

Press Release Winter 2013

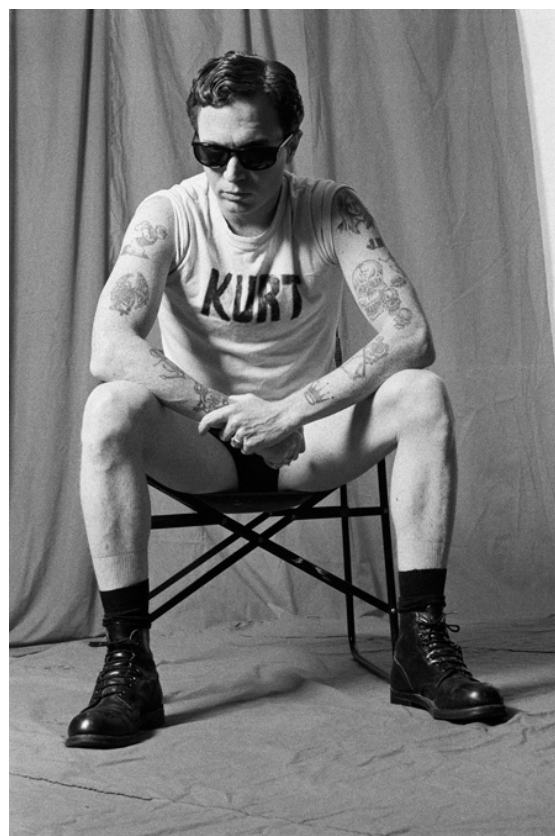


RICHARD KERN NAKED AND FAMOUS

A transgressive vision
of human nature

La Térmica, Málaga
From January 17th to April 11th 2014

Curators: Lydia Lunch and Mario Martín Pareja



Bruce La Bruce, 2010 © Richard Kern

Curated by Lydia Lunch and Mario Martín Pareja, La Térmica presents American photographer and filmmaker **Richard Kern's** 'Naked & Famous' series in Spain



Richard Kern

"I see Richard Kern as a documentarian. His early films and photography captured a transitional moment in New York's history, a time and place when extremes of passion, art and lust knew no boundaries. Where a collective of death defiant miscreants came together and laid bare their souls, their bodies and their obsessions, knowing full well that we were not alone in our urge to purge forth the bile of our existence. That there were other adrenaline addicts out there, rampaging through the blood soaked streets and between the bloody sheets in a collective mania that shot through the night skies of a decade riddled with the aftermath of all the failures and fuck ups that had come before us."

Lydia Lunch,
Artist and exhibition curator

RICHARD KERN NAKED AND FAMOUS

Richard Kern's "Naked and Famous" solo show will open on January 17th at La Termica, Malaga (Spain).

Almost fifty original works by Richard Kern (North Carolina, USA, 1954) which seek to unravel and illuminate the complex and often darker sides of human nature.

This show brings together the portraits he's been doing to celebrities from cinema, music, art and fashion scenes during more than three decades. We can see Nick Nolte, Crispin Glover, Vincent Gallo, Asia Argento, Marilyn Manson, Nick Cave, Courtney Love, Kim Gordon, Marina Abramovic, Richard Prince, Candice Boucher, Bruce La Bruce..., and even Lydia Lunch, curator of the show and Cinema of Transgression primadonna.

A Peepshow box is added in the same artspace of the exhibition where visitors can watch Kern's video pieces and films through a little window sitting on a high stool.

Through his portraits, Kern makes the psychological space between the sitter, photographer and audience his subject. With his dry, matter of fact approach, he underlines the absurdity of truth and objectivity in photography while playing with our reliance upon taxonomies around sexual representation.

Kern is a regular contributor to Vice and Purple and has published 11 books, some of them with Taschen. His films and photographs have been exhibited at MOMA, The Whitney Museum and in more than 30 solo shows around the world. Some of his most memorable films are 'Right Side of My Brain' (1984), 'Fingered' (1986), 'Submit to me Now' (1987) and 'Clean' (2011). Kern has shot music videos for artists such as Marilyn Manson ('Lunchbox'), King Missile ('Love Is...'), The Breeders ('Divine hammer'), Sonic Youth ('Death Valley '69'), and Is Tropical ('Lover's Cave').



Marilyn Manson, 1994
© Richard Kern



Marina Abramovic, 2010
© Richard Kern



Nick Cave, 1996
© Richard Kern

“Photography is a way to get into intimate situations with other people”

Richard Kern

KERN'S NAKED PORTRAITS

That portraits embody a “representation of the structuring of human relationships” about the work of Richard Kern, where the degree of intimacy brokered between author and subject - and the tensions such intimacy provokes - might be considered to be the true subject of his work.

Richard Kern's portraits play off the artist's admitted voyeurism against his model's evident exhibitionism. Conflating two forms of desire - one fundamentally private (voyeurism), the other essentially public (exhibitionism) - which are played out before the camera's lens, Kern's resulting photographs are highly self-conscious, and clearly intended for public view.

Kern's photography embrace of the aesthetics and social, economic and libidinal ideologies of amateur pornography, and voyeuristic photography - genres that have grown exponentially with the availability of digital technology and access to the internet - is evident. These genres suggest - through their widespread proliferation - a democratization of the construction of sexualized identities: a process in which Kern himself has long been both a pivotal figure and subversive pioneer.

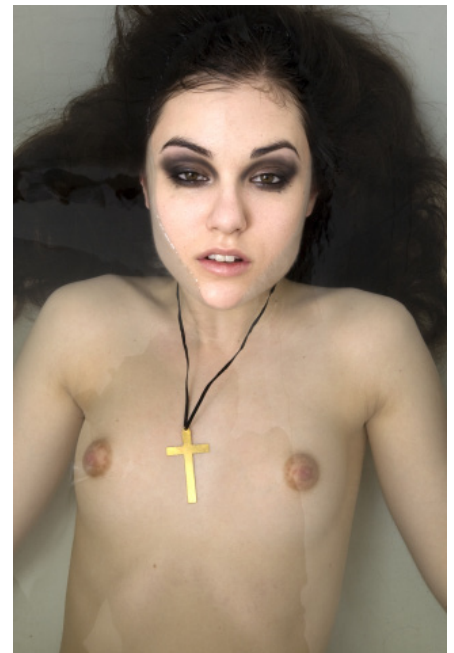
What Richard Kern makes seems very ordinary today. We have Terry Richardson and Suicide Girls, the website that democratized onanism in the underground. Flirting with everyday, naturalness and eroticism in his less choreographed side, Kern seems fiercely contemporary today, even so much for someone with his background and his age. But there is a secret here: he invented all of this. Kern has helped to propel a new aesthetic in erotism.



Paz de la Huerta, 2010
© Richard Kern



Kim Gordon, 2005
© Richard Kern



Sasha Grey, 2008
© Richard Kern



Lydia Lunch, 1986
© Richard Kern



Lung Leg, 1985
© Richard Kern

CINEMA OF TRANSGRESSION

Richard Kern first came to underground prominence as part of the underground cultural explosion in the East Village of New York City in the 1980s, with erotic and experimental films featuring underground personalities of the time such as Lydia Lunch, David Wojnarowicz, Sonic Youth, Kembra Pfahler, Karen Finley and Henry Rollins in movies like *The Right Side of My Brain* and *Fingered*. Like many of the musicians around him, Kern had a deep interest in the aesthetics of extreme sex, violence, and perversion and was one of the leading lights of the movement which Nick Zedd coined the Cinema of Transgression.

Transgression, underground, celebrities, art, poetry, fiction and crude reality swarm through the cracks of “Richard Kern. Naked and Famous” images and trying to seep trough our retina in order to change our way of focusing the human figure.



Nick Nolte, 2000
© Richard Kern



Damon Dash, 2005
© Richard Kern



Crispin Glover, 2005
© Richard Kern

"Movie 'Blow up' is the guilty. Damned, it looked so cool to be a photographer"

Richard Kern

Lydia Lunch, curator of the exhibition, tell us about the show: "It makes sense that Kern, after having seen, done and documented our delirious technicolor death trips in films and photography, has now chosen to present his subjects stripped of all artifice and in doing so, rebels against the fraudulent appropriations of empty excess which litter the pop culture landscape now fashioned as a cheap side show full of silly circus clowns wearing their sleaze on their sleeve".



Ana Beatriz, 2008
© Richard Kern



Asia Argento, 2000
© Richard Kern

Other activities related to the exhibition: a film screening with Kern's well-known films the opening day and a live performance by international artists on January 18th: Lydia Lunch, Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth), Weasel Walter (The Flying Luttenbachers) y James Johnston (Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds).

Exhibition Details

Dates: 17th January - 11th April 2014		Press conference: 17th January, 11 a.m. Opening: 17th January, 8 p.m. Film screening: 17th January, 9 p.m. Performance: 18th January, 8 p.m. Auditorio Diputacion.
Address:	La Térmica Avenida de Los Guindos, 48 29004 Málaga Tel. 952 069 100	Price: Free
Opening Hours:	Monday to Saturday: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday and Holidays: 12 p.m. - 7'30 p.m.	
Teléfono:	+34 686 265 924	Email: info@contemporanea.org
Organized by:	La Térmica, Diputación de Málaga y Contemporánea	Produced by: La Térmica Insurance: Aon Gil y Carvajal

Biography

RICHARD KERN

Born in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, in 1954

Lives in New York City

Education

1977 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC; BFA

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2013 Feature Inc., New York

2013 Galerie Sebastian Bertrand, Geneva

2013 Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw (Film Retrospective)

2012 Jousse Entreprise, Paris, France

2011 Bjorkholmen Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden

Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, (Film Retrospective)

Anthology Film Archives, New York (Film Retrospective)

2010 Kaune Sudendorf, Cologne, Germany

Studio Gallery, Toronto, Canada

Kenny Schachter Rove, London

Ronchini Arte Contemporanea, Terni, Italy

2009 Galerie Bertrand and Gruner, Geneva, Switzerland

Guidi & Schoen Arte Contemporanea, Genoa, Italy

Rental, New York

2008 Feature Inc., New York

2006 Guidi & Schoen Arte Contemporanea, Genoa, Italy

Hotel, London

2005 Proyecto Monclova, Mexico City Gallery

Speak F O R, Tokyo

Jousse Entreprise, Paris

2004 Palais de Tokyo, Paris

Feature Inc., New York

2003 Galerie Davide Di Maggio, Milan

Jousse Entreprise, Paris

2002 Institute of Contemporary Art, London

Catalyst Arts, Belfast, Ireland

2001 The Deep, Tokyo

2000 Reali Arte Contemporanea, Brescia, Italy

Galerie Roger Bjorkholmen, Stockholm

1999 M du B, F, H & g, Montreal

Kunstverein Ludwigsburg, Ludwigsburg, Germany

Torch, Amsterdam

1998 Reali Arte Contemporanea, Brescia, Italy

Center for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne

Galerie Jousse Seguin, Paris

1997 Feature Inc., New York

Galerie Roger Bjorkholmen, Stockholm

The Deep, Tokyo

1996 Galerie Jousse Seguin, Paris

- 1995 PURR Gallery, London
The Deep, Tokyo
- 1990 FourFiveFive, San Francisco
- 1985 "You Killed Me First," Ground Zero, New York (collaboration with David Wojnarowitz)

Selected Recent Group Exhibitions

- 2013 "Coconut Water" White Flag Projects, curated by Matthew Strauss, St Louis, Missouri
- 2012 "Idea Pole" Ramiken Crucible, curated by Bjarne Melgaard, New York
 - "A rebours" Venus Over Manhattan, Curated by Adam Lindemann, New York
 - "You Killed Me First", KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin Germany. Curated by Susanne Pfeffer
 - "Portraits: Cabinet De Curiosites", Galerie Bertrand-Gruner, Geneva
- 2011 "After Shelley Duvall '72", Maccarone, New York. Curated by Bjarne Melgaard
 - "The Lead Awards", Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
- 2010 "Accessories To An Artwork" Glen Horowitz, New York and Paul Stopler, London. Curated by Peter Saville
 - "Salad Days", The Journal Gallery, New York. Curated by Michael Nevin
 - "Sonic Youth: Sensational Fix", Kunsthalle Dusseldorf, German and other places. Curated by Roland Groenenboom

Monographs

- 2013 Contact High, Picturebox, New York
- 2013 Shot by Kern, Taschen Books, Cologne
- 2011 10:41, The Oversea Books, New York
- 2008 Looker, Harry Abrams Books, New York
- 2007 Digal Kern, Charta, Milan
- 2007 Action, Taschen Books, Cologne
- 2004 Soft, Universe Publishing, New York
- 2002 Kern Noir, Charta, Milan
- 2001 XXModels, Fiction Inc. Books, Tokyo
- 2000 Model Release, Taschen Books, Cologne
- 1998 Richard Kern, Charta, Milan
- 1997 New York Girls, Taschen Books, Cologne
- 1996 XXGirls, Fiction, Inc. Books, Tokyo
- 1995 Richard Kern: New York Girls, Purr Books, London

Filmography

Music Videos

- Black City Parade (2013). Indochine, Directed by Kern, produced by Indochine
- Lover's Cave (2013). Is Tropical, Directed by Kern, produced by Kitsune
- Wiped Out (2012). OFF!, Directed by Kern, produced by Vice
- Venus in Chains (2012). The Virgins, Directed and produced by Kern
- Earwig (2011). Dentata, Directed and produced by Kern
- Ready for the Floor (2009). Lissy Trullie. Directed by Kern. Produced by Herve Leger

Lunchbox (1994). Marilyn Manson. Written and directed by Kern. Produced by Interscope Records.

Love Is... (1994). King Missile. Written and directed by Kern. Produced by Atlantic Records.

Body Bomb (1993). Unsane. Written and directed by Kern. Produced by Matador Records.

Divine Hammer (1993). The Breeders. Directed by Kim Gordon and R. Kern. Produced by Elektra Records.

Room 429 (1993). Cop Shoot Cop. Directed by Kern. Produced by Interscope Records.

Detachable Penis (1993). King Missile. Written and directed by Kern. Produced by Atlantic Records.

Scooter and Jinx (Aka Moneylove) (1991). Sonic Youth. Written and directed by Kern. Produced by Geffen Records.

Death Valley '69 (1986). Sonic Youth. Written and produced by Judith Barry, Sonic Youth and Kern. Directed by Kern and Barry.

Films

Medicated, (2010-2013)

color, video, 27 minutes

Directed and Produced by Kern

Extra Shot By Kern (2009-2012)

Color, video, 60 minutes.

Produced and Directed by Kern. Music by Thurston Moore

Face to Panty Ratio (2011)

Color, Video, 2 minutes

Directed and produced by Kern. Music by Thurston Moore

Cutter (2003-2010)

Color, video, 10 minutes

Directed and produced by Kern

Webcam Girls (2009)

Color, Video, 40 minutes

Directed and produced by Kern

Extra Action (2008)

Color, Video, 60 minutes

Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Thurston Moore

The Hardcore Collection (1999)

Color, Super 8, 180 minutes

Written, produced and directed by Kern.

My Nightmare (1993)

Color, Super-8, 5 minutes.

Featuring Susan McNamara. Written, produced and directed by Kern.

The Sewing Circle (1992)

Colour, Super-8, 7 minutes.

Featuring Kembra Phfaler. Written, produced and directed by Kern.

The Bitches (1992)

Black and white, Super-8 sound, 10 minutes.

Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Jim Coleman.

Horoscope (1991)

Color, Super-8, 5 minutes.

Featuring Holly Adams. Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Budenholzer.

Catholic (1991)

Black and white, Super-8, 2 minutes.

Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Budenholzer.

Nazi (1991)

Color, Super-8, 2 minutes.

Featuring Annabelle Lee. Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Budenholzer.

Tumble (1991)

Color, Super-8, 4 minutes.

Featuring Linda Serbu. Written, produced and directed by Kern

Scooter and Jinx (Aka Moneylove) (1991) Color, Super-8, 1 minute. Written and directed by Kern. Music by Sonic Youth.

X is Y (1990)

Color, Super-8, 4 minutes.

Featuring Jackie O and Cristina. Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Cop Shoot Cop.

The Evil Cameraman (1986,1990)

Color, Super-8, 12 minutes.

Featuring Jap Anne, Jackie O. Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Foetus Corp.

The King of Sex (1987)

Color, Super-8, 5 minutes.

Featuring Nick Zedd. Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Killdozer.

Submit to Me Now (1987)

Color, Super-8, 17 minutes.

Featuring Nick Zedd, Cassandra Stark, Lydia Lunch, Lung Leg and others. Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Thurston Moore, J.G. Thirlwell and others.

Pierce (1986)

Color, Super-8, 9 minutes.

Featuring Audrey Rose. Produced and directed by Kern.

Fingered (1986)

Black and white, Super-8, 22minutes.

Featuring Lydia Lunch, Lung Leg and Marty Nations. Written by Lunch and Kern. Produced and directed by Kern. Music by Lunch and J.G. Thirlwell

Death Valley '69 (1986)

Color, Super-8 and video, 7 minutes.

Sonic Youth music video. Written and produced by Sonic Youth, Judith Barry and Kern. Directed by Kern.

You Killed Me First (1985)

Color, Super-8, 12 minutes.

Featuring Karen Finley, David Wojnarowicz and Lung Leg. Written, produced and directed by Kern.

Submit to Me (1985)

Color, Super-8, 12 minutes.

Featuring Lydia Lunch and others. Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by Butthole Surfers.

Manhattan Love Suicides (1985)

Black and white, Super-8, 35 minutes.

Featuring David Wojnarowicz, Bill Rice, Nick Zedd and others. Written, produced and directed by Kern. Music by J.G. Thirlwell and Dream Syndicate.

The Right Side of My Brain (1984)

Black and white, Super-8, 23 minutes.

Featuring Lydia Lunch, Clint Ruin, Henry Rollins and others. Written by Lunch and Kern. Produced and directed by Kern.

Goodbye 42nd Street (1983)

Color, Super-8, 4 minutes.

Produced and directed by Kern.

Contemporánea

Contemporanea was founded in 1996 as an entity which promotes art through activities and culture programs in Spain and worldwide.

Mario Martin Pareja and Dumia Medina are the Directors.

Among the exhibitions he has produced so far, we can highlight the following: "Apocalypse", with Keith Haring and Williams Burroughs; "Seguir vivo", with Michel Houellebecq and Masbedo; "Andy Warhol, Pietro Psaiet & The Factory: Pop Icons"; "USA Today: An Approach to 21st Century American Art"; "Gráfica. A Collections of Prints by the Artists of Beautiful Losers"; "Lydia Lunch. A Retrospective"; "Gráfica. 30 Artists from Young Spain"; "Duffy. Retrospective".

As editor it has also produced books (Lydia Lunch, Michel Houellebecq, William S. Burroughs) or limited edition prints and objects (Tim Biskup, Miss Van, Lydia Lunch, René Peña, Victor Castillo, Valeriano López, Chema López, Jacobo Castellano, Boris Hoppek, etc.).

Contemporanea also collaborates with other Museums and Art Centers in musical, spoken word and performing activities. It has worked with entities such as Centre de Cultura Contemporanea de Barcelona (CCCB); La Casa Encendida (Madrid); Fundación para las Artes (Valladolid); DA2-Domus Artium (Salamanca); Espai D'Art (Castellon); Es Baluard (Majorca); José Saramago Foundation, Audi Foundation Beirut, etc.

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