

GALERIE BRIGITTE SCHENK

WALTER SCHELS
Photography

PRESS RELEASE

Walter Schels was born in Landshut, Germany, in 1936.

From 1965 to 1970 Walter Schels worked as a freelance photographer in New York before opening his own studio in Munich. He has lived in Hamburg since 1990. His magnificent photos of wellknown artists and celebrities have earned him worldwide acclaim. His work has been shown at numerous exhibitions in Germany and abroad.

Walter Schels has photographed the animals like portraitists photograph people: using a large-format camera, sometimes in his studio, often outside pens or cages, with great earnestness and a deep desire to capture the very essence of what he is portraying. He has thus achieved something unique in animal photography: astonished and strangely touched, we find ourselves confronted with an animal face that reminds us of human features. The decadence in the face of the cat, the melancholy in the eyes of the monkey, the attentiveness in the gaze of the elephant. The links we make are reminiscent of the dialectics of essence and appearance anticipated in the case of humans by 18th century physiognomists.

Dennis C. Turner / ScD, Director, I. A. P, Institute for applied Ethology and Animal Psychology / Hirzel, Switzerland



*Whippet / 1989
Lambda, 100 x 100 cm*