

# Richard Kern

## Biography



### #RichardKern

Born in 1954 in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina.  
Lives and works in New York.

Richard Kern, photographer and filmmaker remains, first and foremost, a portraitist. For more than two decades Kern has sought to unravel and illuminate the complex and often darker sides of human nature. Kern makes the psychological space between the sitter, photographer and audience his subject. With his dry, matter of fact approach, he underlines the absurdity of truth and objectivity in photography while playing with our reliance upon taxonomies around sexual representation.

Kern is a regular contributor to *The Face*, *Dazed*, *Numero*, *Vice* and *Purple* and has published 28 books. His films and photographs have been exhibited at MoMA, The Whitney Museum and in more than 50 solo shows around the world.

# Richard Kern

## Biography

Born in 1954 in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina  
Lives and works in New York

### Education

1977 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, BFA

### Solo Exhibitions

2022 Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2018 *Film Retrospective*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
2017 *USED*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2016 *Polarized*, Fortnight Institute, New York, NY  
2015 Marlborough Chelsea, New York, NY  
*Medicated*, Cabinet, London, UK  
2013 La Termica, Malaga, ES  
Feature Inc., New York, NY  
Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Film Retrospective*, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, PL  
2012 Vivacom Art Hall, Sofia, BG  
Jousse Entreprise, Paris, FR  
2011 Bjokholmen Gallery, Stockholm, SE  
*Film Retrospective*, Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow, RU  
*Film Retrospective*, Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY  
2010 Kaune, Sudendorf, Cologne, DE  
*Shot by Kern*, Kenny Schachter Rove, London, UK  
Studio Gallery, Toronto, CA  
Vice Gallery, Mexico City, MX  
2009 Galerie Bertrand & Gruner, Geneva, CH  
Guidi & Schoen Arte Contemporanea, Genoa, IT  
Mesler & Hug, Los Angeles, CA  
Rental Gallery, New York, NY  
2008 Feature Inc., New York, NY  
The Soft and the Hardcore, Confort Moderne, Poitiers, FR  
2006 Guidi & Schoen Arte Contemporanea, Genoa, IT  
Hotel, London, UK  
Bjokholmen Gallery, Stockholm, SE  
2005 Proyectos Monclova, Mexico City, MX

- 2004 Jousse Entreprise, Paris, FR  
Gallery Speak F O R, Tokyo, JP  
Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR
- 2003 Feature Inc., New York, NY  
Gallery Speak F O R, Tokyo, JP  
Galerie Davide Di Maggio, Milan, IT  
Galerie Davide Di Maggio, Berlin, DE
- 2002 Jousse Entreprise, Paris, FR  
Institute of Contemporary Art, London, UK  
Catalyst Arts, Belfast, UK
- 2001 Gallery Speak F O R, Tokyo, JP  
Fundación Municipal de Cultura, Gijón, ES  
Feature Inc., New York, NY
- 2000 The Deep, Tokyo, JP  
Reali Arte Contemporanea, Brescia, IT  
Bjokholmen Gallery, Stockholm, SE
- 1999 M du B, F, H & G, Montreal, CA  
Kunstverein Ludwigsburg, Ludwigsburg, DE  
Torch, Amsterdam, NL
- 1998 Reali Arte Contemporanea, Brescia, IT  
Center for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, AU  
Galerie Jousse Seguin, Paris, FR
- 1997 Feature Inc., New York, NY  
Bjokholmen Gallery, Stockholm, SE  
The Deep, Tokyo, JP
- 1996 Austerlitz @utrement, Paris, FR  
Feature Inc., New York, NY  
Galerie Jousse Seguin, Paris, FR
- 1995 PURR Gallery, London, UK  
The Deep, Tokyo, JP
- 1990 FourFiveFive, San Francisco, CA
- 1985 *You Killed Me First*, (Collaboration with David Wojnarowitz), Ground Zero, New York, NY

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *Double Feature* with Walter Robinson, Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Portraiture: An Ongoing Story*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH
- 2020 *Portraits & Some Standing Figures*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH
- 2017 *Films by Richard Kern*, part of the New York Film and Video: No Wave-Transgressive screenings at MoMA, New York, NY
- 2016 *Summer Show*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*NADA*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, New York, NY

sébastien bertrand

- 2014 *Mystic Fire*, Paradise Row, curated by Darren Flook, London, UK  
*A Shit in the Face of History*, Melkweg, Amsterdam, NL
- 2013 *Coconut Water*, curated by Matt Strauss, White Flag Projects, St Louis, MO  
*Artgenève13* Art Fair, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH
- 2012 *Ideal Pole*, curated by Bjarne Melgaard, Ramiken Crucible, New York, NY  
*A Rebours, Venus Over Manhattan*, curated by Adam Lindemann, New York, NY  
*You Killed Me First*, curated by Susanne Pfeffer, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE  
*Portraits: Cabinet de Curiosités*, Galerie Bertrand & Gruner, Geneva, CH
- 2011 *After Shelley Duvall 72*, curated by Bjarne Melgaard, Maccarone, New York, NY  
*The Lead Awards*, Deichtorhalle Hamburg, DE
- 2010 *Accessories to an Artwork*, Glen Horowitz (NY) and Paul Stopler (London), curated by Peter Saville  
*Salad Days*, curated by Michael Nevin, The Journal Gallery, New York, NY  
*Sonic Youth: Sensational Fix*, curated by Roland Groenenboom, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, DE
- 2009 *Who Shot Rock & Roll: A Photographic History, 1955 to the Present*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY  
*Shot by Kern*, Kenny Schachter Rove, London, UK
- 2008 *PM Dawn*, Taxter & Spengemann, New York, NY  
*Off*, Off Bowery, Colette, Paris, FR  
*Accessories to an Artwork*, Paul Stolper, London, UK  
*Sonic Youth, etc.: Sensational Fix*, Museion, Bolzano, IT  
*Political Correct*, Blondeau Fine Art Services, Geneva, CH (brochure)  
*Explicit Fantastic*, Keep Six Contemporary, Toronto, CA  
*Sympathy for the Devil*, Musée d'art Contemporain de Montréal, CA
- 2007 *Sympathy for the Devil*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
- 2006 *The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene 1974-84*, Grey Art Gallery, New York, NY;  
Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA; Austin Museum of Art, Austin, TX  
*Vice*, Silverstein Photography, New York, NY  
*The Kate Show*, Amsterdam Photography Museum, Amsterdam, NL  
*Tiny Vices*, curated by Tim Barber, Spencer Brownstone Gallery, New York, NY  
Museo de Arte Carillo Gil, Mexico City, MX
- 2005 *Bienal de Valencia*, Solares Fondazione Culturale, Valencia, ES  
*Trade*, White Columns, New York, NY  
*East Village USA*, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY
- 2004 *XXX*, Galerie Davide DiMaggio, Berlin, DE  
*Indigestible Correctness*, curated by Rita Ackerman and Lizzi Bougat, Participant, New York, NY  
*Likeness: Portraits of Artists by Other Artists*, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA  
*The Human Face*, curated by Rita Ackerman and Lizzi Bougat, Annet Gelink Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
- 2003 *Lumpenedlynness*, curated by Hudson, Lump Gallery, Raleigh, NC  
*Against All Evens*, curated by Miki Von Hausswolfe, Goteborg International Biennial,

- Goteborg, SE  
*Femmes*, curated by Olivier Zahm, Celine, Tokyo, JP  
*Snapshots Now*, curated by Randy Gladman, Angell Gallery, Toronto, CA  
*Educational Books*, curated by Darren Flook, Hotel, London, UK  
*Phantom of Desire: Visions of Masochism in Art*, Neue Galerie und Stadtmuseum, Graz, AT  
*Martha Graham*, curated by Kenny Schachter, ConTEMPorary, New York, NY  
*Not Ordinary People*, curated by Sergio Bertaccini, Galerie In Arco, Turin, IT
- 2002  
*Strip & Tease*, Aeroplastics Contemporary, Brussels, BE
- 2001  
*Selected Works*, Eye Five Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Wet*, Luise Ross Gallery, New York, NY  
*Face Off*, Aeroplastics Contemporary Brussels, BE
- 2000  
Galerie Patrick Seguin, Paris, FR  
*Kim's Bedroom*, curated by Kim Gordon, Parco Gallery, Tokyo, JP; MU Eindhoven, NL  
*Full Serve: Celebrating Ten Years of Shows*, curated by Kenny Schachter, Rove, New York, NY  
Reali Artecontemporanea, Brescia, IT
- 1999  
*B.m. W (black met white)*, ANP, Antwerp, BE  
*Shake the Disease*, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee, UK  
*Salome: Images of Women in Contemporary Art*, Castle Gallery, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY
- 1998  
*Disidentico*, curated by Achille Bonito, Palazzo Branciforte, Palermo, IT  
*Move 2*, curated by Rich Jacob, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 1997  
*Scared Stiff*, curated by Annie Stanley, Grey Art Gallery, New York, NY  
*Flying Buttress Please*, curated by Hudson, Torch, Amsterdam, NL  
*El Ojo Tambien Penetra*, Organismo Autonomo de Cultura, Centro de Fotografia, Isla de Tenerife, ES
- 1996  
*The Bite Generation*, curated by Romain Slocombe, Lola Productions, Nantes, FR  
*One Hundred Photographs*, American Fine Arts, New York, NY  
*The Experimenters*, curated by Kenny Schachter, Lombard-Fried Fine Arts, New York, NY  
B-Side Gallery, curated by Rick Prole, New York, NY  
*Picture This*, CBGB Gallery, New York, NY  
*Kunsthaus*, curated by Reiner Opoku, Cologne, DE
- 1995  
*High Anxiety*, curated by Kenny Schachter, 66 Crosby Street, New York, NY  
*Oy!*, curated by Kenny Schachter, 121 Greene Street, New York, NY
- 1994  
*Winter of Love, P.S. 1*, curated by Olivier Zahm and Dike Blair, Long Island City, NY

## Monographs

- 2017  
*Polarized*, Fortnight Institute & Victoria Press, New York
- 2016  
*New York Girls*, 20th anniversary edition, Taschen Books, Cologne
- 2013  
*Shot by Kern*, Taschen, USA  
*Contact Hight*, Richard Kern, Picturebox, USA
- 2008  
*Looker*, Harry Abrams Books, New York

2007 *Digital Kern*, Charta, Milan  
*Action*, Taschen Books, Cologne  
2004 *Soft*, Universe Publishing, New York  
2002 *Kern Noir*, Charta, Milan  
2001 *XXModels*, Fiction Inc. Books, Tokyo  
2000 *Model Release*, Taschen Books, Cologne  
1998 *Richard Kern*, Charta, Milan  
1997 *New York Girls*, Taschen Books, Cologne  
1996 *XXGirls*, Fiction, Inc. Books, Tokyo  
1995 *Richard Kern: New York Girls*, Purr Books, London