

# HELMUT NEWTON FOUNDATION

Invitation to the press conference

Saul Leiter. David Lynch. Helmut Newton  
Nudes

Friday, 30 November 2018, at 11 am

Helmut Newton Foundation  
Museum of Photography  
Jebensstraße 2  
10623 Berlin-Charlottenburg

**Matthias Harder**, Curator of the Helmut Newton Foundation  
**Margit Erb**, Director of the Saul Leiter Foundation (New York)  
**Howard Greenberg**, Howard Greenberg Gallery (New York)

As of 10 am, you are welcome to view the exhibition.  
Filming and photographing is also permitted during the press conference,  
but only for current news coverage.

The three-part exhibition “**Saul Leiter. David Lynch. Helmut Newton: Nudes**” will open at the **Helmut Newton Foundation** on **30 November 2018**. It marks the first time in the history of the Berlin institution that an exhibition will be dedicated exclusively to the genre of nude photography.

**Saul Leiter**, parallel to his fashion photography for *Harper's Bazaar* and the colorful abstractions he captured on the streets of New York from the late 1940s onwards, also photographed nudes in the studio. These pictures remained virtually under lock and key during his lifetime; only a few of his friends knew his quiet, intimate black-and-white images. While Leiter had his color film processed by photo labs in New York, he developed the nudes himself in his own darkroom. His female models were friends or lovers, whom the artist portrayed in his New York apartment.

Following Leiter's death in 2013, Margit Erb, the director of the Saul Leiter Foundation, has worked to re-examine, publish, and publicize his multifaceted artistic legacy. In 2018, a book on Leiter's nudes, *In My Room*, was published by Steidl Books, and Howard Greenberg Gallery in New York exhibited a new selection of his nudes. The Helmut Newton Foundation now presents for the first time more than 200 vintage and late prints. While half of the selection is framed and on the wall, the other half is presented in an exhibition vitrine as snippets, fragmented by Leiter himself. His small-format nudes depict women together or alone as they recline on sofas, become silhouettes against the light, seem lost in thought while smoking a cigarette, or smile and pose for Leiter's camera; not all models are entirely undressed. The images are subtle, sensitive, almost shy approaches to the female body and spirit.

We encounter a similar visual atmosphere in the nudes of **David Lynch**, taken half a century later mostly in Lodz and Los Angeles. Many of them are in black and white; a few are in color. In his abstract images, details often fill the frame; only upon closer examination can we associate them with the human body and compare them to our own in our mind's eye. Lynch decided on unexpected perspectives and a large presentation format enabling most of his female models to appear larger than life; the 25 motifs were selected and printed at an external photo lab exclusively and for the first time for this exhibition in Berlin. This show is also preceded by a book, published under the title *Nudes* by Fondation Cartier in Paris in 2017. The images were created both parallel to and independently of Lynch's cinematic work, which sometimes contains sexual allusions and actions. His photographic nudes, sometimes more observational, sometimes more posed, are as enigmatic as his films. In viewing these images, we sense a cautious, indeed tender exploration of the female body with the camera; such visions are likely only possible through the medium of photography. A sense of intimacy (or the illusion thereof) is achieved through extreme close-ups with an almost tactile physicality, even if only a naked thigh or arm is visible in the frame.

**Helmut Newton** began photographing nudes in the 1970s, both independently and incorporated into his fashion photography, and worked in this genre until the end of his life in 2004. His series "Naked and Dressed", which marks the transition from fashion to nudes in his work, and his "Big Nudes" made him world-famous and inspired countless photographers and other visual artists to imitate or re-interpret them. This new presentation brings together around 80 iconic nudes from well-known exhibitions and projects such as "Helmut Newton's Illustrated: Pictures from an Exhibition", "White Women", "Sleepless Nights", "Big Nudes", "Sex and Landscapes", "Work", and "Us and Them" as well as some 40 images from the foundation archive that have not yet been exhibited, including numerous original Polaroids. Newton created an incomparable body of work, full of subtle seduction and timeless elegance, especially in the nude genre. He depicts naked bodies populating swimming pools, ingenious shots of undressed mannequins and other fashion-focused nudes, half-clothed models wearing orthopedic prostheses, and provocative stagings of sexual obsession by a female cast – which open up a realm of associations where our imagination can wander.

**The opening of the exhibition 'Saul Leiter. David Lynch. Helmut Newton: Nudes' will take place on Friday, 30 November 2018, at 8 pm.**

The exhibition will be on view from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 through May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am – 7 pm, Thursday 11 am – 8 pm

On the occasion of the exhibition the publications *In My Room* by Saul Leiter (Steidl) and *Nudes* by David Lynch (Fondation Cartier) will be available for purchase in the Walther König bookshop at the Helmut Newton Foundation.

**We kindly ask you to fill in the attached accreditation form and to return it until November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to [presse@nadine-dinter.de](mailto:presse@nadine-dinter.de)**

For additional information and press images, please contact:

**Nadine Dinter**

Nadine Dinter PR  
Fasanenstraße 70, 10719 Berlin  
Phone: +49 (0) 30 398 87 411  
Mobile: +49 (0) 151 123 70 951  
Email: [presse@nadine-dinter.de](mailto:presse@nadine-dinter.de)  
[press@helmut-newton-foundation.org](mailto:press@helmut-newton-foundation.org)

**Dr. Matthias Harder**

Curator of the Helmut Newton Foundation  
Jebensstraße 2, 10623 Berlin  
Phone: +49 (0) 30 318 648 56  
Email: [info@helmut-newton-foundation.org](mailto:info@helmut-newton-foundation.org)  
Web: [www.helmutnewton.com](http://www.helmutnewton.com)

# Accreditation for the press conference about the exhibition

## Saul Leiter. David Lynch. Helmut Newton: Nudes

at the Helmut Newton Foundation, Jebensstraße 2, 10623 Berlin

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November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to [presse@nadine-dinter.de](mailto:presse@nadine-dinter.de)

### Schedule:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 10.00 hrs                | Start of the press accreditation and admittance to the exhibition                          |
| 10.00 – 11.00 hrs        | Preview of the exhibition  |
| 11.00 – 12.00 hrs        | Press conference with Matthias Harder, Margit Erb and Howard Greenberg, followed by Q & As |
| 12.00 hrs                | Photo Call   |
| at 13.00 hrs             | End of the Press Preview   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I will participate in the press conference   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I will not be able to attend the press conference, please send me the press kit            |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Media: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone + Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of questions, interview requests and for further information, please contact:

Nadine Dinter [PR](mailto:presse@nadine-dinter.de), Phone: +49 (0) 30 398 87 411, Mobile: +49 (0) 151 123 70 95, Email: [presse@nadine-dinter.de](mailto:presse@nadine-dinter.de)