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Albrecht Fuchs

Portraits

1 March – 15 April 2008

We are pleased to announce *Portraits* by German photographer Albrecht Fuchs.

This exhibition with about 25 portraits will be Fuch's first solo show in Belgium.

Albrecht Fuchs photographs personalities who fascinate him, ranging from politicians to musicians. Most often his subjects are artists. His interest in artist portraiture originated in 1995 with a series of Martin Kippenberger portraits. For the documentation of M.K.-Projekt "Metro Net", Fuchs accompanied Kippenberger to Dawson City in Canada.

Later, photographs in Kippenberger's Cologne studio and the Black Forest were added. Fuchs was intensely inspired by Kippenberger, who was keenly aware of his photogenic qualities. Since then, many artists portraits have followed, including those of Lawrence Weiner, Mike Kelley, John Baldessari, Jonathan Meese, Elizabeth Peyton, Ed Ruscha, Matthew Barney, Raymond Pettibon, Paul McCarthy, Franz West, Cosima von Bonin, Luc Tuymans, Gregor Schneider and Dana Schutz.

The artist portrait has a long tradition in photography, historically going back to artists such as August Sander, Man Ray and Hans Namuth. Although the framework of classical portraiture is evident in the carefully structured compositions, Fuchs' subjects appear at ease in front of the camera, offering a candid portrayal. All artists are photographed from a respectful distance, often in their home or studio, revealing as much through their surroundings as through their own gaze.

Fuchs was born in 1964 in Bielefeld, Germany and lives and works in Cologne. He received a degree in photography from the Gesamthochschule Essen, and his photography has been regularly featured in magazines and art periodicals. In 2005, he participated in the Goethe Institute Exchange Program, Kuala Lumpur. Fuchs currently teaches photography at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. The exhibition coincides with the recent publication of *Albrecht Fuchs. Portraits* (Snoeck, Cologne, 2007), a selection of photographs with an essay by Mark von Schlegell, which has been nominated for the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2008.