



DANIEL BOLLIGER STUDIO
PHOTOGRAPHER, RETOUCHER,
GRAPHIC DESIGNER & ART DIRECTOR.
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Daniel Bolliger

*1976 lives and works in New York / Zurich / Berlin

Education + Work:

2012 - Present	Retoucher at Gloss Studio NYC & Fashion Photographer, New York City/USA
2009 - 2012	Photographer / Retoucher / Graphic Designer / Art Director for IMACULIX, Zurich/Switzerland
2008 - 2009	School of Visual Arts / SVA (Master / MPS DP) with Katrin Eismann, New York City/USA
2005 - 2008	Photographer / Retoucher / Graphic Designer / Art Director for IMACULIX & ASCOT ELITE, Zurich/Switzerland
2006	Summer Residency Program (Installation & Sculpture) at the School of Visual Arts / SVA, New York City/USA
2000 - 2005	Zurich University of the Arts / ZHdK (Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts - Photography & Fine Art), Zurich/Switzerland
2003 - 2004	Exchange studies at the Dusseldorf Academy of Art with Thomas Ruff & Ulrich Gorlich, Dusseldorf/Germany
2003 - 2004	First Assistant to Franko B, London/UK
1999 - 2000	Zurich University of the Arts / ZHdK (Art Foundation course), Zurich/Switzerland
1998 - 1999	Pre-College Program at Art School FSG, Lenzburg/Switzerland

Exhibitions:

2013	<i>Brush Magazine No.1 (Launch)</i> , Group Show, Zurich/Switzerland
2012	<i>Swiss Photo Award - ewz.selection</i> , Group Show, ewz-unterwerk Selau, Zurich/Switzerland
2012	<i>SADAK AW 2012/13</i> , Solo Show, Wut Berlin (Tokyo) & Fashion Week Tokyo, Tokyo/Japan
2012	<i>Grafik12</i> , Group, Show, Maag Event Hall, Zurich/Switzerland
2011	<i>Saints & Sinners</i> , Group Show, Antebellum Gallery by Rick Castro, Hollywood/USA
2011	<i>Thesis Work SVA</i> , Group Show, Adobe Pop-up Store 550 Sutter, San Francisco/USA
2011	<i>This is not your cup of tea</i> , Group Show, Kunstlager, Zurich/Switzerland
2011	<i>P//ARTY NOW FASHION NOW</i> , Group Show, HIVE, Zurich/Switzerland
2011	<i>FRED LOVES FASHION</i> , Group Show (KCTV), FRED Gallery, London/UK
2011	<i>Photo11</i> , Group Show, Maag Event Hall, Zurich/Switzerland
2010	<i>Mystical Revolution</i> , Solo Show, Faschionslave Gallery, Zurich/Switzerland
2009	<i>Photo09</i> , Group Show, Maag Event Hall, Zurich/Switzerland
2009	<i>Adobe Design Achievement Awards 2009.</i> , Group Show, ICOGRADA, Beijing/China
2009	<i>Surface Tension</i> , Group Show Thesis, SVA Gallery, New York City/USA
2008	<i>Photo08</i> , Group Show, Maag Event Hall, Zurich/Switzerland
2007	<i>Photo07</i> , Group Show, Maag Event Hall, Zurich/Switzerland
2006	<i>Photo06</i> , Group Show, Maag Event Hall, Zurich/Switzerland
2006	<i>Open Studio @ SVA</i> , Group Show, New York City/USA
2006	<i>La famiglia - The leaving room</i> , Group Show, Kunsthalle?, Locarno/Switzerland
2005 - 2006	<i>the definitions of the invisible 1</i> , Group Show, CACT (Centro Arte Contemporanea Ticino), Bellinzona/Switzerland
2005	<i>Photo05</i> , Group Show, Maag Event Hall, Zurich/Switzerland
2005	<i>Als Bilder nicht mehr gehen wollten</i> , Group Show, Kunstraum Aarau/Switzerland
2005	<i>now you know me</i> , Solo Show, Kunstpanorama Lucerne/Switzerland
2004	<i>03-04</i> , Group Show, NRW-Forum (Dusseldorf) & Walcheturm (Zurich), curated by Thomas Ruff/Ulrich Gorlich/Andrea Thal
2004	<i>Seline, tom, Saskja, Daniel</i> , Group Show, Gallery Plattformelf, Zurich/Switzerland
2003	<i>Los Angeles</i> , Group Show, Gallery Plattformelf, Zurich/Switzerland
2002	<i>Platinum Oasis</i> , Group Show (Los Angeles, curated by Ron Athey)
2002	<i>Stadtansichten</i> , Group Show (curated by Georg Aerni), ZHdK, Zurich/Switzerland
2002	<i>Irritationen</i> , Group Show (curated by Katrin Freisager), ZHdK, Zurich/Switzerland



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Projects / Prizes / Publications:

2013	via SBB, Magazine
2013	Lecture/Talk, La Petite Mort Gallery Workshop, New York City
2013	GEMVISIONS 2014, Swarovski Gems Publication
2012	GEMVISIONS Preview, Swarovski Gems Publication
2012	Photoshop Masking and Compositing with Katrin Eismann and Sean Duggan, Book Publication
2012	Forever blue, Book Publication by Gestalten
2012	Finalist, Swiss Photo Award, ewz selection 2012 (the best in photography in 2011), Zurich/Switzerland
2011	Teaching a Workshop, School of Visual Arts/SVA at MPS DP, Fashion Photography, New York City/USA
2011	Young, Hip and Hot Fashion Photography, Talk/Panel at the Adobe Pop-up store, Openhouse Gallery, New York City/USA
2011	Master Mind: Art direction, fashion styling and visionary photography, Book Publication by Victionary
2010	German Fashion Design (1946-2012), Book Publication by Distanz
2009	Finalist, Adobe Design Achievement Awards 2009 (ICOGRADE), Beijing/China
2003 - 2004	First Assistant to Franko B, Tate Modern/Live Cultures in London/UK and Biennale in Venice/Italy
2003	Finalist, Swiss National Prize for upcoming Photographers (VFG Nachwuchsförderpreis), Zurich/Switzerland
2003	Bank Prize from NZB, Zurich/Switzerland
2003	Film is chest age buch to m samo (16mm Film), VideoEx (Zurich/Switzerland) & Loop (Barcelona/Spain)
2003	Videowork and Assistant for Ron Athey, JOYCE, Kampnagel, Hamburg/Germany
2001	Selected at the MTV Film and Video Competition, Berlin/Germany
2001	Filmproject with Rosa von Praunheim and Making-of, HFF goes to Hollywood for ARTE, Los Angeles/USA

Work is featured in:

via SBB Magazine, Swarovski Gems Publication, PAGE, VOGUE ITALIA (online), NOOVO Vol.1, No. 3, SODA, WAD, WHOA, BERLIN FASHION DAILY, TAGES ANZEIGER (ZURICH), PROFIFOTO, PERSÖNLICH, VISUAL ARTS JOURNAL, JULI MAGAZIN, NOVEMBRE, SANG BLEU (online), RIGHTY RIGHTY RIGHT, SCHÖN! 14, 20minuten, FRIDAY (20minuten), CRUISER, DISPLAY, DIANE PERNET ASVOF (online) a shaded view on Fashion



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Statement:

The essence of my work consists of a combination of at least three art movements. On the one hand, my work is heavily influenced by fashion photography but it is also indirectly shaped by my earlier activities in the field of fine painting. The main component however remains digital image processing – my personal area of excellence. With it I can raise the two individual, afore mentioned artistic genres to a completely new level – a targeted processing of the images achieves a pictorial quality. The result is something new that has its own, individual characteristics. I put people at the centre. Often, they have pronounced, facial or body features. I create an artistic setting by photographing them against thematically corresponding surroundings or by simply placing them in front of a tranquil, monochrome background. Even though the results may be very different, the pictures all carry my distinct signature: A pronounced sensuality is an inherent part, so are grace and beauty. I often allow my surroundings to inspire my staging. I collect observations from daily life and re-arrange them in order to get inspired. It is true that I favour several performance artists, filmmakers and photographers, whose works I appreciate deeply, but I don't let them generally influence me. Instead, I pursue my very own style.

Thanks to many years of practical experience the digital image processing of my photographs happens at the highest level, and thanks to this know-how I can provide the beholder with an almost surreal experience. With the represented, sheer fairylike quality of the models, the fine-tuned relationship between light and shade and the at times almost unreal, abstracting environment many of my images deliberately suggest a kind of dream world. Extravagant costumes and styling, adapted for the type of model, contribute heavily to this effect. As a result of these my artistic work becomes visibly rooted in fashion photography.

In many scenarios the grace of my models is based on the distinctive features of their physique. In regards to people I have always been fascinated by that, which is a deviation of what most observers would perceive as the norm or even the ideal. As an example I would like to mention Shaun Ross, a popular, albino African-American model from New York, with whom I had the pleasure to work on several series. His very light skin, combined with his African facial features and his androgynous posture create a scope for my creativity as an artist that enables me to represent and express eroticism, vulnerability, strength, aloofness or grace at pleasure and in so many different ways. The same is true for several of my other models. The wish to present their distinctive facial features – or even body decoration like tattoos – in the proper light through skilful staging and composition and thus to give their unconventional beauty complete expression is based on a mutual desire and represents one of the fundamental aspects of my work. The models' gender identity disappears in many of my works and thus plays a subordinate role. At times, a single feature, like a beard, reveals the model's gender. I understand this visual escape away from gender roles as a stylistic device to cause subtle confusion in the eye of the beholder.



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Bio:

Daniel Bolliger was born in 1976 in Switzerland. His artistic career so far has been shaped by a variety of vocational and advanced training courses, and he has exhibited his work in Switzerland, Germany, the USA, China, Japan and Great Britain. He also received several awards and prizes. After completing the art foundation course at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) in 2000, Bolliger brought several film and video projects to fruition before becoming first assistant to London based performance artist Franko B in 2003, an engagement that lasted a year. In 2003, as part of an exchange, Bolliger took part in a group exhibition at the Academy of Art in Düsseldorf in conjunction with the photography class of Thomas Ruff, a luminary on the art scene in the field of photography. In 2005 Bolliger received his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from the ZHdK. Until 2008 Bolliger worked for the company Imaculix & Ascot Elite in Zurich, a multi-media production agency. Following further education to receive his Master's Degree in Digital Photography, supervised by Katrin Eismann at the School of Visual Arts in New York, Bolliger returned to Zurich and re-joined the team of Imaculix, where he remained until 2012. During this time he also organised workshops in fashion photography at the School of Visual Arts in New York, took part in representative exhibitions and carried out several projects for international labels. Bolliger was one of the finalists in the Adobe Design Achievement Award 2009 in Beijing, and his work has been featured and praised in numerous, leading publications. In 2012 he was also a finalist in the Swiss Photo Award EWZ Selection, the most prestigious Swiss photographic award. The same year he accepted a job offer by Gloss Studio in New York, a leading service provider for the media industry, which has a regular customer base, consisting of some of the most influential companies and global corporations. At present, Daniel Bolliger lives and works in New York.