

ANNETTE FRICK  
*Secret Secretions*

ChertLüdde, Berlin  
1 March – 12 April 2025

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PRESS TEXT



For the European Month of Photography 2025, ChertLüdde is pleased to present *Secret Secretions*, a solo exhibition by Annette Frick (1957, Bonn, Germany). Renowned for her intimate portraits of Berlin's queer and punk subcultures, Frick has long been documenting underground communities, capturing moments of defiance, vulnerability, and transformation. However, this exhibition shifts focus to a lesser-known facet of her oeuvre: cameraless prints from the early 2000s that probe the “seeds of life”—both botanical and biological—by juxtaposing flora with semen for both their parallels and complexities. By reclaiming materials and techniques associated with avant-garde male artists, Frick disrupts the traditional, patriarchal narratives surrounding reproduction, sexuality, and artistic authorship.

Employing the photogram technique pioneered by Man Ray (1890, Philadelphia, USA – 1976, Paris, France) Frick first created this series in 2002 alongside a two-part film, using sheets of photosensitized paper. Showcasing both the prints and an immersive film installation, she embraced this method of light exposure—born from her own limited financial and material means—to produce ethereal, visceral compositions.

The enlarged prints use sperm to form abstract, fluid shapes that challenge the typical fetishization of the female body observed throughout art history. Visually,

**OPENING**

1 March 2025, 6 – 9 pm

Portrait of Annette Frick producing “Cosmic Elements”, 2002. Double-sided Silver Gelatin Print, Courtesy of ChertLüdde, Berlin and Annette Frick, Berlin and VG Bildkunst, Berlin.

they recall Marcel Duchamp's (1887, Blainville-Crevon, France – 1968, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France) *Paysage Fautif* (Faulty Landscape, 1946), originally created by Duchamp as a gift for a woman who did not reciprocate his love, and Andy Warhol's (1928, Pittsburgh, USA – New York, USA) *Cum Paintings* (c. 1978). But in Frick's work, what was once a symbol of unfulfilled male desire becomes a site of feminist intervention, where the narrative shifts away from male control and toward female agency. Her prints render the ejaculate as an aesthetic and biological phenomena beyond patriarchal structure and their unfulfilled desires. Meanwhile, the smaller prints of floral elements provide a delicate and poetic counterpoint to the corporeal imagery.

Together, these works merge into a monochromatic landscape where organic forms—human and botanical—intertwine, offering an evocative confrontation of fragility and fertility. With *Secret Secretions*, Annette Frick continues her lifelong exploration of the body, identity, and the materiality of photographic processes. This show also marks her first solo exhibition at the gallery, following two group presentations. On March 21st, Frick's photographs will be exhibited alongside works by Cheap Collective as part of a traveling show accompanying Vaginal Davis' exhibition at Gropius Bau, Berlin, which was first presented at Moderna Museet, Stockholm

## BIOGRAPHY

**Annette Frick** (1957, Bonn, Germany) has spent the last three decades producing photographic works both marginal and experimental in subject and style. Documenting Berlin's various subcultures, her analog monochrome images reveal moments of carnivalesque joy and freedom in the lives of people existing outside the heteronormative orders of urban society.

From 1978 to 1988 she studied Fine Arts at the Fachhochschule für Kunst und Design with Arno Jansen, Daniel Spoerri and Robert van Ackern, where she also completed her Master of Fine Arts in 1988. At the same time, she worked as a photographer for various scientific institutes, published texts on art and photography, and founded the Hafensalon in her Cologne studio together with Achim Riechers and Doris Frohnapfel. She received the Emprise Art Award Düsseldorf in 2006; completed a research study for the DEFA Foundation with her film on Herbert Tobias in 2008, shown in the Panorama program of the Berlinale in 2011; and received the Cité Internationale des Arts scholarship Paris in 2016/2017. In recent years, her solo exhibitions have been shown in Frankfurt, Cologne, Berlin, Bremen and Leipzig. She won the Ellen Auerbach Fellowship from the Akademie der Künste in 2018 and the Dieter Ruckhaberle Prize in 2020. She was also among the 2020-2021 grantees from the Pollock Krasner Foundation.

Collections: Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; Schwules Museum, Berlin; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin; Haus der Geschichte, Bonn; Nieuwe Brabantse Kunst Stichting, Enschede; Museum Folkwang, Essen.

## PRESS MATERIAL

### IMAGES

[Download Selected Photos](#)

\*Available for distribution

### ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Books:

- [Jenseits der Trampelpfade Heft 17 A-B-C Die Masken der Identität - Annette Frick, Wilhelm Heintz](#)
- [Tabuzonen - Annette Frick](#)
- [You Killed the Underground Film or the Real Meaning of Kunst bleibt... bleibt... - Wilhelm Heintz](#)

### INFORMATION

"Secret Secretions"  
Annette Frick  
01.03 – 12.04.2025  
Admission free

Opening hours:  
Tuesday – Saturday  
12 pm – 6 pm

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