

Stefanie Schneider

We recently spoke to the woman who inspired Florian Kaps to start the Impossible Project, beginning the revival of Polaroid film. Stefanie Schneider, a German photographer living in both Berlin and Los Angeles, has been the voice of the analogue world since the mid - 1990s, and here's what she's been up to:

DPR:

Have you've always had a passion for photography and visual arts, or if it just came to you naturally when you picked up a camera?

Stefanie:

I think it started with the family photo albums. I love them and the stories they tell. My mother always said they were the only thing to save if there was ever a fire. The family history collection. The testimony of who we are and where we've been. If you look at them just right, you can also see the future. The priceless value of a photograph was always instilled in me.

DPR:

What made you pick up a pack of Polaroid film as opposed to something like 35mm?

Stefanie:

For me it was just one thing, film quality. The way it captures color and light and the chemical mutations that develop when using out dated film. I leave room for them to be a part of my work. Actually, I invite them.

You're presented with a dream like vision or a distant memory. The gaps and nuances raise the imperfection question and how that relates to yourself. They might be gate keepers too. Can you pass through? Only some can.

To me they're a part of dreams we can't remember or memories where only a few fragments remain.

That 'look' reminds me of my childhood which is still an important inspiration for me.

In 1996, I was searching for a voice as an artist and while Instant film existed it was almost a forgotten medium. Stores would sell out dated film very inexpensive and as nobody wanted the film, it was easy to pick it up.

DPR:

Are you still working on Polaroid projects and photographing today?

Stefanie:

(C&C) CHICKS & CHICKS...is a project about the 3 choices we make everyday concerning food.

Studies recently done in UK prisons have shown that violence decreases dramatically when eating a plant based diet. I believe that a healthier and sustainable future is within our grasp if we stop eating animals.

A revolution is possible if we put our money where our mouths are. Everyone wants change. All we have to do is just change our own daily eating habits for the better. 3 times a day.



DPR:

Can I ask for how long you've been working on your film projects?

Stefanie:

My first exhibition was in 1996 in Los Angeles opening Susanne Vielmetter's gallery LA Projects.

DPR:

Up to now, what would you say that your biggest accomplishment has been?

Stefanie:

Surviving independently for over 2 decades and transitioning through the digital revolution as an analogue visual artist. Working through the period when my medium of choice was extinct and then through it's resurrection.

DPR:

How would you describe yourself in 3 words?

Stefanie:

Prepared, intense and tenacious.

DPR:

Lastly, is there anything you would like to say to the people reading this?

Stefanie:

Food is power. Grow it, eat it and change your vulnerability. Stop eating animals!

Chicks and Chicks

2016 - open



The 'Chicks and Chicks and sometimes Cocks' series is part of my Desert Living Project, which encompasses all aspects of organic living including growing your own organic food, self sustainability and regarding the beauty and personality of farm animals and their welfare in an endeavor to connect human needs back to the sources of living. The full circle of Industrialization returns to the homestead.

The new series representing my love of all animals. The chicken is a symbol of food to a shrinking part of society today. I've recently built a coop for my 6 chickens and 3 roosters and have gotten to know what they're like. I've found that they all have distinct different personalities. Some like to hang out with their favorite friend. Others, one in particular loves to be with me especially, her name is 'Charlie Brown'. In other words, I do not eat them. These expired Polaroid photographs express my way of seeing these amazing creatures. As beings who have social structure, who feel and give. Who run in the garden and hang around my terrace because they love people. They jump in my lap to get petted and roll in the dirt for fun. Some might scoff at my claims but try it for yourself before you do.

and sometimes Cocks

Angel and Charlie Brown photographed by Stephanie Schneider. @earth_angie @instantdreams



'Chicken Madonna' featuring Caitlin Fowler and Charlie Brown. @helloitscaitlin

