

**ERWIN
OLAF
PALM
SPRINGS**

**GALERIE
RABOUAN
MOUSSION**
May 18 to
July 27, 2019

Palm Springs, 2018
The Family Visit - The Niece
© Erwin Olaf
Courtesy Galerie Rabouan Moussion

RABOUAN MOUSSION

**ERWIN
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**Mai 18 to
July 27, 2019**

PLEASE NOTE
closed from June 17 to 27

To mark the forty years of Erwin Olaf's career, Galerie Rabouan Moussion is presenting a French exclusive of his latest series: Palm Springs.

This exhibition of photographs and videos also celebrates fifteen years of collaboration between the Dutch photographer and the Paris gallery.

PALM SPRINGS

CONCLUSION OF A TRIPTYCH

Following Berlin (2012) and Shanghai (2017), *Palm Springs* concludes his triptych on changing cities. Berlin was produced at a time when dark clouds were heaping up over Europe with the questioning of freedom of expression, democracy and the transmission of power from the older generation to the younger.

In Shanghai, a hypermodern Chinese metropolis, Olaf examines what happens to an individual in the midst of 24 million people.

With *Palm Springs* it is climate change that is at the heart of his thinking; his treatment is reminiscent of America in the 1960s.

"There are many thorns in Olaf's California – and people show less optimism than in his previous series. Palm Springs could be the third part of a trilogy or the third series with a new tone that is now Olaf's. It is becoming increasingly clear that Erwin Olaf is no longer playing (if, that is, he ever really was). Berlin, Shanghai, Palm Springs. . . all poisoned in various ways, all betraying their promise, leaving only profits – and losses."

Francis Hodgson

"Palm Springs (2018) is at once a progression (this is the first time I have photographed landscapes) and a step back. I returned to the 1960s. I love the mid-century details in Palm Springs and the stories they evoke. I had studied Gordon Park's photos, a very different way of seeing America than that of Norman Rockwell. What interested me was the stylized documentary. I wanted to introduce the real world a little more. I loved all the details of the places we photographed, for example a yellowed lawn because it was very hot and dry. My team was preparing to spray it green, but I preferred to leave it as it was because it was the reality of our time, where the climate is changing, while we stay in our closed communities. Reality is creeping into the paradise we're desperately trying to maintain. As a story emerged during the work and selection of photos, I began to consider this as a parable about the distribution of wealth, so unjust and so unsustainable in the long run, between the different classes of our society."

Erwin Olaf

“What I’d like to see in my photographs is a perfect world with a crack inside. My job’s to first make the image attractive enough to make people want to look at the story I tell them, and then to give them a slap in the face.”
Erwin Olaf



Palm Springs, 2018
The Kite
© Erwin Olaf, Courtesy Galerie Rabouan Moussion

ERWIN OLAF

- 60 years old
- 40-year career
- 15 years of loyalty to Galerie Rabouan Moussion
- May 2018: Erwin Olaf donated to the Rijksmuseum flagship works that are representative of his entire career.
- **February to June 2019: 1st retrospective with a double exhibition in the Netherlands, at Gemeentemuseum Den Haag and Fotomuseum Den Haag.**
- 2019, publication of his book: *Erwin Olaf – I Am*, illustrated by some 240 photos showing both his first series *Chessmen* and *Blacks*, and the most recent produced in 2018 in *Palm Springs*. Published in four languages by Hannibal (Dutch and French), Aperture (English) and Koenig Books (German).
- During the summer of 2019 the Rijksmuseum will present a selection of Olaf's iconic works inspired by paintings by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Breitner.



Palm Springs, 2018
American Dream - Portrait of Alex
© Erwin Olaf, Courtesy Galerie Rabouan Moussion

ERWIN OLAF

AND THE RABOUAN MOUSSION GALLERY

It is no coincidence that it was with the Erwin Olaf exhibition, *Waiting*, that the gallery celebrated the opening of its new space on rue Pastourelle in Paris in 2015. This baptism is a testimony to a collaboration going back almost 15 years to his first exhibition *Paradise, Mature and Separation*, the title of his three emblematic series. Erwin Olaf has lived and worked in Amsterdam since the early '80s. He was discovered by the international art scene with his series *Chessmen*, which won him first prize in the Young European Photographer contest in 1988.

Since then he has explored the social issues and taboos of our society on issues of gender, sensuality, despair and grace. After his major solo exhibition *Emotions* at La Sucrière de Lyon in 2013, the 2016 annual nocturnal arts festival *Nuit Blanche* marked a new stage in the artist's refined, singular career, with the realization of a site-specific work projected on the facades of the Hôtel de Ville de Paris (Paris City Hall). That *Nuit Blanche* allowed him to establish his reputation in France.

In 2017 the gallery presented the images produced for band *Indochine's* album *13*, a series inspired by Henry Darger.

GALERIE RABOUAN MOUSSION

11, rue Pastourelle
75003 Paris

May 18 to July 17, 2019

Open from Monday to Saturday
10am to 7:30pm **Free Entrance**

OPENING: Friday, May 17
with Erwin Olaf
Dedication: 6 to 8pm

Press: 2e BUREAU

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