

Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects 401 Broadway Suite 411 New York, NY 10013

IN AND OUT OF THE MUSEUM

Photographs by KLAUS OTTMANN, 1977–2026

September 17 – October 17, 2026

Book signing / Opening event:

Friday, September 25, 6–8 pm (during Downtown Gallery Night)

By Appointment

contact: info@tonkonow.com



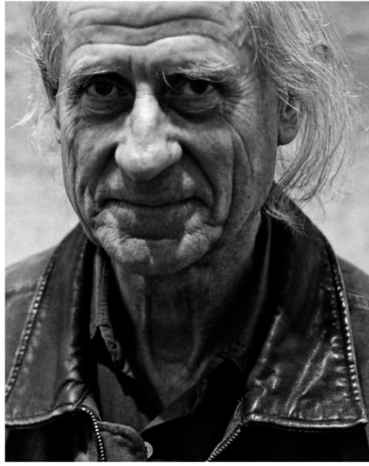
Charles Ross and Jill O'Bryan at Star Axis, New Mexico 2007/2026
Archival pigment inkjet print on Hahnemühle Fine Art Baryta paper
14 x 11 inches (sheet)

On the occasion of the publication of the first two volumes of his collected writings on art, we are extremely pleased to present an exhibition of photographs by KLAUS OTTMANN.

Thought Through My Eyes and *In and Out of the Museum* include essays, reviews, and interviews that appeared in a variety of publications between 1977 and 2012 as well as Ottmann's intimate portraits of many of the artists about whom he has written. The exhibition is the first public presentation of Ottmann's photographs since 1978 when he participated in *Photographien*, alongside Sigmar Polke, Rainer Fetting, Salomé, Dorothy Iannone, Jürgen Klauke and others at the Galerie am Moritzplatz in Berlin.

The approximately fifty works on view include both posed and candid images of artists made during performances, exhibitions, in museums, and studios, and at other locations. Among the works in the exhibition are portraits of JANINE ANTONI, JENNIFER BARTLETT, PATTY CHANG, GEORGE CONDO, AGNES DENES, RACKSTRAW DOWNES, RAINER FETTING, ROBERT GROSVENOR, CRISTINA

IGLESIAS, JESPER JUST, MARY KELLY, WOLFGANG LAIB, JONATHAN MEESE, WANGECHI MUTU
CATHERINE OPIE, CHARLES ROSS, SALOMÉ, JOAN SNYDER, STURTEVANT, HIROSHI
SUGIMOTO, and KUNIÉ SUGIURA.



Rackstraw Downes, New York, 2008/2026
Archival pigment inkjet print on Hahnemühle Fine
Art Baryta paper
14 x 11 inches (sheet)



Sturtevant, New York, 2005/2026
Archival pigment inkjet print on Hahnemühle Fine
Art Baryta paper
14 x 11 inches (sheet)



Janine Antoni at The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C., 2012/2026
Archival pigment inkjet print on Hahnemühle Fine
Art Baryta paper
14 x 11 inches (sheet)

Born in Nuremburg in 1954, KLAUS OTTMANN arrived in New York from Berlin in 1983. He quickly became known as a leading art critic, a role that led to a curatorial career with positions at Wesleyan University, the American Federation of the Arts, the Parrish Art Museum, and from 2010 to 2022 at The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., where served as the Director of the Center for the Study of Modern Art and Curator at Large and later as Deputy Director of Academic Affairs and Chief Curator.

Ottmann has written extensively on a wide range of artists from Michelangelo and Mark Rothko to Jennifer Bartlett, James Lee Byars, Yves Klein, Wolfgang Laib, Wangechi Mutu, and Fairfield Porter. He has organized more than sixty international exhibitions, including the 2006 SITE Santa Fe Biennial.

He is currently working as an independent curator, writer, and translator, and holds the title of Chief Curator Emeritus of The Phillips Collection. Ottmann is also the publisher and editor of Spring Publications, a small press specializing in books on psychology, philosophy, religion, the history of ideas, mythology, classics, comparative literature, art, and ecology.

Klaus Ottmann studied philosophy and art history at the Freie Universität in Berlin and received a PhD in philosophy and media communication from the European Graduate School in 2002. In 2016, he was conferred the insignia of Chevalier of France's Order of Arts and Letters by the French ministry of culture and communication. In 2023, he received the Extraordinary Contribution to The Phillips Collection Award and was among the honorees that year at the Museum's Gala.

Klaus Ottmann and Leslie Tonkonow met in the East Village in 1986. They have been married since 1988.