

BAU – XI PHOTO

MICHAEL WOLF

Born in Germany, then raised in Europe, Canada, and the United States, Wolf began his interest in photography when studying at UC Berkeley and the Folkwang School with Otto Steinert in Essen, Germany. Wolf later moved to Hong Kong in 1994 to begin his artistic career as a contract photographer for Stern Magazine. Since 2001, Wolf has been focusing on his own projects, drawing his focus to the tradition of socially concerned photography, while also engaging with the radical transformation of photography of recent years.

Wolf found his inspiration as an artist living in Hong Kong and China, where the ever-shifting cityscapes provided him with constant stimulation. Rather than creating images that describe the immensity of China's urban transformation, Wolf's work in this region is based on the power of the vernacular. By 'collecting' a series of these urban minutiae he has been able to paint a much larger picture, not only of the contemporary Chinese city, but rather of the more universal realities of urban life. The stunning 'blown-up' images of Chicago's modernist architecture in 'Transparent City' offer a point of contrast against the closed-up concrete towers from Hong Kong and China. These images oscillate between a microscopic and macroscopic view of the city, and seek to reveal what goes on inside the windows within each cityscape.

Education

- 1971-1972 North Toronto Collegiate Institute, Toronto, Canada
- 1972-1973 UC Berkeley, CA
- 1973-1976 Studied photography and visual communications at the University of Essen, Germany, with Otto Steinert; Degree in Visual Communication

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 Michael Wolf | *Street View**, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
- 2020 Spotlight on Michael Wolf, Flowers
- 2020 Michael Wolf | Retrospective, Bau-Xi Gallery
- 2020 Michael Wolf: Life in Cities, Robert Koch Gallery
- 2019 Life in Cities Retrospective, Urania, Berlin, Germany
Bottrop-Ebel '76, Josef Albers Museum
Michael Wolf | Metropolis, Bruce Silverstein Gallery
- 2018-2019 Life in Cities Retrospective, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany
- 2018 Bottrop-Ebel '76, Flowers Gallery, Kingsland Road, London, UK
Life in Cities Retrospective, Stelline Foundation, Milan, Italy
- 2017-2018 Life in Cities Retrospective, The Hague Museum of Photography, Netherlands
- 2017 Life in Cities Retrospective, Les Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles, France
City, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
- 2016 Hong Kong, Informal Solutions, Centre Photographique - Pôle Image Haute-Normandie, France
Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Paris Rooftops, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, ON
Paris Rooftops, M97 Project Space, Shanghai
Digital Conditions, Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover, Germany
Blind Walls and Night Trees, Wouter Van Leeuwen Galerie, Amsterdam, NL
Hong Kong Narratives, Michael Wolf's studio, Hong Kong
Back Alley Deconstructed, Pop Up at wontonMeen, Hong Kong
Words Matter, Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, CA

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- Hong Kong Inside Out, Tin Shed Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2014 Paris Abstract, Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, CA
My Favorite Thing, Wouter Van Leeuwen Galerie, Amsterdam, NL
The Real Toy Story, K11 Art Foundation, Shanghai
Architecture of Density, Flowers Gallery, London, England
Icones, Musée des Beaux Arts de Liege, Liege, Belgium
- 2013 Architecture of Density, The Scout Shots & Small God, Big City, Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Small God, Big City, 25 Books, Berlin, Germany
Tokyo Compression, Recontres Gaspésie, Canada
Architecture of Density – X Bienal de Arquitetura, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Transparent City, Bau-Xi Photo, Toronto, Canada
Industrial Architecture, M97 Gallery, Shanghai
Small God, Big City, M97 Gallery, Shanghai
- 2012 Street View Portraits, Wouter van Leeuwen Galerie, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Hong Kong and Shenzhen biennial of urbanism/architecture, Hong Kong
Total City – Ivam Institut D’art Modern, Valencia, Spain
Bamboo Theater Exhibition: Portraits of Cantonese Opera Singers – Museum M+, Hong Kong, China
- 2011 Untitled – Flowers, London, England
Life in Cities – Christophe Guye Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland
Real Fake Art / Tokyo Compression Revisited – 25 Books, Berlin, Germany
Sh Contemporary, Shanghai, China
Life In Cities – Gun Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
Metropolis – Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, USA
I’m Watching You – Elipsis Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
Fear in the City – Monnaie de Paris, France
Tokyo Compression – Forum Für Fotografie, Cologne, Germany
- 2010 Hong Kong Corner Houses – Upper Station Street Gallery, Hong Kong, China
We Are Watching You – La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France
Street View / Tokyo Compression – Gallery Fifty One Fine Art Photography, Antwerp, Belgium
Tokyo Compression – 25 books, Berlin, Germany
Street View & Tokyo Compression – Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
ISEEYOU – Bruce Silverstein Gallery, Chelsea, New York, USA
Life in Cities – M97 Gallery, Shanghai, China
Architecture of Density – M97 Gallery at art HK 2010, Hong Kong, China
Paris Street View – Curated by Foam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Paris Street View – Goethe Institute Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
- 2009 Metropolis – La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France
Transparent City – Wouter van Leeuwen Gallery at Art Amsterdam, Netherlands
Architecture of Density & Transparent City - Elipsis Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
Art Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Transparent City – Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
AIPAD: The Photography Show – New York, USA
Transparent City – Gallery Fifty One Fine Art Photography, Antwerp, Belgium
Transparent City & Architecture of Density – Entropy Art, Naples, Italy
The Armory Show – Modern, New York, USA
- 2008 Transparent City – Museum for Contemporary Photography, Chicago, USA
Transparent City – Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Butterfly Dream: Shanghai Moca Envisage II – Moca, Shanghai, China
Translocalmotion: Shanghai Biennale – Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

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- Hong Kong Back Door – Lumervisum Gallery, Hong Kong, China
Art Chicago Photography Show, Chicago, USA
Heritage: Hong Kong Corner Houses – Goethe Institute, Hong Kong, China
Real Fake Pictures & Architecture of Density – Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2007 Real Fake Art and 100 x 100 – Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, USA
China Projects – Gallery M97, Shanghai, China
Fake - Portraits of Chinese Copy Art – Goethe Institute, Hong Kong, China
Hong Kong Industrial – Ursula Huber Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
- 2006 Architecture of Density / China Copy Artists – Gallery Fifty One Fine Art Photography, Antwerp, Belgium
Hong Kong Front Door Back Door – German Museum for Architecture, Frankfurt, Germany
Architecture of Density / Architecture of Work – Art Fair Zurich/ Gallery Huber, Switzerland
Architecture of Density – Gallery Fifty One Fine Art Photography at Paris Photo, Paris, France
100 x 100 – Gallery of the Goethe Institute, Hong Kong, China
100 x 100 / Architecture of Density – Daegu Photo Biennale, Korea
Architecture of Density – 798 Photo Gallery, Beijing, China
Architecture of Density / 100 x 100 – Gallery Laif, Cologne Germany
Architecture of Density – Janet Oh Gallery, Seoul, Korea
New Work from Hong Kong – Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Architecture of Density – Hasted-Hunt Gallery, New York, USA
Architecture of Density – 1918 ArtSPACE, Shanghai, China
Architecture of Density / 100 x 100 – Gallery Laif, Cologne, Germany
Architecture of Density – Janet Oh Gallery, Seoul, Korea
New Work from Hong Kong – Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Architecture of Density – Hasted-Hunt Gallery, New York, USA
Architecture of Density – 1918 ArtSPACE, Shanghai, China
Hong Kong Architecture – AIPAD New York, Robert Koch Gallery
Sitting in China – Kap Forum, Cologne, Germany
- 2005 Hong Kong: Front Door/Back Door – Gallery Colette, Paris, France
Useful, Cute and Collected. The Photographed Animal – Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany
Architecture of Density – Ping Yao Photography Festival, Ping Yao, China
Architecture of Density – Art Basel / Robert Koch Gallery, Basel, Switzerland
Architecture of Density – Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 2004 The Real Toy Story – John Batten Gallery, Hong Kong, China
Hong Kong the Back Door – Hong Kong Art Walk, Hong Kong, China
Architecture of Density – Bryant Park during New York Fashion Week, New York, USA
- 2003 Portraits of Chinese People – John Batten Gallery, Hong Kong, China
Sitting in China – Kestner Museum, Hannover, Germany
Images Against War – Galerie Lichtblick, Cologne, Germany

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Father's Day Collection, Bau-Xi Gallery
Bau-Xi Gallery at Art Toronto 2022, Bau-Xi Gallery
Robert Koch Gallery at The Armory Show 2022, Robert Koch Gallery
- 2021 Bau-Xi Gallery at Art Toronto 2021, Bau-Xi Gallery
In my bubble, CHRISTOPHE GUYE GALERIE
Robert Koch Gallery at The Armory Show 2021, Robert Koch Gallery
Focus on Photography, Foster/White Gallery

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- Flowers at Photo London 2021, Flowers
- 2020 Curator's Collection | 2020 Preview, Bau-Xi Gallery
Bau-Xi Gallery at Photo London 2020, Bau-Xi Gallery
Flowers at Photo London 2020, Flowers
Bruce Silverstein Gallery at Art Basel Online Viewing Rooms 2020, Bruce Silverstein Gallery
Flowers at Art Central 2020, Flowers
- 2019 Harvest / Hanging Fruit, M97 Gallery
Rooftops, GALLERY FIFTY ONE
Civilization: The Way We Live Now, UCCA
Flowers Contemporary I, Flowers
Bruce Silverstein Gallery at The Photography Show 2019, presented by AIPAD, Bruce Silverstein Gallery
- 2018 [SPACE] Street. Life. Photography. Street Photography aus Sieben
Jarhzehnten, Deichtorhallen
Bruce Silverstein Gallery at The Photography Show 2018, presented by AIPAD, Bruce Silverstein Gallery
Flowers at Art Central 2018, Flowers
- 2017 GALLERY FIFTY ONE at Paris Photo 2017, GALLERY FIFTY ONE
Bruce Silverstein Gallery at Paris Photo 2017, Bruce Silverstein Gallery
Bau-Xi Gallery at Art Toronto 2017, Bau-Xi Gallery
Flowers at EXPO CHICAGO 2017, Flowers
Flowers at Photo London 2017, Flowers
- 2016 Bau-Xi Artists | Whiteout, Bau-Xi Gallery
Bau-Xi Gallery at Art Toronto 2016, Bau-Xi Gallery
Robert Koch Gallery at EXPO CHICAGO 2016, Robert Koch Gallery
Flowers at Art Central 2016, Flowers
Flowers at Art Stage Singapore 2016, Flowers
In and/or out: Seiichi Furuya and Michael Wolf, Düsseldorf, Germany
BackStory, GALLERY FIFTY ONE
Bruce Silverstein Gallery at Paris Photo 2016, Bruce Silverstein Gallery
- 2015 Bau-Xi Gallery at Art Toronto 2015, Bau-Xi Gallery
Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen at Unseen Photo Fair 2015, Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen
The Road, Robert Koch Gallery
Woman and Work, Gemeentemuseum Helmond
- 2014 Decisive Moments, Honolulu Museum of Art, Hawaii
Up, Close & Personal, Fuchs Projects, New York
Urban Spirit (Group Exhibition), CHRISTOPHE GUYE GALERIE
- 2012 Von Sinnen: Wahrnehmung in Der Zeitgenoessischen Kunst – Kunsthalle Zu Kiel, Kiel Germany
Public: Collective Identity | Occupied Spaces – The Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto, Canada
Infinite Balance: Artist environment MOPO, San Diego
Making History – Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany
The Near and Elsewhere – PM Gallery, London, UK
Davos Art Exhibition – Meeting of the World Economic, Davos, Switzerland
- 2011 Prix Pictet: Growth – Gallery of Photography, Dublin, Ireland
Prix Pictet: Growth – Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC, USA
Fotodoks – Münchner Stadtmuseum, Munich, Germany
Infinite Balance: Artists and the Environment – Museum Photographic Arts, San Diego, USA
Cities: Visionary Places – Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles, USA

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- Metropolis. City Life in the Urban Age 2011 – Noorderlicht Photo Festival, Groningen, Netherlands
Prix Pictet: Growth – Arteversum, Dusseldorf, Germany
Sifest #20 – Savignano Immagini, Savignana Sul Rubicone, Italy
Hail Traveler! Rick Wester Fine Art, New York City, USA
Summer in the City – Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
NY Temporary: The City Through Photography, Film and Video – Muse Center of Photography, New York, USA
Prix Pictet: Growth – Galleria Carla Sozzani, Milano, Italy
Prix Pictet – Christophe Guye Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland
Prix Pictet: Growth – Thessaloniki Museum of Photography, Thessaloniki, Greece
Street Photography Now – Uno Art Space, Stuttgart, Germany
Prix Pictet – Passage de Retz, Paris, France
10 years – Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen, Amsterdam Netherlands
2010 Street Photography Now, Contributed, Berlin Germany
Renversements de Faits / Abstractions Photographiques – Le Château d’eau, Toulouse, France
Street Photography Now – Third Floor Gallery, Cardiff, UK
Alles Wieder Anders – Ruhr Museum, Essen, Germany
Bredaphoto 2010, Breda, Netherlands
Meer – Voorkamer, Lier, Belgium
City Flâneur: Social Documentary Photography – Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong, China
From the Vanishing Point – Demolished Public Housing Estates in Hong Kong – 1a Space, Hong Kong, China
Untitled– Elipsis Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
The New York Photo Festival – New York, USA
Index 1.0 – Gallery Fifty One Fine Art Photography, Antwerp, Belgium
Homelesshome – Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem, Israel
2009 Cities - Places Visionaires – Auditorium Arte, Rome, Italy
The Bare Necessity of Art – Etherton Gallery, Tucson, USA
Parallax – M97 Gallery, Shanghai, China
Landscape As Dream – Studio La Citta, Verona, Italy
Dystopia – Robert Koch Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Art Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Transparent City – Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago, USA
2008 Summer in the City 08 – Galerie Wouter van Leeuwen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
China Design Now – Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England
Eastern Standard, Western Artists in China – Mass. Moca, North Adams, USA
2007 Two Photographers in a Dialog: Michael Wolf’s Architecture of Density & Stephen Canham’s Travelling Gypsies Homes – Hallische Gallerien, Dresden, Germany
New Urban Vistas – Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, USA
Bac! – Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Facades – Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, USA
Contemporary Art from the Permanent Collection – San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, USA
Ulisphotofest 2007 – Ulisphotofest, Istanbul, Turkey
2006 Architecture of Density – Shanghai Biennale / ArtSPACE 1918, Shanghai, China
2004 Truth! Photography’s Promise of Reality – Ruhrland Museum, Essen, Germany
2003 Post Chicago: April 2003–2004 – Gallery 400, University of Illinois, Chicago, USA
2000 Peking Shanghai Shenzhen: Cities of the 21st Century – Bauhaus Museum, Dessau, Germany
1990 Otto Steinert and Students – Folkwang Museum, Essen Germany
1981 Wie Lebt Man im Ruhrgebiet – Folkwang Museum, Essen Germany

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- 1979 Eugene Richards / Michael Wolf: Neighborhoods – Folkwang Museum, Essen Germany
1975 Portraits of Craftsmen in Essen Werden – Curated by Ute Eskildsen, Room 315 of the University of Essen, Germany

Museum Exhibitions

- 2012 Hong Kong and Shenzhen Biennial of Urbanism/Architecture, Hong Kong, China
2010 100 x 100 & Architecture of Density – Venice Biennale of Architecture, Venice, Italy
2009 Transparent City – Aperture Gallery, New York, USA
2007 Pieces of China: A Retrospective of Michael Wolf's China Projects – Museum Center Vapriikki, Tampere, Finland
2006 The Real Toy Story – Museum for Work, Hamburg, Germany
Made in China – Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, USA

Permanent Collections

- The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Brooklyn Museum, New York
The San Jose Museum of Art, California
The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago
Museum Folkwang, Essen
The German Museum for Architecture, Frankfurt

Publications

- 2016 Informal Solutions
Hong Kong Assemblage Deconstructed
2015 Hong Kong Umbrella
Some More Hong Kong Seating Arrangements
2014 Hong Kong Informal Seating Arrangements
Hong Kong Trilogy
Hong Kong Flora
2013 Small God, Big City
Hong Kong Trilogy
2012 Tokyo Compression Three (Peperoni Press / Asia One)
2012 Small Gods Big City (Hong Kong University Press)
2012 Bottrop Ebel (Peperoni Books)
2012 Architecture of Density (Peperoni Press / Asia One)
2011 Hong Kong Corner Houses (Hong Kong University Press)
2011 Portraits (Superlabo, Japan)
2011 Growth - Prix Pictet 2010 (Teneues Verlag)
2011 Tokyo Compression Revisited (Peperoni Press / Asia One)
2011 Real Fake Art (Peperoni Press / Asia One)
2011 FY (Peperoni Press)
2010 A Series of Unfortunate Events (Peperoni Press)
2010 Tokyo Compression (Peperoni / Asian One)
2009 Hong Kong Inside Outside (Peperoni / Asia One)

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- 2008 The Transparent City (Aperture / mosp)
- 2007 Pieces of China (Tampere Museums)
- 2006 Hong Kong Front Door Back Door –German Edition (Steidl)
- 2005 Hong Kong Front Door Back Door (Thames & Hudson)
- 2003 Chinese Propaganda Posters (Taschen)
- 2002 Sitting in China (Steidl)
- 2001 China im Wandel (Frederking & Thaler)
- 1982 Maloche: Levin im Revier (Eichborn Verlag)

Recent Awards

- 2011 World Press Photo Award Competition – Honorable Mention
- 2010 Prix Pictet Photography Award
- 2010 World Press Photo Award Competition – First Place
- 2005 World Press Photo Award Competition – First Place