shape to overlapping and abstracted forms.



Biography

Naked Beauty

SYLVIE BLUM

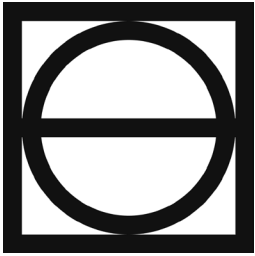
As a child, Austrian-born Sylvie Blum already knew that she wanted to become an artist. Her first steps into the photography world were before the camera. For 16 years, she modelled for esteemed photographers such as Helmut Newton, Jan Saudek, Lucien Clergue, Jeanloup Sieff.

In 1991, she met legendary artist and photographer Günter Blum and became “his model, his muse, his wife”. By his side, Sylvie refined her understanding of light, composition, dark room techniques and other aspects of photography. After her husband’s long illness and death in 1997, Sylvie bought a Polaroid SX-70 and initially started photographing herself. These Polaroids, sold at Christie’s in 2014, were also the subject of her first book: “Venus”, published in 2000.

In 2005 Sylvie relocated to Los Angeles and met David Fahey. Under his mentorship, she started created her series «Naked Beauty» which was exhibited alongside Herb Ritt’s photographs, and became the subject of an eponymous book published in 2012 by TeNeues.

In 2008, Blum made her dream come true by materializing a project she had in mind for a long time: her Big Cats series. The thrill sparked by this initial proximity with animals was renewed throughout the following years with her ongoing series « Animal».

In 2020, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Bangkok, Thailand, Sylvie Blum’s Photography exhibition is the very first of its kind in Thailand. This unique 10,000 sqft exhibition at MOCA displays 300 images including 100 original prints from her Naked Beauty Series, her world famous «Big Cat Series» and her «Animal Series” as well as 200 Polaroid images showing her very own diary over the past 20 Years from 1999 - 2019. Sylvie Blum’s iconic images remain in the permanent collection of the Museum.



Big Cats

Naked Beauty

SYLVIE BLUM



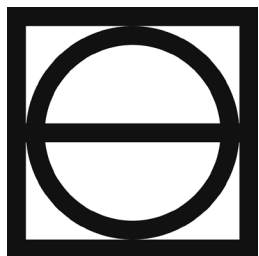
Credits: © Sylvie Blum, Angela Rides the Lion, 2008

**“While working on my Big Cat series,
I needed a lot of patience and respect for these animals.”**

Big Cats

In 2008 Sylvie produced her iconic Big Cat series, showing naked women surrounded by lions and tigers. “To work with those beautiful, impressive animals in combination with the female body was very challenging. Every aspect of that shoot was extremely exciting and one of my biggest productions I have ever made for my art work.

My Big Cats shoot was planned for several years. It started in 2004 in South Africa and Namibia studying wild life. Working with animals and at the same time with several models are certainly a challenge since everything has to fall together to get the image I planned for. You need a lot of patience and show a lot of respect for these animals. With the production of my “Big Cat” series I made my dream come true, I had since my childhood.”



Naked Beauty
Naked Beauty
SYLVIE BLUM



Credits: © Sylvie Blum, Female Buddha, 2008

Naked Beauty

« As a woman and an artist, Sylvie Blum offers a unique perspective on the female form. Her technique and composition are remarkable. She brings not just perfection but passion to her work. Each impeccable image transcends sculptured form to convey the true essence of a beautiful and confident woman. »

Anne Wilkes Tucker,
*Curator of Photography at the Museum of Fine Arts,
Houston, Texas*

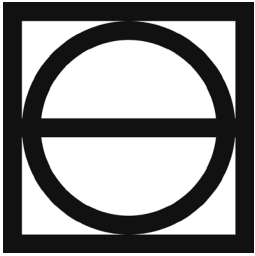
Fascinated by artistic nudes, as they were so perfectly presented in the 1930's by photographic legends such as George Hoyningen-Huene or Horst P. Horst, Sylvie Blum started creating body fragments, photographic torsos that attain an almost sculptural impression in the artistic lighting and delicate gradation of gray tones. However, the sources of her inspiration are far more varied.

Whether on the trail of Ansel Adams, Leni Riefenstahl or Herbert List, her images all have something in common. Sylvie Blum gives them something modern and perfects the fine art photography with the utmost aesthetic quality. Sylvie has found her spot in contemporary photography.

As stated by British Maxim "Sylvie is the Ansel Adams of the nude female form."



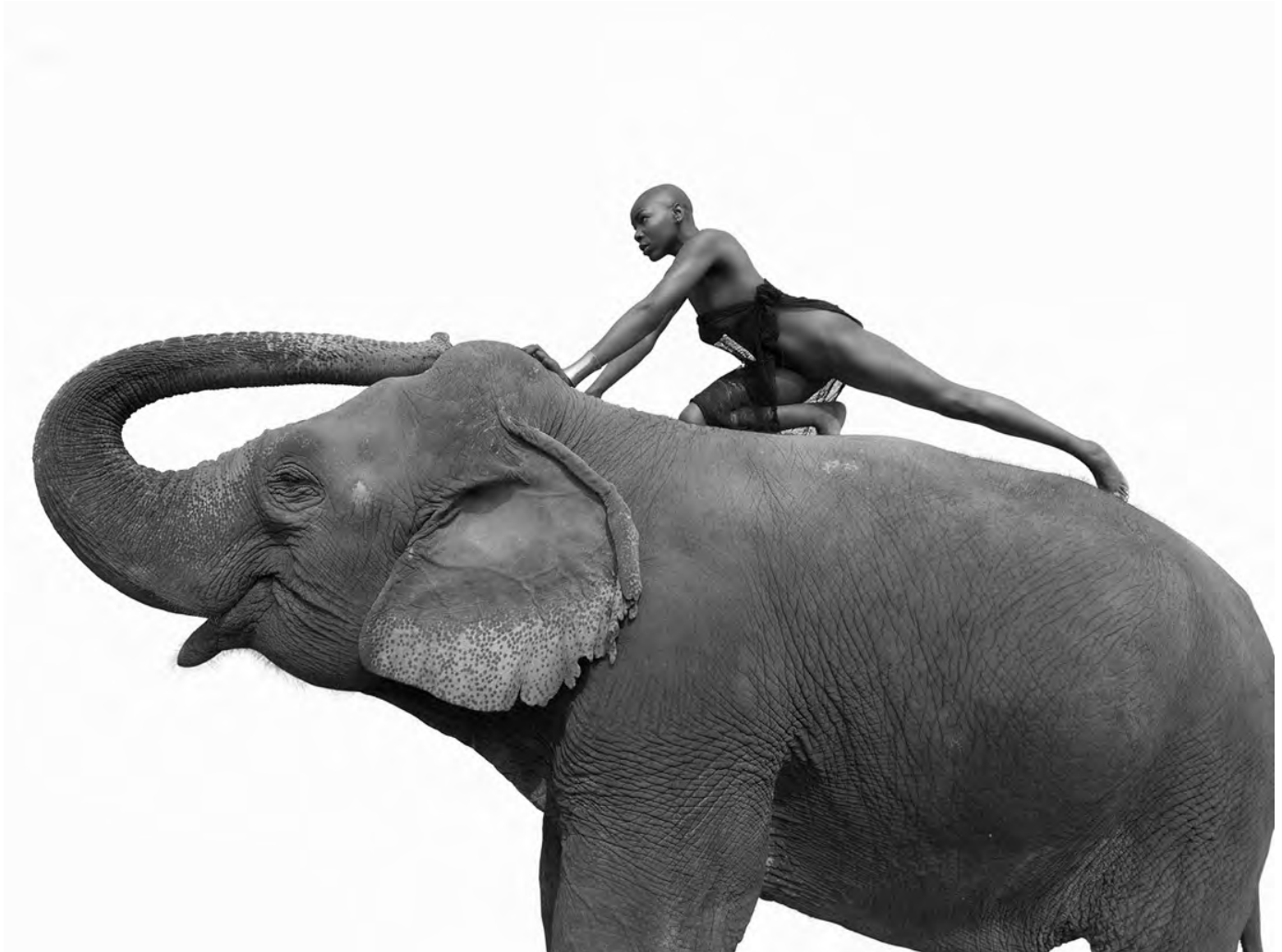
Credits: © Sylvie Blum, Brooke II, 2009



Animals

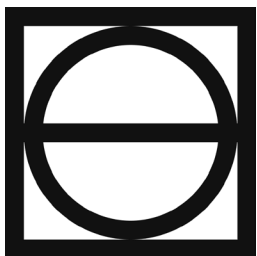
Naked Beauty

SYLVIE BLUM



Credits: © Sylvie Blum, Amazon, 2018

“I love animals and love to work with them.
Animals always act natural; You have to let it flow.
Some animals such as a snake,
a bird or a tiger are constantly moving.
I have to be quick to capture the model with the animal to get
image I am looking for.”



Animals

Naked Beauty

SYLVIE BLUM

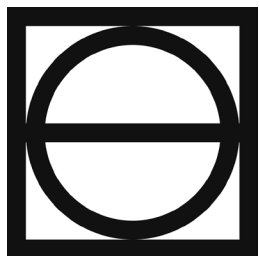


Credits: © Sylvie Blum, *Angel and the Pink Flamingo*, 2019

**“Beauty is everywhere
and everyone is beautiful in front of my camera.”**

Animals

With her latest series, Austrian photographer Sylvie Blum offers a broader approach to her vision of beauty by establishing a parallel between femininity and animals. Through nudity, her models establish an even ground with the animal avatar they pose alongside. In pure Blum's style, the set-up is minimal, with a background only animated by the shadows of the two characters on a single bold pastel colour. Devoid from any distraction, the eye focuses on the connexion between them and their common intrinsic nature while their body shapes echo with one another. The hair of the model posing with the fish gently undulates in gentle waves, the outline of the pink flamingo is extended by the voluptuous curves of its partner's body, while the piercing eyes of the owl become the gaze of its alter ego; Their souls align.



Curriculum-Vitae

Naked Beauty

SYLVIE BLUM

Sylvie Blum

B.Taxenbach, Austria, 1967

Lives and works in Los Angeles, USA

Selected Solo Shows

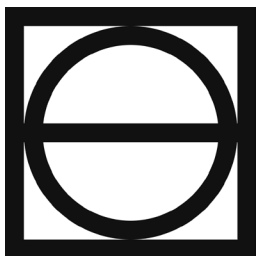
- 2020 Naked Beauty, Museum of Contemporary Art, Bangkok (Thailand)
- 2018 Power Meets Poetry (w/ Giovanni Castel), Immagis Fine Art Photography, München (Germany)
- 2016 Sylvie Blum Photography, Brucie Collections, Kiev (Ukraine)
- 2012 Naked Beauty (w/ Herb Ritts), Fahey Klein Gallery, Los Angeles (USA)
- 2006 Nudes Art Fair, with ModernBook Gallery, L.A. (USA)
- 2005 Nudes, San Francisco Art Fair, with ModernBook Gallery (USA)
- Erotik, ModernBook Gallery, Palo Alto (USA)
- 2004 Nudes, orangerie Grosskarlbach (Germany)
- 2003 Nudes + Hotel Orient, Ricarda Fox Gallery, Essen (Germany)
- 2002 Nudes, the Gep Gallery, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- Hotel Orient, Lustschloss, Vienna (Austria)
- 2001 Sylvie Blum Photographs, Galerie im Weldeturm, Schwetzingen (Germany)
- 2000 Venus Selbst, Ziresch Art Consult Gallery, Karlsruhe (Germany)

Collections

- Museum of Contemporary Art, Bangkok (Thailand)
- Boonchai Art Museum, Bangkok (Thailand)

Publications

- «Naked Beauty», TeNeues, 2011
- «M like Male Nude», Edition Braus, 2004
- «Nudes», Edition Braus, 2002
- «Hotel Orient», Edition Braus, 2002
- «Venus Selbst», Edition Braus, 2000



Naked Beauty

SYLVIE BLUM



Credits: © Sylvie Blum, Snake Woman, 2017