ANNA & BERNHARD BLUME
THE TRANSCENDENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY
1ST JULY – 21 SEPTEMBER 2015
PRESS RELEASE

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THE TRANSCENDENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY

1ST JULY – 21 SEPTEMBER 2015
GALERIE DE PHOTOGRAPHIES, FORUM -1

In a completely new exhibition looking back over the artistic career of husband-and-wife German photographers Anna and Bernhard Blume, the Centre Pompidou is presenting their spectacular, monumental work acquired in 2012, *Im Wahnzimmer*, for the very first time.

This exhibition highlights their work, full of mocking humour, with a selection of 30 or so original photographs of the paranormal phenomena that have always amused and fascinated the two artists (IGPP collection - Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene).

Anna and Bernhard Blume began working in the late Sixties. They have a real penchant for the subversive character of apparitions, levitations, the remote moving of objects and other spiritualist phenomena.

In contrast with most of their contemporaries, they have adopted an openly irrational, subjective and jubilatory approach. In reconstructing these phenomena in their own way, and fixing them, the Blumes seek to break with the banality of a «petit-bourgeois» everyday life. Through these images, Anna and Bernhard Blume express an insidious, gently subversive criticism of the German middle class with its codes, stereotypes, relationship with consumerism and materialism.

The *Im Wahnzimmer* series fully reflects this sense of «domestic madness». Its title is a pun on the German words «Wohnzimmer» (dining room) and «Wahn» (madness). Produced in 1984, it is inspired by photographs of the paranormal phenomena –particularly poltergeists – that were regularly reported in the German press at the time, on which the artists gathered a considerable amount of information. The exhibition in the Centre Pompidou’s Galerie de Photographies is presenting this 25-metre long series for the first time. It consists of a polyptych of 18 large format prints (200 x 126 cm), in which the two artists stage themselves in a world where everyday objects seem endowed with supernatural powers.

With the support of
2. PRESENTED WORKS

Anna et Bernhard Blume
Im Wahnzimmer, 1984
[Delusion Chamber]
Eighteen silver gelatin prints,
200,6 x 126,7 x 4 cm (each)
Centre Pompidou, Paris
Purchased with support from the gallery
Françoise Paviot and Anna Blume in 2012

Bernhard Johannes Blume
Demonstrative Identifikation mit dem All =
Magischer Subjektivismus, 1971
[Demonstrative Identification with the Universe =
Magic Subjectivism]
Silver gelatin prints, 61 x 51 cm
Galerie Françoise Paviot, Paris

Bernhard Johannes Blume
Numinose Speisung, 1982-1985
Numinous Nourishment]
Three colour Polaroids, 10,8 x 8,9 cm (each)
Collection Bouqueret – Remy, Paris

Bernhard Johannes Blume
Anstrengungen zur Herbeibringung des Kreuzes, 1971
[Attempts to produce the cross]
Four silver gelatin prints,
30 x 24 cm (each)
Galerie Françoise Paviot, Paris

Anna et Bernhard Blume
Küchenkoller, 1985
[Kitchen Frenzy]
Nine silver gelatin prints,
50 x 32 cm (each)
Galerie Françoise Paviot, Paris

Bernhard Johannes Blume
Der Strahlemann, 1972
[The radiant man]
Two silver gelatin prints,
38 x 23 cm (each)
Galerie Françoise Paviot, Paris

Bernhard Johannes Blume
Zwei Szenen aus „Ideoplastie“, 1972
[Two scenes of „ideoplasty“]
Two silver gelatin prints,
38,5 x 23,7 cm (each)
Galerie Françoise Paviot, Paris

Bernhard Johannes Blume
Szenen aus „Ideoplastie“, 1971
[scene of „ideoplasty“]
Five silver gelatin prints,
Prints by Anna from original negatives in 2015,
29,9 x 22,5 cm (each), 18 x 25,9 cm
Private collection, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Anna et Bernhard Blume
Mahlzeit (Spiritistische Szene – Al), 1985
[Meal (spiritualist scene – Al)]
Four silver gelatin prints,.
24 x 18 cm (each)
Private collection
Courtesy Galerie Françoise Paviot, Paris

Leif Geiges
Fotografische Rekonstruktion eines Spukphänomens vom 01.01.1948 in Vachendorf durch Hans Bender,
Vachendorf, Allemagne, 1948
(Der Suppenteller von Herrn Plach neigt sich « wie von unsichtbarer Hand bewegt » und ergiesst
sich auf den Stuhl)
[Photographic reconstruction by Hans Bender of a poltergeist phenomenon that took place on 1
January 1948 at Vachendorf, Germany.
«As though moved by an invisible hand», Mr Plach’s
soup bowl tipped up and emptied itself on his
chair.]
Three silver gelatin prints,
17,8 x 23,6 cm, 16,8 x 24 cm, 23,6 x 18 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau
Leif Geiges

_Fotografische Rekonstruktion eines Spukphänomens vom 17.03.1947 in Vachendorf durch Hans Bender,
aüs 1948 Vachendorf, Allemagne_

(Brotchen beginnen « wie Schwalben »
in der Küche herumzufliegen und fallen schliess-
lich auf den Fußboden)

[Photographic reconstruction by Hans Bender
of a poltergeist phenomenon that took place on
17 march 1947 at Vachendorf, Germany
Bread rolls begin to fly around the kitchen «like
swallows», and finally fall onto the floor.]

Three silver gelatin prints,
23,6 x 17,7 cm,
23,7 x 17,7 cm,
23,6 x 17,7 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

John Beattie

_Spiritualist photographs produced by the medium Mr. Butland,
Bristol, Angleterre, 1872_

Four albumen prints, 9,4 x 5,8 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Albert von Schrenck-Notzing

_The medium Stanisława P. with an ectoplasmic
substance, Munich, Germany, 23 june 1913_

Silver gelatin print,
22,3 x 17,9 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Albert von Schrenck-Notzing

_Ectoplasm emerging from the medium
Stanisława P.'s mouth, Munich, Germany_

25 January 1913
Silver gelatin print,
21,4 x 18 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Albert von Schrenck-Notzing

_The medium Eva C. with a materialisation
in the form of a woman's head,
Munich, Germany, 14 August 1912_

Silver gelatin print,
11,9 x 8,8 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Thomas Glendenning Hamilton

_Ectoplasm produced by the medium Mary Marshall,
Winnipeg, Canada, 1928_

Silver gelatin print,
17,9 x 12,7 cm
Institute für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie
und Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Anonymous

_Ectoplasm produced by the medium
Ferihummer, Autriche, 1923_

Two silver gelatin prints,
11,9 x 8,9 cm, 12 x 9 cm
Private collection

Anonymous

_Ectoplasm produced by the medium
Ladislaus Laszlo, Budapest, Hongrie, 1923_

Silver gelatin print,
16,7 x 9,8 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Sven Türck

_Levitation phenomena during spiritualist séances,
Copenhagen, Denmark, 1940–1945_

Three silver gelatin prints,
22,4 x 29,5 cm,
22,4 x 29,8 cm,
22,5 x 29,5 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau
Anonymous

Levitation by the medium Colin Evans,
London, England, 1938
Silver gelatin print,
21,4 x 16,2 cm
Private collection, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Thomas Glendenning Hamilton

Telekinetic experiment,
Winnipeg, Canada, 1st march 1926
Silver gelatin print,
17,8 x 12,8 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Thomas Glendenning Hamilton

Telekinetic experiment,
Winnipeg, Canada, 15 april 1926
Silver gelatin print,
17,8 x 12,8 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Adrien Majewski

Louis Darget: Fluidic hand,
Paris, France, 1898-1899
Silver gelatin print,
18,1 x 13 cm
Collection of the Transcendental Photography
Studies Committee, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Thomas Glendenning Hamilton

Ectoplasm produced by the medium Mary Marshall,
Winnipeg, Canada, 3 april 1932
Silver gelatin print,
11,5 x 6,9 cm
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Anonymous

Ectoplasm produced by the medium Ladislaus Laszlo,
Budapest, Hungary, 1923
Two pages of an album with 19 silver gelatin prints,
38,2 x 24 cm (each)
Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und
Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

SORRAT [Society for Research
on Rapport and Telekinesis]

Levitating table
July 1979
Silver gelatin print,
15,2 x 8,9 cm
Collection Jérôme Kohler,
Pledged donation of la Société des Amis du Musée
national d’art moderne – Groupe des Amis
de la photographie 2015

Bernhard Johannes Blume

Ideoplastie
[Idéoplasty]
Selm
Lonnemann Kunst + Werbedruck
1970-1971
29,5 x 21 cm
Private collection, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Bernhard Johannes Blume

Das höhere Selbst
[Higher self]
Cologne
Wolfgang Hake Verlag
1972
22 x 16 cm
Private collection, Fribourg-en-Brisgau

Bernhard Johannes Blume

Die vierte Dimension
[The fourth dimension]
Düsseldorf
Manfred Kuttner Verlag
1974
21 x 14,8 cm
Private collection, Fribourg-en-Brisgau
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bernhard Johannes Blume</th>
<th>Jean Finot</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Ich &amp; Du</em></td>
<td><em>The transcendental photography, serious spirits and deceptive spirits</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cologne</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<td>Wolfgang Hake Verlag</td>
<td>Charles Mendel</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<td>31,5 x 22 cm</td>
<td>19,8 x 13,5 cm</td>
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<td>Private collection, Paris</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bernhard Johannes Blume</th>
<th>Anonymous [Ch. Proth]</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Hellsehen als Schwarzsehen</em></td>
<td><em>The transcendental photography, Beings and radiations in space</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Munich</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michaela Schleunung / Lenbachhaus / Munich Fine-Arts School support Fund, 1986</td>
<td>Librairie nationale</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 x 20 cm</td>
<td>1911</td>
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<td>Private collection, Fribourg-en-Brisgau</td>
<td>25,1 x 16,6 cm</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bernhard Johannes Blume</th>
<th>Raoul Montandon</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Transzendentale Fotografie – (Eine) Cellularpathologie der Seele, Ein Dia-Vortrag</em></td>
<td><em>The transcendental photography, contribution to the study of psychic phenomena</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
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<td>Wiens Verlag / Haus am Lützowplatz</td>
<td>Librairie J. H. Jeheber</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<td>24 x 17 cm</td>
<td>22,8 x 14,5 cm</td>
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<td>Private collection, Fribourg-en-Brisgau</td>
<td>Private collection, Paris</td>
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<tr>
<th>Alexandre N. Aksakov</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Animismus und Spiritismus</em></td>
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<td>Leipzig</td>
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<td>Oswald Mutze</td>
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<td>1890</td>
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<td>21,8 x 15 cm</td>
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<td>Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene, Fribourg-en-Brisgau</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bernhard Johannes Blume</th>
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<td><em>“Kunst = Alchemie”</em></td>
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<td>Cologne</td>
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<td>Edition Hundertmark</td>
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<td>1981</td>
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<td>11,5 x 9,5 cm (box) ; 10,7 x 8,8 cm (each Polaroid)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private collection, Fribourg-en-Brisgau</td>
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3. PUBLICATION

Anna et Bernhard Blume, la photographie transcendante

Autors : Clément Chéroux et Andreas Fischer

An Éditions du Centre Pompidou – Éditions Xavier Barral joint publication

31 x 20.5 cm
120 pages
105 illustrations
in French

€39 euros
There are three monographic or theme-based exhibitions each year, in the form of different modules (historical, with a cross-section of artists, or contemporary), together with the Carte blanche PMU.

After Jacques-André Boiffard last autumn, Qu’est-ce que la photographie? in the spring, and Anna and Bernhard Blume during the summer, the Galerie de Photographies will be staging the Carte blanche PMU 2015 and Varda/Cuba.

**CARTE BLANCHE PMU 2015 - THIERRY FONTAINE**
7 - 19 OCTOBER 2015
Curator : Clément Chéroux
The Centre Pompidou is hosting «Carte blanche PMU» for the first time. Initiated and devised with Le BAL in 2010, this «Carte blanche» will be presented in 2015 as part of a new partnership between the Centre Pompidou and the betting operator PMU. After an invitation for submissions on the theme of «Games and Betting», open to all professional photographers, the Carte blanche PMU panel of judges met on 12 March and chose Thierry Fontaine’s artistic project on the theme of game-influenced dreams.
He will be receiving a grant of €20,000 to produce a completely new project, which will then be exhibited in the Centre Pompidou’s Galerie de Photographies. A catalogue will be published by Filigranes Editions.

**VARDA / CUBA**
11 NOVEMBER 2015 - 1ST FEBRUARY 2016
Curators : Clément Chéroux and Karolina Ziebinska-Lewandowska
In December 1962, Agnès Varda was in Cuba, only two months after the missile crisis that nearly led to World War III. In the island, the omnipresence of politics co-existed with an unbridled sensuality: the unlikely meeting of «Socialism and cha-cha-cha». On site, Varda took thousands of photographs, which she later animated using a motion picture bench to produce the film *Salut les Cubains*.
The exhibition reveals this collection of prints for the first time, setting them in dialogue with the film, and recreating the tension between still and moving images at the heart of Varda’s work.
PMU, a popular brand, has decided in 2009 to support young contemporary photography by participating in the creation of the BAL (a space dedicated to photography founded by Diane Dufour and Raymond Depardon).

The Carte Blanche PMU is born of this partnership, successfully attributed to Malik Nejmi, Mohamed Bourouissa, Olivier Cablat, Kourtney Roy and finally to the duo Léa Habourdin and Thibault Brunet.

The laureate artists of Carte blanche PMU deliver a point of view on the company space and the world in which it evolves that is new and often unexpected.

Today, PMU becomes the partner of the Galerie de photographies of the Centre Pompidou, giving a new dimension to its patronage, allowing an opening towards a larger audience.

PMU is very proud to accompany the Centre Pompidou in the presentation of its exceptional collection of photographies.
6. PRESS IMAGES

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Anna et Bernhard Blume, *Im Wahnzimmer*, 1984
Eighteen silver gelatin prints
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© ADAGP, 2015
Anna et Bernhard Blume, *Im Wahnzimmer* (detail), 1984
Eighteen silver gelatin prints
© Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI/G. Meguerditchian et Ph. Migeat / Dist. RMN-GP
© ADAGP, 2015
**7. PRATICAL INFORMATION**

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

Centre Pompidou  
75191 Paris cedex 04  
telephone  
00 33 (0)1 44 78 12 33  
metro  
Hôtel de Ville, Rambuteau

Opening times  
Exhibition open  
from 11:00 a.m to 9.00 p.m  
every day except Tuesdays

Tarif  
Free admission  
www.centrepompidou.fr

**AT THE SAME TIME AT THE CENTRE**

LE NOUVEAU FESTIVAL  
6**ÈME** ÉDITION: AIR DE JEU  
UNTIL 20 JULY 2015  
press officer  
Elodie Vincent  
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elodie.vincent@centrepompidou.fr

LE CORBUSIER  
MESURES DE L’HOMME  
UNTIL 3 AUGUST 2015  
press officer  
Dorothée Mireux  
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dorothee.mireux@centrepompidou.fr

NOUVELLE PRÉSENTATION DES COLLECTIONS MODERNES (1905-1965)  
FROM 27 MAY 2015  
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anne-marie.pereira@centrepompidou.fr

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press officer  
Céline Janvier  
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celine.janvier@centrepompidou.fr

GOTTFRIED HONEGGER  
24 JUNE - 14 SEPTEMBER 2015  
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VALÉRIE BELIN  
UNQUIET IMAGES  
24 JUNE - 14 SEPTEMBER 2015  
press officer  
Dorothée Mireux  
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dorothee.mireux@centrepompidou.fr

**CURATOR**

Clément Chéroux,  
Curator,  
head of the Photography Department at the musée national d’art moderne

Andreas Fischer,  
Exhibition curator and curator of the IGPP photographic collection, Institut für Grenzgebiete der Psychologie und Psychohygiene  
assisted by  
Emmanuelle Etchecopar-Etchart,  
conservation assistant in the Photography Department