

PRESS RELEASE

Larry Fink – Feeling the Experience

Opening: Saturday, 15 March 2025, 2 – 7 pm

Duration: 16 March 2025 – 10 May 2025

Location: Galerie Bene Taschen, Lindenstrasse 19, 50674 Cologne



Larry Fink, Oslin's Graduation Party, Martins Creek, PA, June 1977 | Dancing in the Sand, Ohio 1958 | Peter Beard Opening, International Center of Photography, New York, NY, November 1977; all images: © Larry Fink / MUUS Collection

"I'm not specifically involved with the event in front of me. I'm involved with what it looks like, what it feels like, what it smells like, what it offers to me and how it makes me feel. And through those feelings of the experience, I make the photograph." (Larry Fink, March 2021)

Larry Fink, who died in 2023, worked as a photographer for over 65 years. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum in New York, among other prestigious institutions, and his archives was acquired by MUUS Collection in 2024. Until April 13, 2025, the Sarasota Art Museum in Florida is presenting a comprehensive exhibition featuring the work of Larry Fink as well as that of sculptor Martha Posner, who was his partner for over 30 years. Meanwhile, the Bene Taschen Gallery is pleased to present a selection from his series *Social Graces*, *Somewhere There's Music*, *The Vanities*, and *Boxing* under the title *Larry Fink – Feeling the Experience* from March 16.

Fink gained his first photographic experience in New York, later moving from Brooklyn to Pennsylvania. He attended the New York *New School for Social Research*, which awakened his interest in sociological perspectives. His references to jazz music also have an early origin. Jazz accompanied him since his early childhood. He himself played the piano and harmonica. The pictures from the series *Somewhere There's Music* bear witness to the encounters between photographer and musicians. Jazz legends such as John Coltrane and Fink's great idol Jimmy Rushing, whom he met back in 1957, stood in front of his camera.

From the end of the 1980s, he photographed the international boxing industry and covered Mike Tyson and Jimmy Jacobs, among others. His series *Boxing* shows many iconic moments from legendary boxing matches.

Fink has always explored socio-psychological and political themes, capturing the relationships, frictions, and developments between the working class and the upper class. As an invited guest or official photographer, he documented social elites at parties and galas in *The Vanities*, always positioning himself as a silent observer, outside the action. In sometimes intimate moments, he captured the interactions of the guests—sometimes a glance over the shoulder—sometimes a smile or an unposed gesture.



Larry Fink, Jimmy Rushing, New York, NY, 1957 | Flute Player, New York, NY, May 1961 | Adrianna, Torrente House, Paris, France, January 1998; all images: © Larry Fink / MUUS Collection

In *Social Graces*, these works are juxtaposed with photographs of the Sabatine family from Pennsylvania. During a visit to small-town Martins Creek, he documented family gatherings on various occasions, such as an eighth birthday. His photographic work covered a broad and contrasting spectrum, ranging from everyday family scenes to elite events. Fink thus created an image of society that connected different social groups without prejudice. His life's work is also a mirror of his image of society. For him, the focus was always on people.

"Most important thing or perhaps a very important thing is that my parents were very supporter of the arts, they were very much left wing family. So they think what I do photographically would be situated with social concerns. But jet at the same time with the deeper concerns of beauty."
(Larry Fink, March 2021)

Parallel to the retrospective at the Sarasota Art Museum and the show at Galerie Bene Taschen, the latest book on Fink's work has been published:

Larry Fink: Hands On / A Passionate Life of Looking. Photographs by Larry Fink, by powerHouse Books, with essays by Ash and Graydon Carter, Lucy Sante, Yolanda Cuomo, Stephen Shore, and Daniel Power and text contributions by Larry Fink + Martha Posner, hardcover, trim size: 11 x 12.5 inch, 424 pages, ISBN: 9781648230462, price: 149.95 USD

Contact for information about the gallery and the artworks:

Galerie Bene Taschen | Tel: +49 (0)221/169 05 505 | Email: info@benetaschen.com
www.benetaschen.com | Opening hours: Wednesday – Friday, 1 – 6 pm,
Saturday, 11 am – 4 pm and by appointment

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