

Arno Rafael Minkkinen *Going the Distance*

Opening: 24 January 2020, 6 – 9 pm

Exhibition: 25 January 2020 – 7 March 2020



10.10.10, *Fosters Pond*, 2010
Archival Inkjet Print, 50 x 60 cm

Persons Projects / Helsinki School is proud to present the first solo exhibition of Arno Rafael Minkkinen in Berlin.

Arno Rafael Minkkinen is one of the most historical figures within the Helsinki School – both as an artist, teacher, writer and mentor. His self portraits are a mixture of performance art especially staged for the camera combined his intimate relationship with nature. His method of working has always been about testing his own personal limits and how far he can push the human body with all the physical risks he encounters, in capturing himself within the photograph. What you see in his photographs is what they are, a solitary figure as one with the natural landscape that surrounds him. Sculpturally poetic, his body is captured in the process of becoming. Sometimes a leg becomes a branch in a tree or a hand finding its touch on the horizon. His art reveals a process that blends his philosophy of life with a calmness that grows from the confidence of being one with yourself and your surroundings. Minkkinen states “for any idea to succeed it has to be anchored in the reality of the moment. Art is a risk made visible. It’s my philosophy of vision. Or perhaps it is also this: I think, therefore I see; therefore, as Descartes would have it, I am.”

The photographs selected for his solo presentation at Persons Projects in Berlin, were chosen to highlight the more performance like aspect that lies behind his work. These pieces were drawn from various time periods throughout Minkkinen’s career, to form the humanist base from which he has developed his unique language that combines the sublime with the uncanny.

Arno Rafael Minkkinen was born 1945 in Helsinki and emigrated to the United States as a child with his family. Published and exhibited worldwide, his work is a part of the collections of the New York MoMA, Centre Pompidou in Paris, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography among many others. He taught at Aalto, University of Art and Design in Helsinki, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Philadelphia College of Art amongst many other universities. He was the 2013 recipient of the Lucie Award for Achievement in Fine Art.