

PRESS RELEASE | Berlin, May 9, 2023

f<sup>3</sup> – freiraum für fotografie presents

**CHLOE SHERMAN**  
**RENEGADES. San Francisco: Queer Life in the 1990s**  
June 30 – September 3, 2023



*San Francisco in the 1990s was a pivotal, groundbreaking time, and I was lucky enough to be a part of it. I found beauty, grace and bravery in the queer subculture that forged an identity alongside by mainstream society. My photographs document the unique pulse of the city during this time and capture how we celebrated otherness in the safety of our community.*

Chloe Sherman, 2023

In the 1990s, San Francisco was the stronghold of queer life in the Western-influenced world. Young queer people, artists and free spirits flocked to the city to experiment with art, style, gender and identity, to be free, and to live their lives independent of mainstream society. A style-defining subculture emerged: affordable rents paved the way for bars, clubs, tattoo stores, art galleries, cafes, bookstores, and women-owned businesses. A new wave of feminism allowed gender identities to be explored and butch/femme culture reached a peak.

Young photographer **Chloe Sherman** also enjoyed life in the West Coast metropolis famous for its openness. As an art student, she began photographing San Francisco's lesbian and queer scene. Inspired by Del LaGrace Volcano's photographs of the London lesbian scene, Sherman captured her own world of femmes, butches, punks and studs, filling an entire wall cabinet with 35mm negatives. With the nuanced eye of an insider, she documented an evolving community that resolutely rebelled against prevailing cultural norms and developed its own unique rules for dealing with common gender ascriptions and social coexistence.

For 30 years, the photographs of that period were stored forgotten in the photographer's archive. **RENEGADES. San Francisco: Queer Life in the 1990s** presents the outstanding and historically significant photographs to an audience outside the USA for the first time. Chloe Sherman's exhibition captures the rebellious spirit of the era and candidly portrays a forward-thinking era.

**Chloe Sherman** (b. 1969, New York) came to San Francisco in 1991 to study fine art photography at the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited internationally and published in magazines such as *Rolling Stone* and *Interview*.

#### ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

**OPENING: Thursday, June 29, 2023, 7pm**

The artist will be present. Admission free!

**FOTO-FÜHRUNG (Guided Tour, engl.): with Chloe Sherman:** Sunday, July 2, 2023, 11 am and

**FOTO-FÜHRUNG (Guided Tour): with Katharina Mouratidi, Artistic Director f³ – freiraum für fotografie:** Sunday, August 6, 2023, 11 am. Admission: 8 € | 5 €. Tickets: <https://fhochdrei.org/tickets>

**BERLIN PRIDE SPECIAL: FOTO-FÜHRUNG & DRINKS (Guided Tour & Drinks):**

Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 7 am

The curators of the exhibition **Nadine Barth** and **Katharina Mouratidi** provide insights into the show and the photographer's work. Admission: 15 € | 10 €. Tickets: <https://fhochdrei.org/tickets>.

#### PUBLICATION

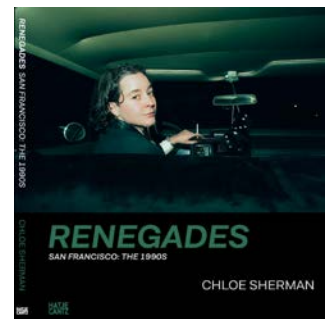
The exhibition is accompanied by a book published by Hatje Cantz.

The publication is available at **f³ – freiraum für fotografie**.

**Chloe Sherman | RENEGADES. San Francisco: The 1990s**

Nadine Barth, Katharina Mouratidi (eds.), Text(s): Lynn Breedlove, Catherine Opie, Anna Joy Springer. Design: Julia Wagner, grafikanstalt. 2023, English. 128 pages, 90 images, Hardcover 26x28 cm, 40 €.

ISBN 978-3-7757-5517-7



**f³ – freiraum für fotografie**

**Waldemarstraße 17 | 10179 Berlin**

**Opening times:** Wed – Sun, 1 – 7 pm

**Admission:** 5 € | reduced 3 €

[www.fhochdrei.org](http://www.fhochdrei.org) | [@fhochdrei](https://twitter.com/fhochdrei)

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Stiftung für queere Bewegungen



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fotografie

## PRESS IMAGES

The press images may only be used for current editorial reporting on the exhibition. The images may not be modified, cropped or overprinted. **f<sup>3</sup>** – **freiraum für fotografie**, the artist as well as the location and dates of the exhibition and the caption must be stated when publishing.

High-resolution print data are available for download here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/coz11a3hoojtsbrue91jm/h?dl=0&rlkey=4gynzm6bs41n6cgzft9qz69q>



The Mission, 1996  
© Chloe Sherman



The Heist, 1996  
© Chloe Sherman



Love/Hate, Rest in Power Christopher Lee, 1999  
© Chloe Sherman



Dusty and Mary, 1998  
© Chloe Sherman



Little Marion, 1998  
© Chloe Sherman



View from the Back Seat, 1997  
© Chloe Sherman

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New Years Eve at Buca, Tanya and Lisa, 1998  
© Chloe Sherman



Kindred Spirits, 1994  
© Chloe Sherman



Picnic near Mission Dolores, 1996  
© Chloe Sherman



In My Chevy Nova, Ace Driving, 1997  
© Chloe Sherman



Anna Joy Post Surgery at Home, 1997  
© Chloe Sherman



Selfportrait  
© Chloe Sherman