PRESS RELEASE



Solo
Exhibition

NEELTJE DE VRIES X
IRA STEHMANN FINE ART

21 NOVEMBER
31 JANUARY 2027

From November 21, 2026 to January 31, 2027, Ira Stehmann Fine Art shows a solo exhibition by Dutch photographer Neeltje de Vries (b. 1976 in Istanbul). Her subject is the female figure, not as an object of the gaze but as a self-determined subject. Her predominantly black-and-white images show women who withdraw from the viewer: they rarely seek eye contact, need no approval, and are not made to please.

Every photograph carries traces of a self-portrait, found in memory, emotion, and a quiet inner resilience. “The women in my photographs represent a part of myself,” says de Vries. The nudity that runs through her work is, for de Vries, a metaphor for freedom.

De Vries works digitally and almost exclusively with natural light, preferring direct sunlight to artificial sources, even where it casts hard-edged shadows. More than fifteen years as a graphic designer have left their mark on her images to this day: clear compositions, precise lines, a carefully calibrated balance of closeness and distance. She deliberately does not work in closed series. Each photograph is meant to stand on its own.

Ira Stehmann, gallery owner, on the artist, who recently joined the gallery’s program:

“*Sirocco* by Neeltje de Vries captivated me from the very first moment. The expressive choreography of the hands and the virtuoso play of light and shadow create an extraordinary tension, and a touch of surrealism lies over the image. I am drawn to the composition: the crop, the pose between closeness and distance. The tonal richness of the print speaks further for her artistic sensibility. The fine modulation of the grays shapes the body like a classical sculpture.”

“To me, de Vries is among the most exciting contemporary photographers in Europe. Her visual language is unmistakable: formally precise, emotionally direct and remarkably independent. She is deeply rooted in the history of photography and yet entirely of the present. Her work seems to enter into a dialogue with the photographic avant-garde of the twentieth century: I recognize the dynamism of Martin Munkácsi as much as the constructive clarity of the Bauhaus and the New

Objectivity. She does not quote these milestones; she plays with them from a contemporary perspective. Out of this comes her style: reduced, powerful, and of great aesthetic consistency."

"What is remarkable is the matter-of-factness with which de Vries puts female strength into the picture. Her women have nothing to prove. Independence and inner sovereignty give them great intensity. This is where the qualities of great photography come together: a feeling for brilliant composition, technical mastery, and an artistic stance that goes deep."

The exhibition brings together 23 works from recent years, including *Sirocco*. The formats range from 30 × 40 cm and 60 × 80 cm to 90 × 120 cm. Characteristic of Neeltje de Vries's work is that she works in very small editions: mostly only five or two prints, for a very few motifs eight, each plus two artist's proofs (AP).

Exhibition period:

November 21, 2026 – January 31, 2027

Opening, in the presence of the artist:

Saturday, November 21, 2026, 11 am – 5 pm

Registration required, R.s.v.p. to info@irastehmann.com

Visits during the exhibition:

By appointment: +49 171 264 1293, ira@irastehmann.com

Location:

Ira Stehmann Fine Art

Prinzregentenstraße 78

81675 Munich

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