



Stansstad, 1973

ABOUT

ARNOLD ODERMATT

Arnold Odermatt was born on May 29, 1925 in Oberdorf, in the Canton of Nidwalden, Switzerland. He attended primary and secondary school in Stans and completed an apprenticeship as a baker and confectioner. In 1948, he joined the police force and in 1990 retired with the rank of First Lieutenant, Head of the Traffic Police and Deputy Commander of the Nidwalden police. He now lives and works in Stans. At the start of the 1990s, his son, the film director Urs Odermatt, was researching for a film when he discovered decades of archived photographs. Impressed by the quality of the work, he became the editor of all Arnold Odermatt's books. In 2001, Harald Szeemann exhibited a selection of 32 works by Odermatt at La Biennale in Venice, international solo and group exhibitions followed. The works of Arnold Odermatt are in numerous international collections and are displayed at a number of international museums. He passed away on 19 June 2021 at the age of 96.



Stans, 1971

INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS (SELECTION)

Aachener Insurance. Aachen, Germany · **Allianz Insurance.** Collection, München, Germany · **Andy Hall Collection.** USA · **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation.** Frankfurt, Germany · **Festival Image.** Vevey, Switzerland · **FNAC Collection.** France · **Festival Image.** Vevey, Switzerland · **Hirshhorn Museum.** Washington, USA · **ING Bank.** Belgium · **Kollitsch Collection.** Klagenfurt, Austria · **Kunststiftung DZ Bank.** Frankfurt, Germany · **Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum.** St. Louis, USA · **Mobiliar Versicherung.** Bern, Switzerland · **Museum Morsbroich.** Germany · **Nidwalder Museum.** Switzerland · **Ringier Collection.** Zürich, CH · **Schweizer Nationalbank** (Swiss National Bank). Zürich, Switzerland · **The Jerome L. Stern Family Foundation.** USA · **UniCredit Hypo Bank Collection.** München, Germany · **Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art Hartford.** USA

BOOKS (SELECTION)

2017/Arnold Odermatt. Ein gutes Bild muss scharf sein! Edited by Markus Hartmann. Hartmann Books. **2016/Feierabend. Après le boulot. After Work.** Edited by Urs Odermatt. Steidl Verlag, Göttingen. **2010/In zivil. Hors service – Off duty.** Edited by Urs Odermatt. Steidl Verlag, Göttingen. **2006/Im Dienst. En service – On Duty.** Edited by Urs Odermatt. Steidl Verlag, Göttingen. Deutscher Fotobuchpreis 2008. **2003/Karambolage.** Edited by Urs Odermatt. Steidl Verlag, Göttingen. **1993/Meine Welt – Photographien 1939 – 1993.** Edited by Urs Odermatt. Benteli Verlag, Bern.



Büren. Oberdorf, 1966



Buochs, 1968



Hergiswil, 1982

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

100 Years Arnold Odermatt. Kunststiftung DZ Bank, Frankfurt a. M./D.
100 Anni Arnold Odermatt. MIA PHOTO FAIR, Mailand/I.

2025

Karambolage.
 Litauische Martynas-Mažvydas-Nationalbibliothek, Vilnius/LT.
Hommage à Arnold Odermatt. Simon Studer Art, Genf/CH.
Hommage an Arnold Odermatt. Photo Basel/CH.

2021

Arnold Odermatt – Polizist, Photograph, Schweizer.
 Kunsthalle Erfurt/D.
Die unglaublichen Bilder des Arnold Odermatt.
 Galerie im Stift, Bad Hersfeld/D.

2020

FEIERABEND. Galerie Springer Berlin, Berlin/D.
Arnold Odermatt. Große Werkausstellung – Photobastei, Zürich/CH.

2017

2016

ARNOLD ODERMATT – 90TH BIRTHDAY – SELECTED WORKS, PHOTOGRAPHS 1948 – 2015. Galerie Springer Berlin, Berlin/D.
Happy 90's Mr Arnold Odermatt. Vallois Galerie, Paris/F.

2015

Karambolage 1948 – 1995 – Unknown Works.
 Galerie Springer Berlin, Berlin/D.

2014

Das Dorf als Welt. Nidwaldner Museum, Stans/CH.

2013

Arnold Odermatt – La Chambre. Strassburg/F.
Arnold Odermatt – Espace d'Art Contemporain Fernet Branca.
 Saint-Louis (Elsass)/F.

2012

Heimat. Buchmann Galerie, Berlin/D.
On and Off Duty.
 Galerie Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois, Paris/F.

2011

In zivil. Springer & Winckler Galerie, Berlin/D.

2010

Karambolage. Miesiąc Fotografii w Krakowie, Krakau/PL.
Project room: Arnold Odermatt.
 Galerie Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois, Paris/F.

2009

Focus Photographie: Arnold Odermatt.
 Galerie Lelong, Zürich/CH.

2008

2007

Im Dienst. Farbphotographien 1962 – 1990.
 Springer & Winckler Galerie, Berlin/D.

2006

Arnold Odermatt. Museum im Bellpark, Kriens/CH.
Arnold Odermatt. Centro Cultural Okendo, San Sebastián/E.

2005

Kantonspolizei Nidwalden. Springer & Winckler Galerie, Berlin/D.
Karambolagen. Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur/CH.

2004

Arnold Odermatt. Paul Morris Gallery, New York/USA.
Arnold Odermatt.
 Washington University Gallery of Art, St. Louis/USA.

2003

Arnold Odermatt. The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago/USA.
Karambolage. Centre rhénan de la photographie, Strassburg/F.
Die Biennale-Auswahl – 32 Photographien für Venedig 2001. Springer & Winckler Galerie, Berlin/D.
Karambolage. Museum Morsbroich Leverkusen, Leverkusen/D.

2002

Carambolages. Centre de la photographie, Genf/CH.

2001

Karambolagen und andere Photographien.
 Springer & Winckler Galerie, Berlin/D.

2000

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

Chromotherapie. Villa Medici, Academie de France, Rome/I.
Bellevue. Rothschild & Co Bank AG, Zürich/CH.

2021

Schau....7. Kunsthaus Kollitsch, Klagenfurt/D.

2020

Autophoto – Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris/F.

2016

Drama Queens – Die inszenierte Sammlung.
 Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen/D.
Wolfsburg Unlimited – Eine Stadt als Weltlabor.
 Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg/D.

2015

Le Bord des Mondes. Palais de Tokyo, Paris/F.

2014

Neue Werke – Neue Perspektiven. Mobilair Versicherung, Bern/CH.
Damage Control. Musée d'Art Moderne, Luxembourg/LU.

2013

Damage Control. Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C./USA.

2012

L'été photographique.
 Centre d'art et photographie de Lectoure, Lectoure/F.

2011

[Contre]culture.ch. Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne/CH.
Odermatt, Weegee, Metinides.
 Westport Arts Center, Westport (Connecticut)/USA.
pimp your collection: cars you drive me art.
 Landesgalerie, Linz/A.
Fetisch Auto. Ich fahre, also bin ich. Museum Tinguely, Basel/CH.

2010

Background Story. Cardi Black Box, Mailand/I.
Labyrinth: Freiheit. Landesausstellung, Bozen/I.

2008

Glück – welches Glück.
 Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden/D.

2007

Again: Serial Practices in Contemporary Art.
 Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford/USA.
Swiss Made: Präzision und Wahnsinn.
 Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg/D.

2006

Bilder vom Vierwaldstättersee. Kunstmuseum, Luzern/CH.
(Tat)Orte: Weegee, Arnold Odermatt, Enrique Metinides.
 NRW-Forum Kultur und Wirtschaft, Düsseldorf/D.

2005

Multiple Räume (3): Film.
 Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden/D.

2004

XL Photography 2.
 Art Collection Deutsche Börse, Frankfurt am Main/D.

2003

Arnold Odermatt, Martin Städeli.
 Gesellschaft der Freunde junger Kunst, Baden-Baden/D.

2002

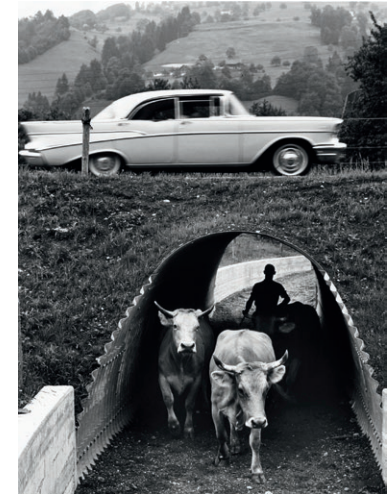
Macht und Freiheit. Bieler Fototage, Biel/CH.
Arnold Odermatt und Ryuji Mijamoto. Buchmann Galerie, Köln/D.
Der Berg. Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg/D.
Aubes: Réveries au bord de Victor Hugo.
 Maison de Victor Hugo, Paris/F.

2001

Plateau der Menschheit. Biennale di Venezia, Arsenale, Venezia/I.



Grafenort. Engelberg, 1993



Oberdorf, 1961



Stans, 1964