

**Guido Baselgia**, born in Chur in 1953, grew up in Pontresina in Engadin.

In 1970 he moved to Baar in the Canton of Zug, where he completed vocational training as a draftsman specialized in structural engineering. During this time he became more intensely involved in photography. From 1976 to 1979 he attended the specialized class for photography at the Kunstgewerbeschule der Stadt Zürich (today, Zurich University of the Arts, ZHdK). In the following years—until 1983—Baselgia was active as a photographer for leading industrial concerns with his own photo studio in Baar, and from 2003 until 2010 in Zug. Guido Baselgia has lived in Malans in his home/studio since 2010.

In 2006 honored with the Innerschweizer Kulturpreis (Cultural award from the Innerschweiz cultural foundation).

In 2020 he was awarded the Bündner Kulturpreis (Grisons Culture Prize).

In the mid-1990s, after working for many years in the areas of reporting and publishing for the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *Das Magazin*, *DU*, and foreign print media, he turned to investigating his immediate environment by means of photography. His return home to the Engadin went hand-in-hand with a profound transformation in his photography. Guido Baselgia moved away from photo journalism and toward independent artistic work using the medium of analogue photography. In his creative work, Baselgia directs his view to fundamental phenomena that become visible in the depiction of terrestrial landscapes. In Engadin, it is the microcosm between the timber line and old snow (firn) (*Hochland*, 2002), in the far north, the extreme climatic situation in the polar desert (*Weltraum*, 2004), and in Chile and Bolivia, it is manifestations of light in the landscape (*Silberschicht*, 2008). This trilogy resulted in the work group *LightFall* created from 2006 to 2013. The all-connecting motif in Baselgia's work is light—the primal material of life and photography.

The Swiss Foundation for Photography in Winterthur wrote 2020 about his exhibition «*As If the World Were There to Be Measured*»: *The photographer as a travelling researcher: over the past twenty years Guido Baselgia has travelled with his camera through peripheral geological zones, scanning the earth's barren surface and observing light phenomena in the Alps, the Andes and the northern Norway. He has translated his studies into the visual idiom of slow, analog photography. The result is black-and-white tableaux bordering on abstract, presented in the form of large-format silver-gelatine prints or heliogravures which are characterised by their detail and material quality. The exhibition follows on from the well-known cycles ;Hochland», «Weltraum», «Silberschicht» and «Light Fall», and presents Baselgia's latest project for the first time. This leads him to Ecuador and Peru in the Amazon basin. On his expeditions the photographer deals with the depictability of the tropical rainforest. He transforms the shimmering density and diversity of the vegetation into compositions of the greatest calm and concentration. Portraits of the indigenous inhabitants and still lifes from the surroundings of their settlements become reflections on the photographic representation of this threatened world. Like a memento mori, Baselgia's work pays tribute to this landscape, whose economic exploitation has long had an impact on our global climate. The exhibition was accompanied by the publication of the same name by Edizioni Periferia, Lucerne, 2020.*

**Exhibitions** (selection): *Hochland*, Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur (2001) and Kunsthalle Erfurt (2002); *Weltraum*, Kunsthaus Zug (2004); *Silberschicht*, Museum im Bellpark, Kriens (2008), and Istituto Svizzero di Roma (2008).

Works were shown in 2002 at the International Photo Triennial, *Backlight02*, Tampere, Finland, and in 2004 at the Biennale di Venezia, 9th International Architecture Exhibition, and in several European museums and galleries.

And in 2019/2020 at Swiss Foundation for Photography (Fotostiftung Schweiz in Winterthur) *Guido Baselgia – As If the World were There to Be Measured*.

**Installations and Art and Architecture projects** (selection):

Betagtenzentrum Neustadt, Stiftung Alterszentrum Zug, 2005; Dorfmatte School, Einwohnergemeinde Baar, 2008; Spa Suites, Grand Resort Bad Ragaz, 2008; Künzle-Heim Stadt Schaffhausen, 2010; Government offices for the Canton of Zug, 2013.

Strassenunterhaltsstützpunkt Bernina des Tiefbauamtes Graubünden, *Art on the building*, walk-in camera obscura, Ospizio Bernina, 2019.

**Monographic publications** (selection): *Galizien* (Jüdischer Verlag – Suhrkamp Verlag, 1993), *Zug* (Zürcher Druck und Verlag, 1994), *ZugStadt* (Benteli Verlag, 1998), *Hochland* (Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2002), *Weltraum* (Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2004), *Silberschicht* (Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2008). *LightFall* (Verlag Scheidegger&Spiess, 2014), *Als ob die Welt zu vermessen wäre* (Edizioni Periferia, 2020)