

## OLIVER ABRAHAM – ARTIST INFORMATION



As a Cologne-based photographer I have been working since 2013 on a series of portraits of journalists, activists (among others Wikileaks), philosophers, representatives of the "New Left" as well as artists who deal with the topic of surveillance and press freedom and the Express your political attitude artistically. The portrait sessions take place exclusively in natural light - with the exception of the portrait of Julian Assange at the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where I made the photos with artificial light due to the conditions and limitations.

My concern is to unite connections and influences among each other on the basis of an ongoing series of photos "protagonists" from different disciplines (philosophy, journalism, activism, art and politics) and different generations (pre- and post-internet, digital natives, 68 generation) demonstrate. Due to the political events, the work has documentary elements,

whereas the selection of the people as well as the presentation are subjective. The persons portrayed

are pursuing a common goal: the preservation of human rights - foremost the fight for freedom of opinion and the press and the critical examination of state surveillance.

My analog approach and the deliberate reduction in black and white and a limited number of films should allow an unfiltered and close representation of these personalities and thus act as an antidote to the digital flood of images.

The first pictures of this series by Taryn Simon in 2009 and Patti Smith in 2010 were still part of a series "Artist Portraits". It was followed by important events such as the Greek crisis, Edward Snowden's notices, the refugee crisis, Brexit, the presidency of D. Trump etc.

Over the next few years, the series has grown through more and more people engaged in the subject, which I would like to portray as an international network. (See graphic that Julian Sander will still design).

Through the meeting of the personalities and the related exchange, it helps me to better understand the events of the past years and also to see and also see things that apply beyond the daily official reporting.

### CV

Born 1972 in Cologne

2001-2004 Studied photography at School „Fotografie am Schiffbauerdamm“ in Berlin as master class student in Prof. Arno Fischer's class.

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