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INSTITUTO CULTURAL DE MEXICO
SAN ANTONIO TEXAS

CHRISTIAN LICHTENBERG

Christian Lichtenberg was born in 1953 in Basel, Switzerland, where he currently lives and works. His artistic explorations in photography, video, sound, and painting, fluctuate between chaos and emptiness, between narrative and abstraction.

Throughout his artistic journey he has exhibited at galleries, museums, and art fairs. He has received international recognition and awards, and his work is in museum collections, public institutions, and private collections. He has been published extensively.

COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

In 2009, I lived for two months in Budapest, Hungary, and traveled another two months throughout Croatia.

Typically, on projects like this, before I start gathering and making images, I try to get a feel for the places I'm visiting; walking through cities and countrysides, getting a better understanding of people and their context.

Remnants and relics of the old Austrian monarchy, the communist regime in Hungary, and the recent war in Croatia, would all show their lingering presence around every corner. It quickly became clear that my work would have to consider these varied circumstances. I started to photograph scenes, people, and objects of interests, without knowing where it would all lead. I work guided by my instincts, in a trance-like state that can go on for weeks until I'm completely exhausted.

After recovering from my intense field work, I focus on editing my images and on the process of creating a concept. Sometimes the images drive the concept, sometimes the concept drives the selection of images. In the *Commedia Dell'Arte* series, the cityscapes and landscapes are stages, the people are actors, and the found objects are props that complete the dramas I'm creating. As a result, every photograph is a poetic, melancholic, bizarre, and humorous rendering of the human condition.

Christian Lichtenberg

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