



Dirk Westphal

Dirk Westphal - this New York Chinatown-based photographer transfers his "Fishtography" of colourful aquatic creatures on to hand-made custom designed surf boards, large format colour shots and acrylic laminated prints. The photographer captures different species of fish in various expressive poses as they swim through his custom-built tanks. His sophisticated ingenious lighting eliminates the tank's reflection or any evidence of glass so the multi-coloured tropical fish appear to be swimming in pure white space for maximum visual impact.

A photographer and artist, Dirk Westphal started making hand-crafted surf boards – or as he describes them, installation photography and monolithic sculptures – one-by-one in a studio loft on Centre Street in Chinatown. Producing approximately one board per week, Westphal considers his pieces as more than just wave riding vehicles – they are pieces of art.

Typically 9 feet tall (not the 10 feet favoured by regular surfers – more for practicality purposes for New York residents), Westphal uses a

laborious technique of cutting and shaping foam slabs, applying layers of glues, waxes, fibreglass and Epoxy resin – all of which he is obsessive about the quality of – to ensure the highest standards of each board he creates.

Never one to conform, Westphal had a series of unusual professions and jobs in throughout the 90s including organizing New York Gladiators fight spectacles and forming the NYC Militia "in the name of art terrorism and good fun" and being a pigeon bounty hunter for a previous landlord.

Following the devastating events on September 11, the artist was been studio bound. Taking inspiration from the orange street barricades and the orange fish in Chinatown (and the fact his it's his favourite colour) he started photographing the gold fish he bought in his neighbourhood. Learning through experience, he progressed to building his own "posing" tanks, collects exotic species from all over the world (such as clown fish) and is an expert at acclimatizing his pets to their new environment.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2007

- Carrasius Auratus II, Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
- Pisco Fabulosi usw. Harley Baldwin Gallery, Aspen, CO
- This Is All part of God's Plan, Blood, NYC

2006

- Natur und Kunst Leisure Enterprise, Mixed Greens, NYC.
- Pisco Fabulosi II, DWR, Los Angeles, CA.
- Dirk Westphal, Quogue Library, Quogue, NY.

2005

- Dirk Westphal, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia.



2004

- Piscoli Fabulosi, Mixed Greens, NYC.
- Piscoli Speciosi, Arts Club of Washington, DC.

2003

- Portraits of Fortune, Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney, Australia.

2002

- Installation, Low, Brooklyn, NY.
- Dirk Westphal, DTW Gallery, NYC.
- Carrasius Auratus, Harley Baldwin Gallery, Aspen, CO.

2000

- Grand Opening, 72 Grand Street, NYC.

1999

- New York Gladiators: Live Combat for Total Media Control ,PS 1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens, NY.

1998

- NY Gladiators Performance to benefit Fat Magazine at LIFE, NYC.

1997

- Dessert Project, Jeffrey Mansion, Columbus, OH.
- WOW- the Walls of Westphalia, The Clive Gallery, Church Stretton, UK.
- Dirk Westphal, NY Security Mini Storage, NYC.

1995

- Symphony of Horns performance, Centre/Broome St. NYC.
- NY Gladiators - Easter Apocalypse, Petrosino Park, NYC.

1990

- Work in Progress, Crosby Street Studio, NYC.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2006

- Animalia, Irvine Contemporary, Washington, DC.
- Black and White, LTMH Gallery, NYC.
- Artists of the Hamptons, LTMH Gallery, NYC.
- Fish Follies, Cordova Museum, Cordova, AK.

2005

- Crits Pix, Black and White Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.
- Beasts on the Beach, Salt Queen Foundation, Water Mill ,NY.
- Pulp, Lonsdale Gallery, Toronto, Ont.
- Pretend Friendly, Artists Network, NYC.
- Call of the Wild, Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA.
- Red,White and Blue, Spencer Brownstone Gallery, NYC.
- The Patch, Spencer Brownstone Gallery, NYC.

2004

- New Arrival, Terminal 5, JFK Airport, Queens, NY.



2003

- Petropolis: A Social History of Urban Companion Animals, New York Historical Society, NYC.
- Nature Photography, Jay Grimm Gallery, NYC.

2002

- Toronto/New York, Angell Gallery, Toronto, ONT.
- Collarobations, The National Arts Club, NYC

2001

- Wet, Luise Ross Gallery, NYC.
- Material Whirled, curated by Laura Lobdell, Art in General, NYC.
- Featured Artist, Mixed Greens at Space 101, Brooklyn ,NY.

2000

- Collector's Choice, Exit Art/The First World, NYC.
- Urban Being, curated by Jay Grimm, The Limelight, NYC.

1999

- NY Gladiators: Shelley Mars vs. Hope Clark, Box Opera, Angel Orensanz Foundation, NYC.
- Photosynthesis, Rare, NYC.
- Paradise 8, Exit Art/The First World, NYC.
- Site, in collaboration with Tom Sachs, Sante Fe, NM.

1998

- Odyssey, Green Naftali, NYC.

1996

- Free Fall, 319 Grand Street, NYC.
- Cultural Prosthetics, in collaboration with Tom Sachs, Morris Healy Gallery , NYC.

1995

- Looking and Putting Out, 450 Broadway Gallery, NYC.
- Gotcha!, Momenta Art, curated by Donald Odita, Brooklyn, NY and Columbus, OH.
- Extremely Refrigerated, Meat packing District, NYC.
- End of the Line, Soho Arts Festival, NYC
- Artifax, We've Got Christo's Daughter!! performance, the Puck Building, NYC.
- Spring Collection, Sauce, Brooklyn, NY.
- The Weapons Show, Exploding Sky, NYC.
- YGI, Fashion Extravaganza, Pseudo Museum, NYC.
- 101 Ways to Have Fun During the Apocalypse, Pseudo Museum, NYC.

1994

- Kill All Artists performance with Tom Sachs, Alfredo Martinez and Callum Greene, NYC.
- Bong Show , the Alleged Gallery, NYC.
- Untitled, No Bias Gallery, N. Bennington, VT.
- Entropy, FPU 13, NYC.
- Fired , A Late Night Comedy Show, Thicket, NYC.



QUALIFICATIONS
and TRAINING

- 1993
 - Sitting Positions, Bob, NYC.
- 1989
 - Male Nude, Artist's Cage, Cincinnati, OH.

COLLECTIONS

- 1989
 - MFA California Institute of the Arts- Photography
- 1986
 - BA Kenyon College-English
- Metropolitan Museum of Art Fashion Institute, NY, NY.
- National Arts Club, NY, NY.
- SEI Investments, Philadelphia, PA.
- Cantillon Capital, NY, NY.
- Pfizer, NY, NY.
- Corel, Toronto, ONT.
- Progressive, Cleveland, OH.
- Rockefeller, University, NY, NY.
- Columbia University, Earth Institute, NY, NY.
- Time/Life Pictures, NY, NY.
- Getty Images, NY, NY.
- The New York Times Photo Archives, NY, NY.
- Voyager, NY, NY.