

Ingeborg Lüscher Biography

1936

Born as Ingeborg Löffler in Freiberg in Saxony (Germany)

1946 – 1949

Rudolf-Steiner-School in Dresden

1949

Relocation to West Berlin

1956

School-leaving examinations

1956 – 1958

Acting studies at drama school Marlise Ludwig, Berlin, state-approved graduation

1958

First film engagements, including the main female role of Madelon in “Cardillac”, the first b/w Ufa TV film after the end of World War II (story E. T. A. Hoffmann)
Ensemble member at Vagantenbühne and Renaissance Theater Berlin, tour to Switzerland

1959

Meets the Swiss colour psychologist Max Lüscher, marriage
Ensemble member at Komödie Basel, main female role of Dynamene in the Swiss TV film “Ein Phönix zuviel / A Phenix Too Frequent” with original dialogues by Christopher Fry

1960 – 1967

Psychological studies, including at the Berlin Free University
Numerous main female roles in b/w TV films, like “Jennifer” 1965, Alwine von Valencay in Jean Anouilh’s „Leben wie die Fürsten” 1966 (directed by Helmut Käutner) and Laura Manulescu in „Des Rätsels Lösung“ 1966 (with Ivan Desny)

1967

Journey to India
Relocation to Ticino (Switzerland)
Film shootings in Prague, Gräfin Nettelburg in the TV film „Till Eulenspiegel“ (with Helmut Lohner)
Meets dissidents of the later Prague Spring and starts critical questioning the own role in her life
Separation from Max Lüscher
Turns to fine art as an autodidact and takes the former studio of Hans Arp in Locarno

1967 - 1972

Works with fire and with cigarette stubs
Contact to artists of the Nouveau Réalisme

1



2



1969

Travels to New York, meets Tiny Duchamp, Christo and Andy Warhol

Discovers the hermit Armand Schulthess at Onsernone Valley (Switzerland), starts the photographic documentation of his encyclopedic forest („Der größte Vogel kann nicht fliegen. Dokumentation über A. S.“, published 1972 by DuMont)



3

1971

Crosses the Persian desert

1972

Invitation by Harald Szeemann to participate with her Armand Schulthess documentation at documenta 5, Kassel (Germany)

Begin of their longlife partnership

4



1973

Swiss stipendium for the applied arts

1974

Prix Oumansky de la Société des Arts, Palais de l'Athénée, Genève

1975

Birth of daughter Una Alja

5

Since 1975

Conceptual and autobiographical works about chance, love, childhood, dreams, prophecy and death



1976

First solo exhibition at Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris
Begin of the series "Magician Photos", that continues until today, meanwhile including 520 portraits

1978 – 2005

Teaches at several academies, among them the Summer Academy Berlin, the F + F Kunstschule Zürich, the Schule für Gestaltung Luzern, the Ecole Supérieure de l'Art Visuelle Genève and the International Summer Academy for Fine Arts in Salzburg (Austria) and on La Gomera (Spain)

6



1982

Meets the homeless Laurence Pfautz, produces a book about him (published 1985 by Edition Sauerländer)

1984

Nominated as a member of the Turin section of the international "Collège de Pataphysique", named Sibilla Auricolare e Zarina
Discovers sulphur as artistic material

7



1986

Travels with her daughter Una Alja to the Solfatara volcano close to Naples

1987

Studio in Maggia/Ticino

1988

Participates at the Biennale of Sydney

1990

Large sculptures with sulphur, ashes and acrylic

1992

Participates at documenta IX in Kassel (Germany) and World Expo Sevilla (Spain)

1993

Retrospective exhibition at Museum Wiesbaden

1995

Exhibition at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia

1996

Retrospective exhibition at Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau

1997 – 1998

Several journeys to China and Japan

1999

Participates at the 48th Biennale di Venezia, where her first video “Fei-Ya! Fei-Ya! fly, fly (Our Chinese Friends)” is shown under the Chinese pseudonym Ying Bo

2000

Lecture about Armand Schulthess at Kartause Ittingen in Warth (Switzerland)

Participates with “Fei-Ya! Fei-Ya! fly, fly (Our Chinese Friends)” at the Locarno Festival

2001

Presentation of the video “Fusion” at Fondazione Nicolà Trussardi in Milano (Italy) and at the 49th Venice Biennial (Italy)

Honour award of the UBS Cultural Foundation

Retrospective exhibition at Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz (Germany)

2002 – 2003

Exhibitions in Beograd and Cacak (Serbia), České Budejovice (Czech Republic) and Sarajevo (Bosnia)

2004

Retrospective exhibition at Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto (MART) in Rovereto (Italy)

First presentation of the installation “The Amber Room” at Svarovski Crystal Worlds in Wattens/Tyrol (Austria)

2005

Death of Harald Szeemann

2006

Presentation of the video installation “the play is everywhere” at Museum Wiesbaden (Germany) and at the National Center for Contemporary Art Moscow (Russia)



8



9



10



11



12

2009 – 2010

Film shots in Israel and Palestine for the video installation
“The Other Side”

2010

A selection of 100 “Magician Photos” is exhibited at
Kunstmuseum Luzern (Switzerland)

2011

Swiss Grand Award for Art / Prix Meret Oppenheim from the
Swiss Federal Office of Culture
Premiere of the video installation „The Other Side” at Zentrum für
Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM) in Karlsruhe (Germany)



13

2013

Lecture about Armand Schulthess at
Kunstmuseum Luzern (Switzerland)

2016

Retrospective at Kunstmuseum Solothurn (Switzerland)

2017

Curates the Armand Schulthess section from Harald Szeemanns
exhibition “Le Mamelle della Verità” with photographs of her
“Documentation about A. S.” on the occasion of the reopening
of Museo Casa Anatta at Monte Verità, Ascona (Switzerland),
after five years of renovation

2018 - 2019

Curates the Armand Schulthess installations of the travelling
exhibition “Harald Szeemann. Museum of Obsessions”
at Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (USA),
Kunstmuseum Bern (Switzerland), Kunsthalle Düsseldorf
(Germany) and Castello di Rivoli, Turino (Italy),
including photographs of her “Documentation about A. S.”



14

Ingeborg Lüscher lives in Tegna and works in Maggia
(Ticino, Switzerland).

Captions and photo credits

- 1 Ingeborg Lüscher 1938 at the age of two in Bansin/Usedom
- 2 Ingeborg Lüscher 1965 in the TV film „Scaldino“ (photo Gabriele du Vinage)
- 3 Ingeborg Lüscher 1970 in Tegna (photo Maren Heyne)
- 4 Ingeborg Lüscher and Harald Szeemann 1972 in Köln (Foto Balthasar Burkhard)
- 5 Ingeborg Lüscher and Harald Szeemann 1975 with their daughter Una Alja
- 6 Ingeborg Lüscher 1976 in Tegna (“Magician Photo” by Gitty Darugar)
- 7 Ingeborg Lüscher 1986 in her studio (photo Nanda Lanfranco)
- 8 Ingeborg Lüscher 1992 in her studio in Maggia (photo Reto Camenisch)
- 9 Ingeborg Lüscher 1996 in Tokyo (photo Mario Ambrosius)
- 10 Ingeborg Lüscher 2001 in Tegna (photo Una Szeemann)
- 11 Ingeborg Lüscher and Harald Szeemann 2002 in Tegna (photo Andrea Stappert)
- 12 Ingeborg Lüscher 2008 in her Amber Room (wikimedia commons)
- 13 Ingeborg Lüscher 2014 in Tegna (photo Thilo Hoffmann)
- 14 Ingeborg Lüscher 2018 in Zofingen (photo Karin Wegmüller)