



Der dritte Blick The third look

Urs Grunder Der dritte Blick · The Third Look

For fifty years now, Urs Grunder has been experimenting with the forms of expression and representational possibilities of technical images, especially photographic ones. Often staged or composed in a surreal manner, then reworked and transformed, his images reach a point where the representational slips into a reflection of a state of mind, gives way to a dreamscape or abstraction, or moves to the very edge of the imaginable.

The works from his early years collected in the book's prologue show above all the diversity of analogue photography—from classic darkroom experiments and Polaroids to pre-digital image experiments with video effect generators and television screens. It becomes clear how intensively Grunder worked directly on the material at that time: chemical manipulations, physical interventions, and the interplay of light and surface leave traces of the artistic process embedded in the images.

With the advent of digital technologies, the status of such analogue originals shifted, as the photographic image came to be perceived even more in terms of its reproducibility and further processing. Urs Grunder has since used these digital possibilities to reactivate earlier works as source material and to develop them into new images.

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Urs Grunder (b. 1951, Bern, Switzerland) studied dentistry and subsequently specialized in reconstructive dental medicine. In this capacity, he ran his own practice in Bern for many years. At the same time, he developed a keen interest in photography, a medium with technical and creative possibilities that had fascinated him since his youth.

Since the late 1970s, his work has been exhibited in Switzerland and abroad and recognized with prizes, awards, and institutional acquisitions. Urs Grunder was invited by the European Cultural Centre (ECC) to exhibit his work at the Venice Biennial International Contemporary Art Exhibition 2026.

Since retiring in 2013, Grunder has devoted himself full time to his artistic practice. For many years, Grunder has also been interested in quantum physics and brain research, interests that influence his reflections on perception and visual reality and also inform his artistic practice.

He lives and works in Bolligen, near Bern.

For more information see: www.ursgrunder.ch

