

The Eyes review invites
Hans Jürgen Raabe for his project

990 FACES

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Hans Jürgen Raabe

German photographer Hans Jürgen Raabe wishes to show the reality of the world that surrounds us on an international scale by photographing 990 faces in thirty-three different places. His images can be seen as an approach to global documentation. His work is currently being exposed at the PhotoBookMuseum in Cologne, Germany.



211 - 240 Eiffel-Tower



241 - 270 Brandenburg Gate



271 - 300 Papua New Guinea

The Photographic Pilgrimage of Hans Jürgen Raabe

The work of the German photographer Hans Jürgen Raabe has major antecedents in August Sander's *Face of Our Time* (1929) and *the Family of Man* exhibition curated by Edward Steichen for the Museum of Modern Art in 1955. Like Sander and Steichen, Raabe captures images of ordinary people going about everyday activities. What sets *990 Faces* apart is that it eschews their encyclopedic agendas. Sander sorted some 40,000 images into such rigorous categories as "The Farmer," "The Woman," and "The City." Steichen divided a corpus of 503 works into categories like love, work, childhood and death.

Rejecting such didacticism, Raabe pursues the spontaneous aesthetic of the snapshot. The curator John Szarkowski, Edward Steichen's handpicked successor at the Museum of Modern Art, was the first major champion of a snapshot aesthetic. What intrigued him were the authenticity, ubiquity and vivacity of the populist genre, which led him to spotlight such unconventional talents as Nan Goldin, Wolfgang Tillmans and William Eggleston. Yet the Austrian critic Joseph August Lux had already predicted in 1908 that the snapshot would "breathe a new artistic life into the photograph." Hans Jürgen Raabe's *990 Faces* offers fresh evidence of that transformative power.

The artist's goal is to create a compendium of faces from a worldwide spectrum of cultures and geographies. Ultimately, the survey will cover 33 different locations for a total of 990

portraits. Most show ordinary people going about their ordinary lives - some withdrawn and meditative, others animated and amused. Their images are captured at the very moment they become aware of the photographer's presence, hence maintaining a freshness and directness uncommon for the work of a "roving reporter." Each station of Raabe's project also yields ten "Stills" - resonant details like reflections in a shop window, scribbled messages on a blackboard, or a dog sleeping on a shadowed step.

At first glance, such still-lives seem banal, and they share the detached air of the faces that follow. Yet they comprise *overtures* to the elegant and eloquent book publications that document each station of the artist's journey. The latest publications in this remarkable oeuvre are devoted to the Eiffel Tower, the Brandenburg Gate and Papua New Guinea. For all their diversity, most of Raabe's locations have to do with journeying and often with a kind of pilgrimage, hence offering the cultural variety he seeks. Even Papua New Guinea makes its contribution as one of the most heterogeneous nations in the world, with hundreds of ethnic groups and more than 800 individual languages. It represents only a single station in Raabe's own compelling pilgrimage.

David Galloway

Face 228
Eiffel-Tower



Faces
Eiffel-Tower

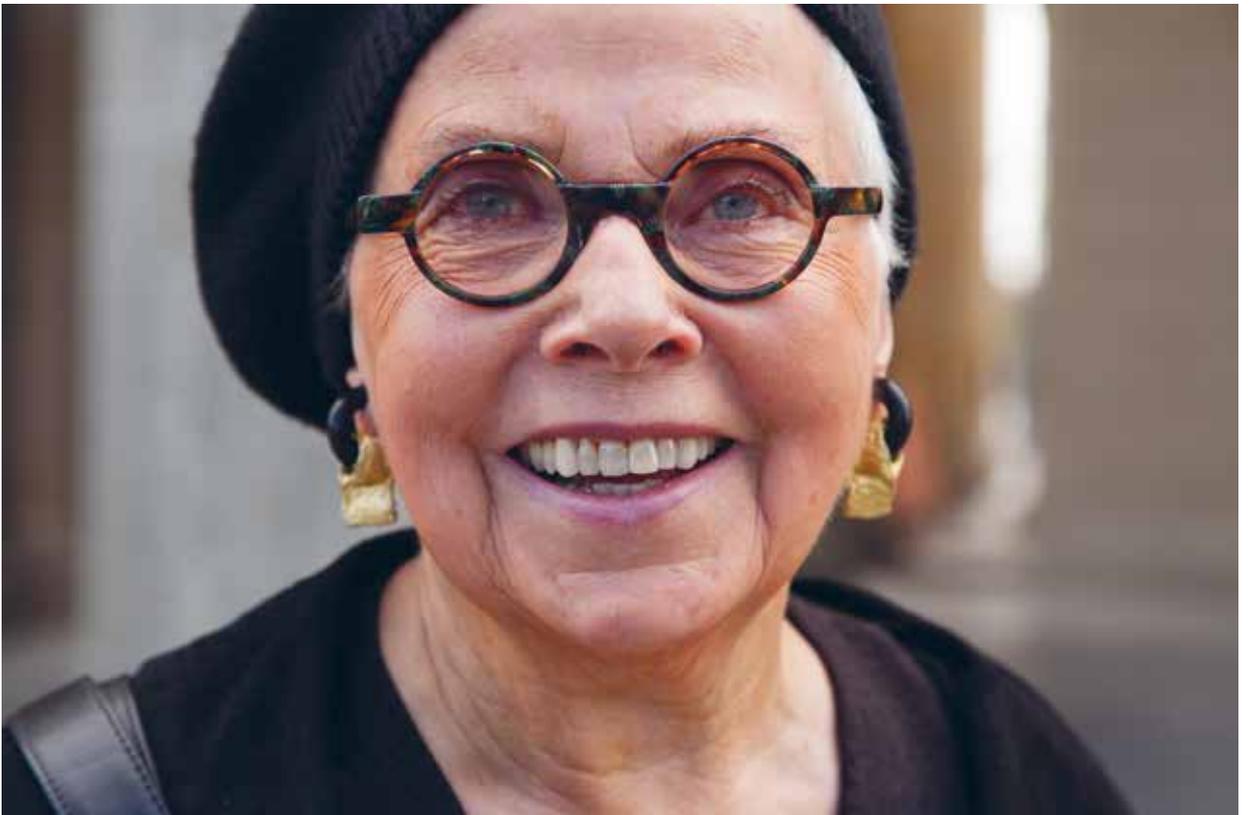
| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 217 | 229 | 216 |
| 233 | 226 | 212 |
| 236 | 240 | 234 |



Still 71
Eiffel-Tower



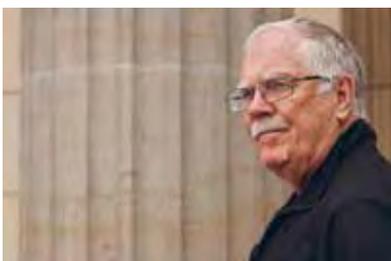
Face 267
Brandenburg Gate



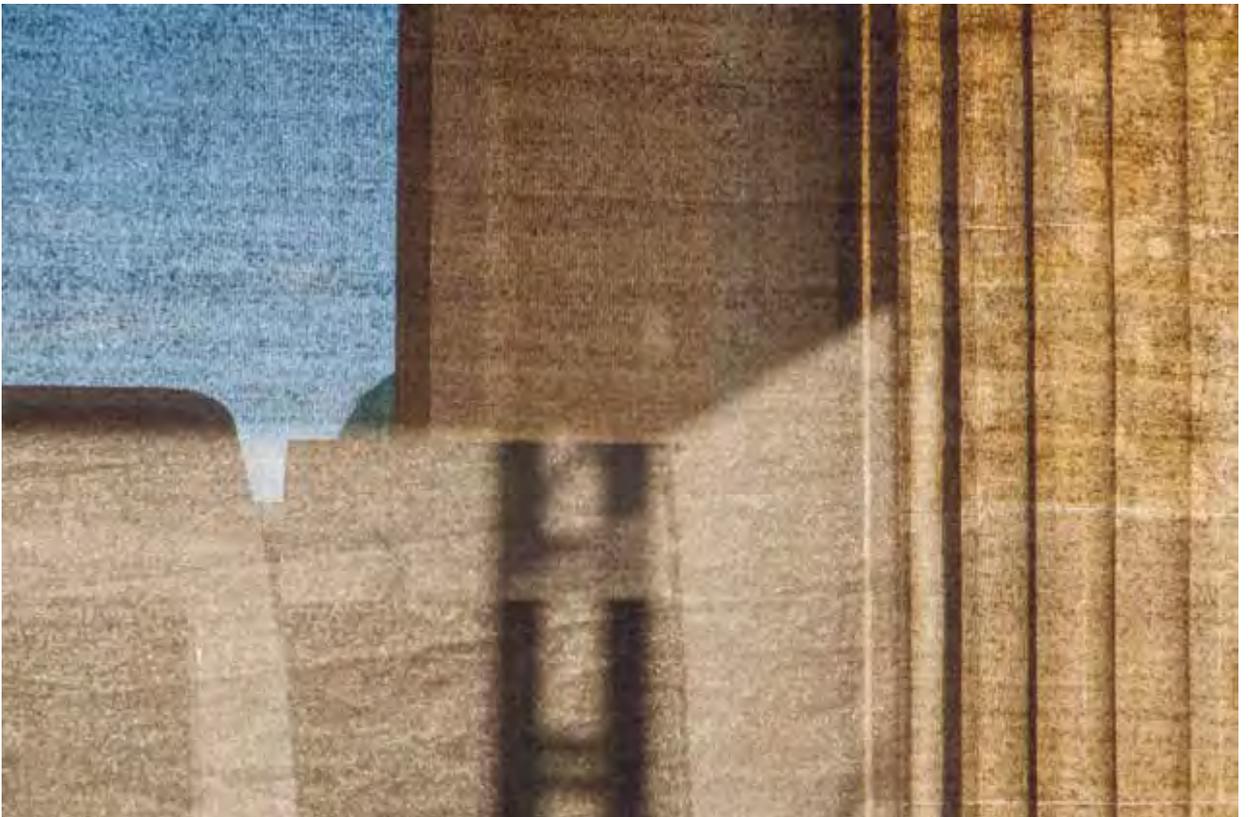
Faces

Brandenburg Gate

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 266 | 243 | 254 |
| 262 | 242 | 251 |
| 253 | 247 | 249 |



Still 88
Brandenburg Gate



Face 294
Papua New Guinea



Faces
Papua New Guinea

| | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 271 | 273 | 282 |
| 287 | 291 | 289 |
| 297 | 288 | 300 |



Still 92
Papua New Guinea



Biography

Hans Jürgen Raabe, born in 1952, is a German expat who has been living and working as a journalist, publisher and manager for many years. A student of the famous theatre photographer Haendler-Krah (Kiel), Raabe dedicated himself to the 990 Faces Project after a nearly 30-year break from photography and as a continuation of his previous publications and exhibitions (e.g. Berlin Graffiti, 1982). Raabe's passion and his photography is about 'reality'—capturing life as it is, without the use of props, artificial lighting or retouching. His photographs are images of split second experiences captured on the spur of the moment, without any artifice, posing or make up; they are direct, unadorned snapshots of real people and real life, and at the same time brim with poetry.

Upcoming Exhibitions

19.08.2014 – 03.10.2014

The PhotoBookMuseum

Carlswerk

Schanzenstraße 6-20

51063 Köln-Mühlheim

Germany

www.thephotobookmuseum.com

17.09.2014 – 15.10.2014

Photo Edition Berlin Galerie

Ystaderstraße 14a

10437 Berlin

Germany

www.photoeditionberlin.com



#1 - Focus on Brussels



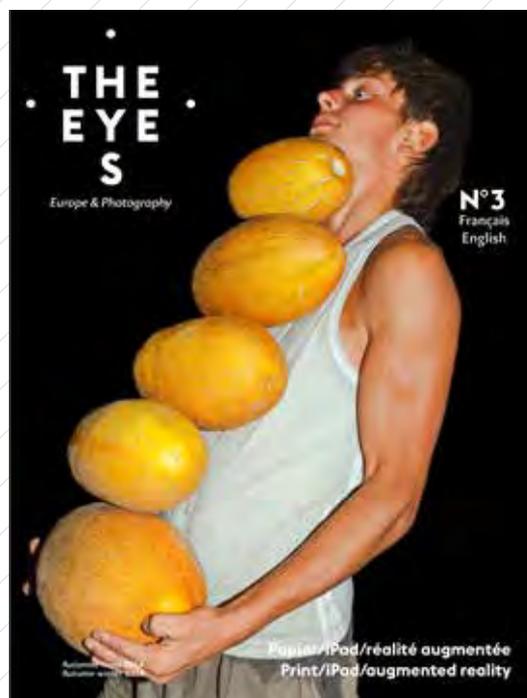
#2 - Focus on London

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Thomas Demand, Ostkreuz,
Berlin Wall and the rock scene, etc.

