

Femmes de Suisse – Women in Portrait

They all radiate a powerful charisma, the women in Christian Scholz's large-format illustrated book: *Portraits – Femmes de Suisse* (Christoph Merian Verlag). And yet what distinguishes each of these women and how they present themselves could hardly be more diverse. The images, in high-contrast monochrome, portray women both well-known and unbeknown from the most varied walks of life and regions of Switzerland. Each of them has a connection to this country in her own individual way; they embody identity and individuality, grace and achievement.

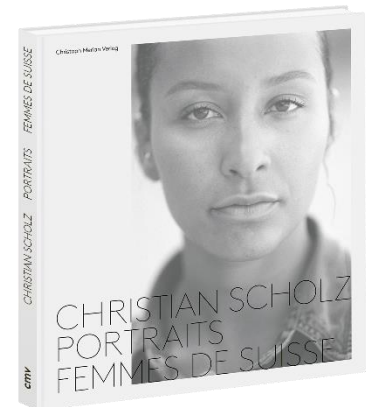
What is hidden behind these faces? The wide range in age between the two-year-old Julie Guignard and the ninety-nine-year-old Alice Pauli is followed by an enormous diversity of subjects: women from business and sport, agriculture and politics, science and the arts are all to be found. Open and reserved, unselfconscious and composed, they gaze into the camera. Often without make-up. Their presence, dynamism and concentration, captured in a single moment, are palpable.

«Portraying women is always a bit of a venture for a man», says Christian Scholz. Courage, caution, temerity, respect and sensitivity to what is often a unique and extraordinary situation, are all essential for the artistic-visual dialogue to succeed. For more than thirty years now, this outstanding portraitist has been exploring the human countenance, ever new, analogue, without tripod or assistance and in natural light. *Portraits – Femmes de Suisse* is a project in its own right, but nonetheless connected to his to complete edition: *501 – Corpus of Portraits Switzerland*. After careful deliberation, he chose a three-part presentation of his works from 1992 to 2021: portraits taken in classical positions are followed by others, intensely close and original, and finally with those in three-quarter view. This book is an extraordinary work of contemporary portrait art, snapshots of women in modern-day Switzerland, which at the same time feel astonishingly timeless.

With an afterword by Tatyana Franck, Director of the Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne

About the artist:

The work of Christian Scholz (* 1951 in Stockholm) is represented in collections both in Switzerland and abroad. His photographic works deal not only with the human countenance, but also, among other things, with physicality, the fascination of light, time, space and the mysteriousness of reality. He lives and works in Zurich.



Christian Scholz

Portraits – Femmes de Suisse

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www.merianverlag.ch/infos/presse

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