

P R E S S R E L E A S E

In Memory of Larry Fink: „Boxing“

Opening: Saturday, 2 December 2023, 2 – 7 pm

Duration: 2 December 2023 – 17 February 2024

Location: Galerie Bene Taschen, Moltkestraße 81, 50674 Cologne



Mike Tyson, New Paltz, New York, February 1986 (left) | Blue Horizon, Philadelphia, January 1991 (right),
both: © Larry Fink, courtesy Galerie Bene Taschen

Galerie Bene Taschen is honored to present the upcoming exhibition **Boxing** by renowned American photographer **Larry Fink** (1941 - 2023) who passed away last week. The photographs draw attention to the transatlantic boxing industry during the late 80s and early 90s and celebrate iconic moments of boxing legends such as Mike Tyson and Jimmy Jacobs.

From year one, Fink has been exploring issues relating to social psychology and politics, capturing the relationships, frictions and developments between the working and upper class. Always taking the role of the silent observer, Fink stands on the sidelines and captures hidden glances, secret touches and unfeigned expressions. From Hollywood celebrities attending Oscar parties to the rough energy of the boxing world, Larry Fink's famous black-and-white photographs evoke the old Baroque masters: in compositions reminiscent of Caravaggio's chiaroscuro and Rembrandt's precise use of light; figures, unknown and famous, move through light and shadow, euphoria and suffering.

With his characteristic way of working, the documentarian's Boxing images capture the sheer survival drive of a boxer, fortified by their discipline, anticipation and ambition along with their entourage, both inside and outside the ring. At the same time these works expose the deep fraternity that creates a bond between many boxers and without which there would be only bloodshed and brutality. Faces filled with pride but also sweat, pain and the humiliation of losing; heroic fighters, whose confrontations are resolved through courage, ferocity and hard training.

Fink's deep interest in boxing stemmed from a 1986 assignment to capture the sportsman Jimmy Jacobs, who was also serving as manager for the reigning world heavyweight champion. Images showcasing various locations such as theaters and hotel rooms in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey provide visual insight into the extensive journeys undertaken by Fink for this series. One of the most iconic moments in this series took place in Las Vegas, where Fink was tasked with capturing the historic showdown between Mike Tyson and Donovan Ruddock; a fight revered as the "Fight of the Year" in 1991.

Larry Fink has been a professional photographer for over sixty-five years, his work has been shown in solo exhibitions at many renowned institutions such as the *Museum of Modern Art* and the *Whitney Museum of Modern Art* in New York City. In 1997, the catalogue *BOXING: PHOTOGRAPHS BY LARRY FINK* was published by powerHouse Books. Some of these images were also presented in the eponymous solo exhibition at the *Philadelphia Museum of Art* in 2018.



Blue Horizon, Philadelphia, December 1994 (left) | Blue Horizon, Philadelphia January 1990 (right),
both: © Larry Fink, courtesy Galerie Bene Taschen

About Bene Taschen Gallery: founded in 2011 in Cologne, Bene Taschen Gallery represents some of the world's leading artists in contemporary photography and painting. The gallery is committed to promoting its international artists through regular participation in major art fairs such as Paris Photo and Art Cologne, as well as a comprehensive exhibition programme. In 2011, Bene Taschen Gallery made its debut with LA photographer Gregory Bojorquez; in 2013, it began working with Joseph Rodriguez from New York. In 2014, the acclaimed Berlin-based photographer Miron Zownir joined the gallery's programme. American photographers Jamel Shabazz and Arlene Gottfried from New York also joined in 2015. Since autumn 2017, the gallery has been pleased to represent the New York-based photographer Jeff Mermelstein and the German painter Charlotte Trossbach, and since the autumn/winter of 2019, it has been working with the renowned photographers Sebastião Salgado and Larry Fink. As part of its 10th anniversary, Galerie Bene Taschen opened its second gallery space at Lindenstr. 19 in Cologne in 2021. In 2022, the gallery expanded its exhibition space at Moltkestr. 81, 50674 Cologne, and has since exhibited on both floors. Most recently, Donnie Molls from Los Angeles and Prague-born artist Josef Achrer have joined the gallery.

For information about the gallery and the artworks, contact:

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Web: www.benetaschen.com | Opening times: Wednesday – Friday, 1 – 6 PM,
Saturday, 11 AM – 4 PM or by appointment

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