

Game rules for everyday life

Maria Dundakova Photograms

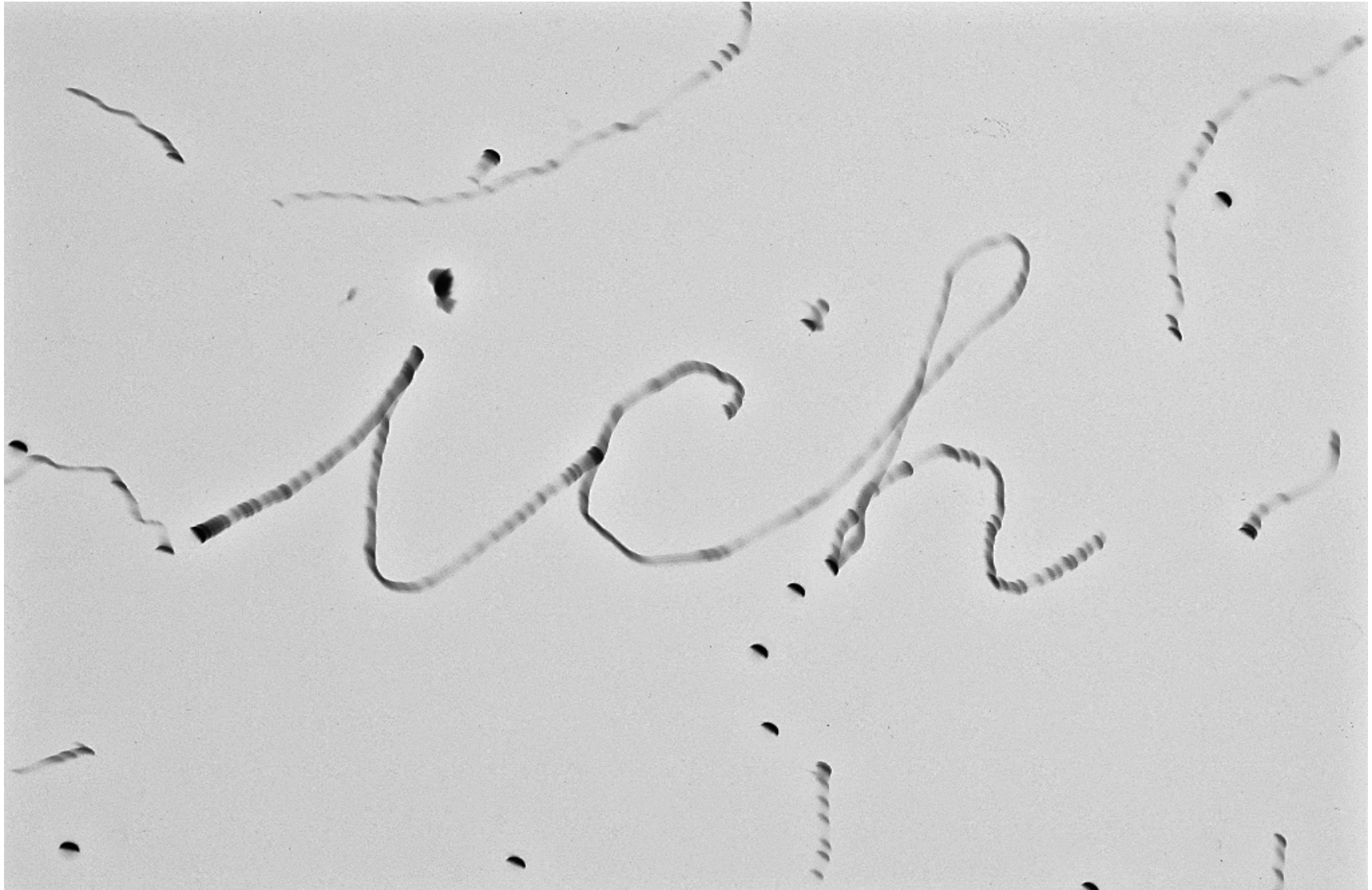


Photograms by Maria Dundakova from the cycle "l'Instant Vécu" ("The Lived Moment")

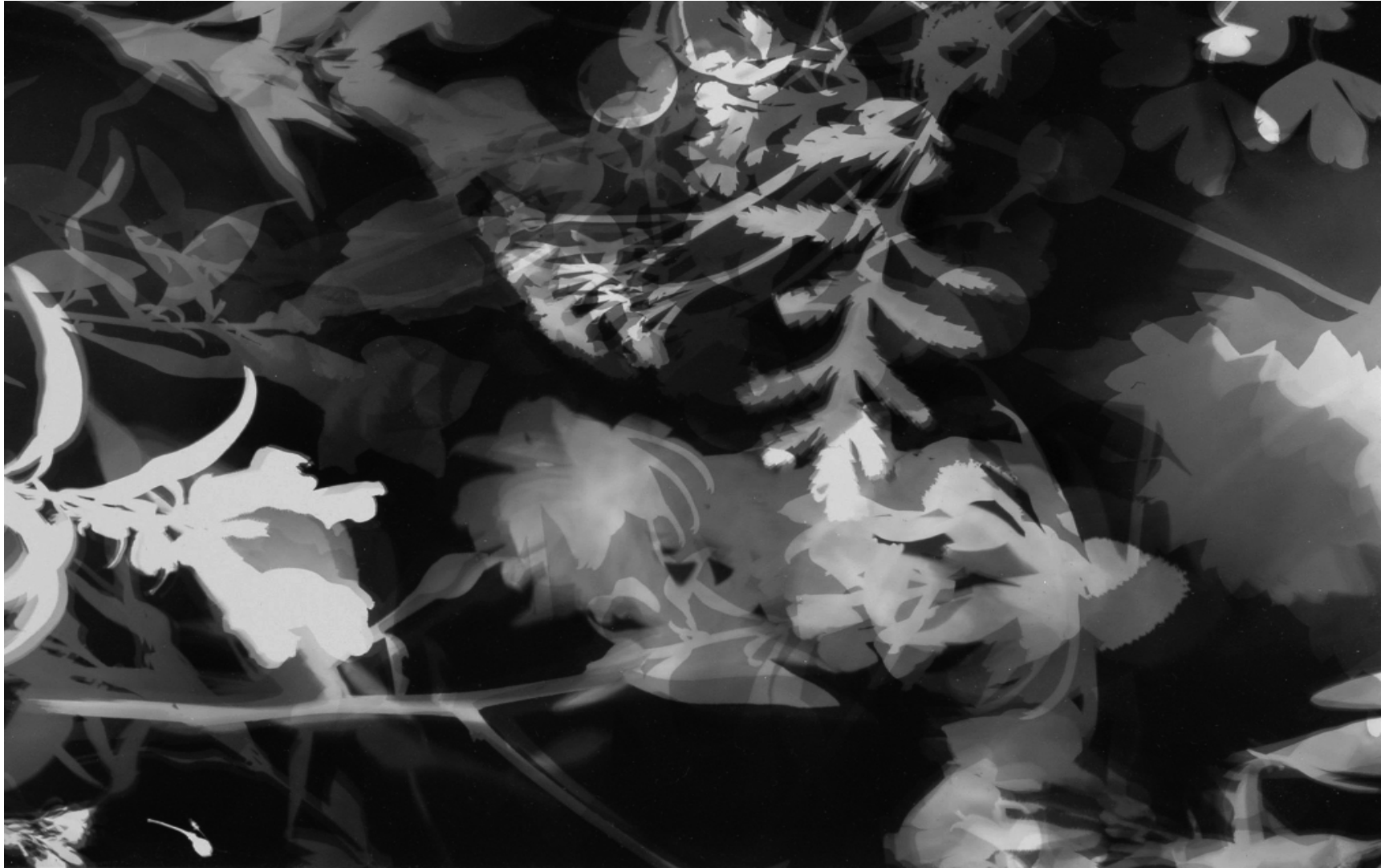
The fascination of photograms The cameraless dance of light is a game played with time. Depending on how long the photographic paper is exposed to light, rhythmic nuances develop, oscillating between light and dark, black and white, painterly and graphic. Breathing a poetry of light and time, each photogram is unique, non-reproducible and sustained by lightness of feeling. Object, light and time come together to form a singular work, communicating a "lived moment".

The photograms of Maria Dundakova (born in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1939, lives and works in Basel) show ambiguous visual worlds that lend an immediate presence to the captured objects and forms pictured. By using the medium of the photogram, the artist and photographer can achieve direct articulation of image, code and time. This fascinating cameraless photography lends form to an entirely original mode of expression. The artist states that a photogram works best when the digital, graphic creative process, the graphically coded form and the presence of light can act directly on the photographic paper. The works from the series "L'Instant Vécu" ("The Lived Moment") by Maria Dundakova not only depict everyday stories, they also involve the viewers in stories. These may be humorous or serious, they may be about one's own ego or a transient rose, they play with light and shadow or conceal secrets and riddles.

Paolo Bianchi 2014



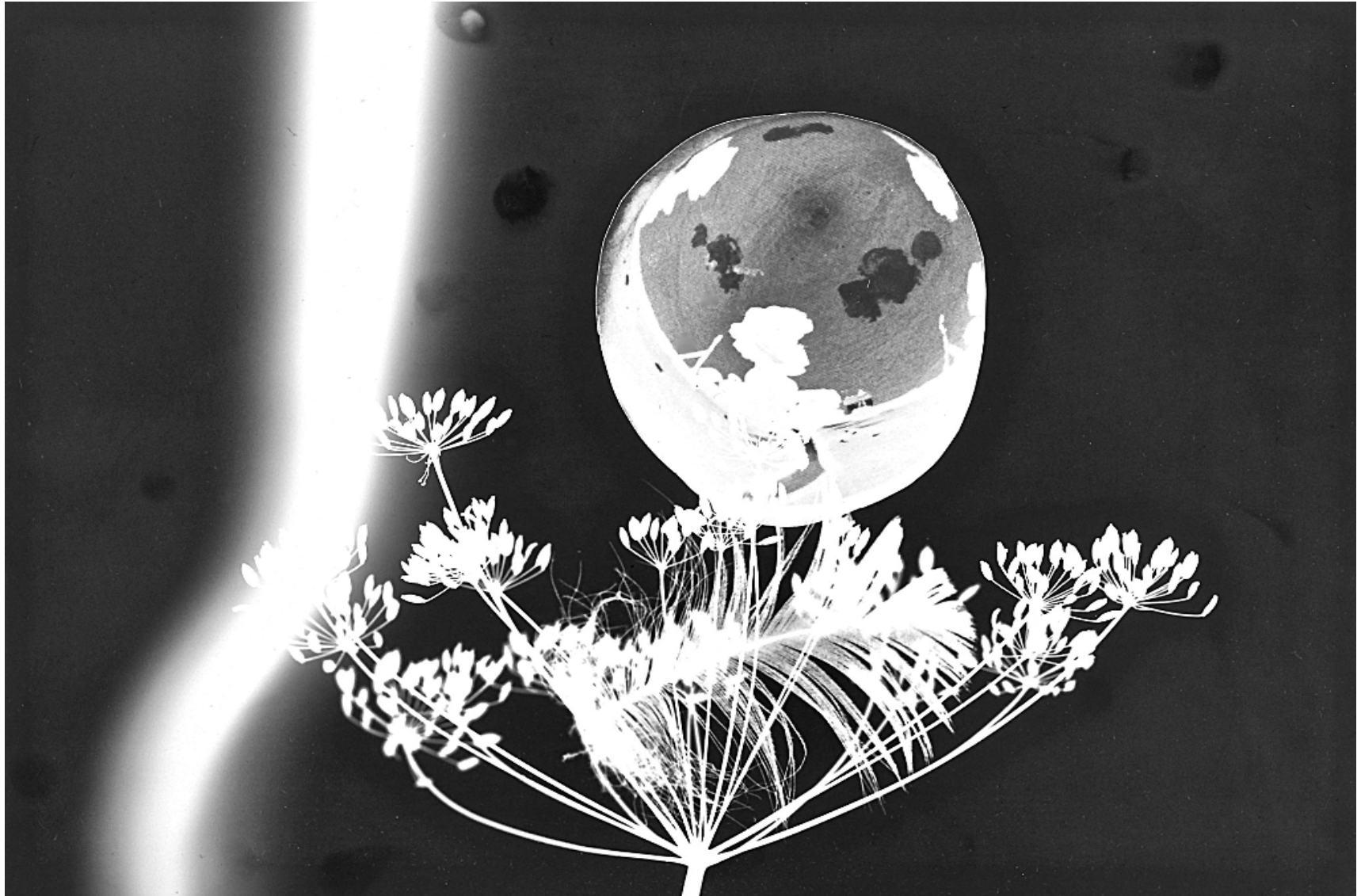
Homage to Saint-Exupéry: I write the "ich" or "I" picture, with laser light



Homage to Saint-Exupéry: Spring secret



Homage to Saint-Exupéry: The Little Prince and the Rose



Homage to Saint-Exupéry: the Little Prince and his planet



Homage to Saint-Exupéry: Small planet and the wind



Homage to Saint-Exupery: Spring mystery



Homage to Saint-Exupéry: Poetry



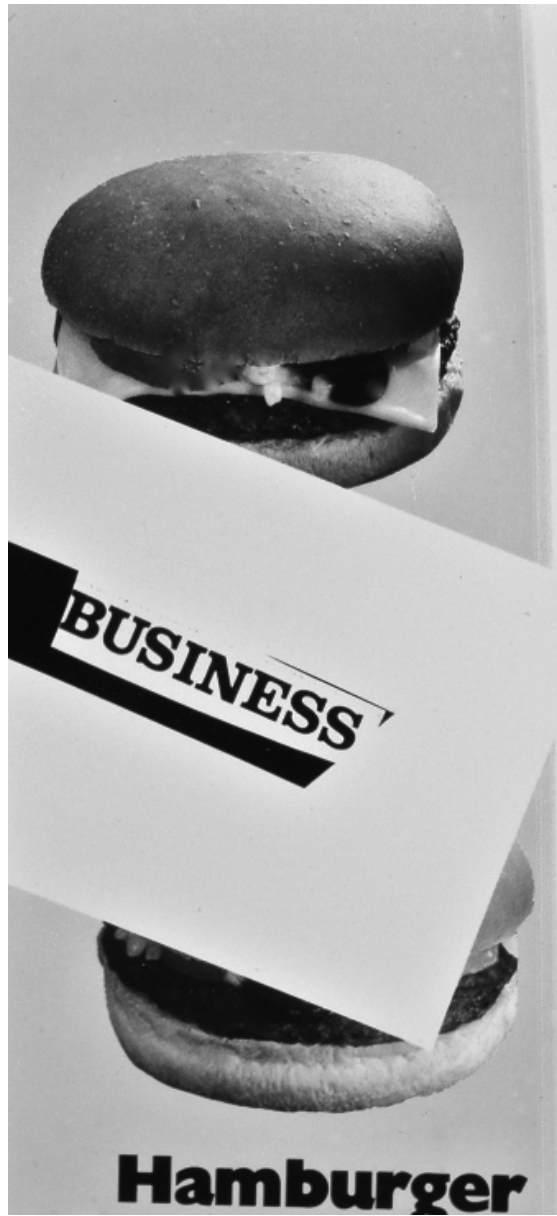
Homage a Saint-Exupéry: Singing wind



Homage to Saint-Exupéry: Aurora take-away



Homage to Saint- Exupéry: Butterfly planet



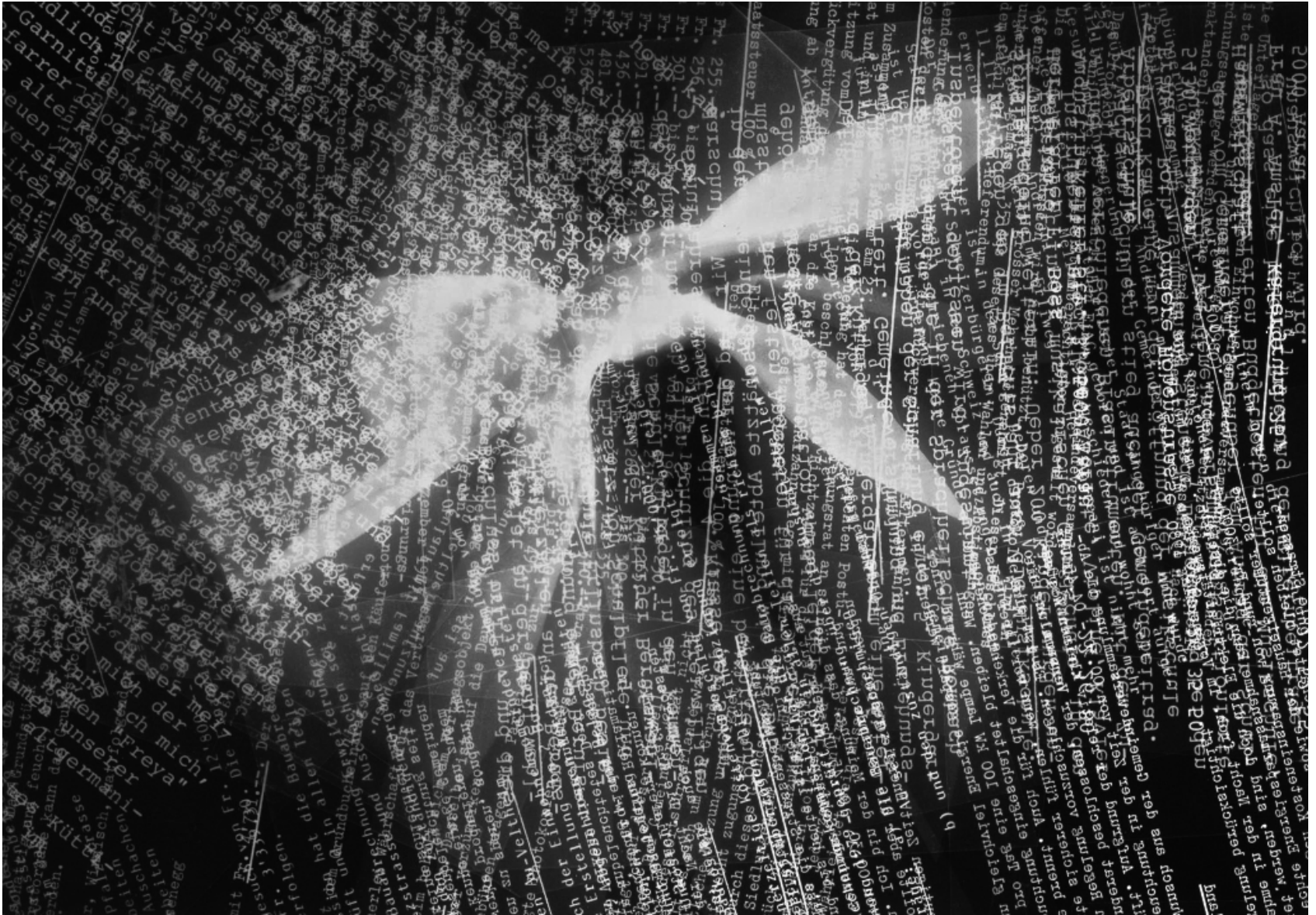
Stories of Life: Business hamburger



Stories of Life: Meeting



Stories of Life: Friday, 8.30 pm



Endless Stories of Life

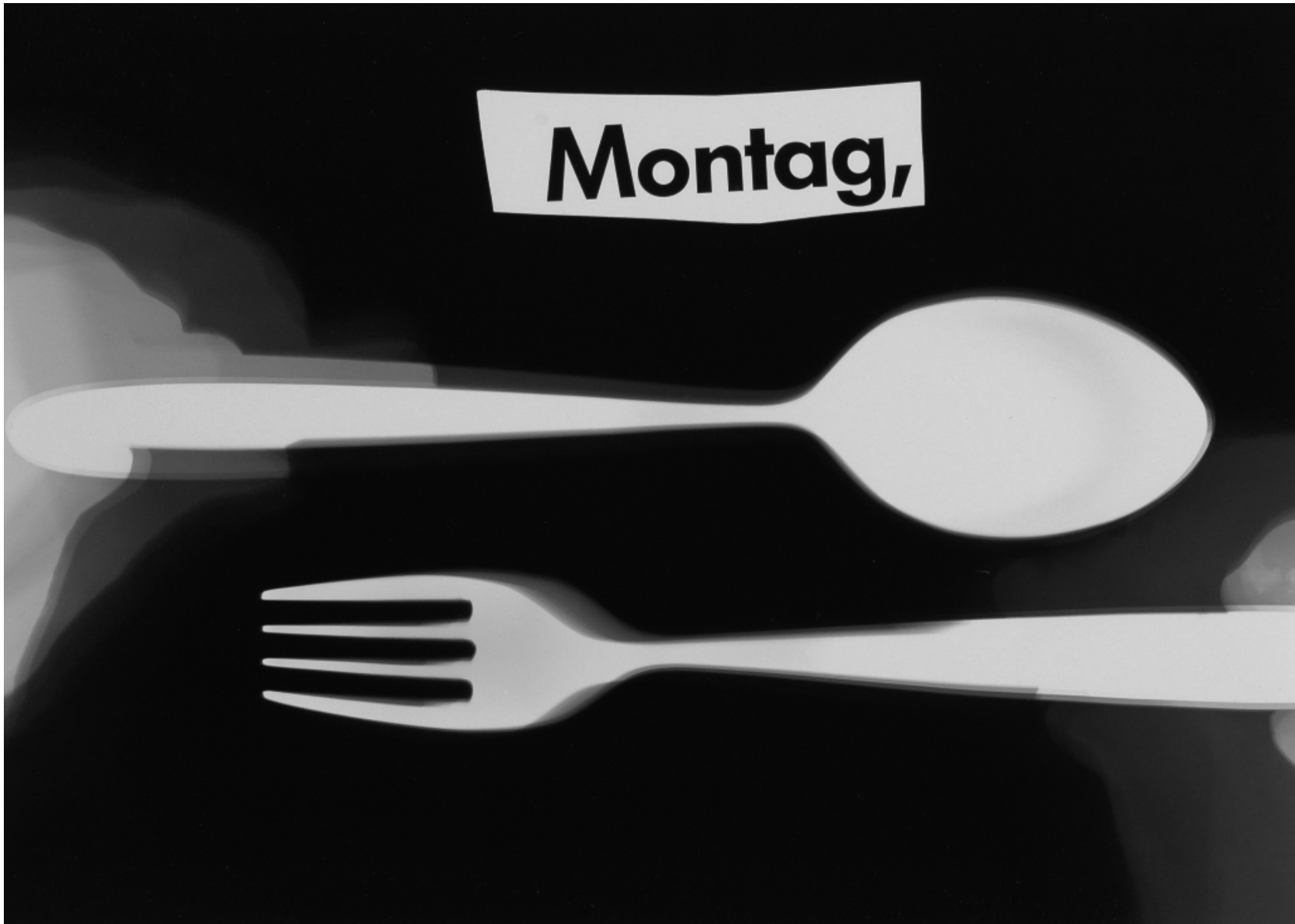


Unknown Stories of Life



Stories of Life: Evening checkout

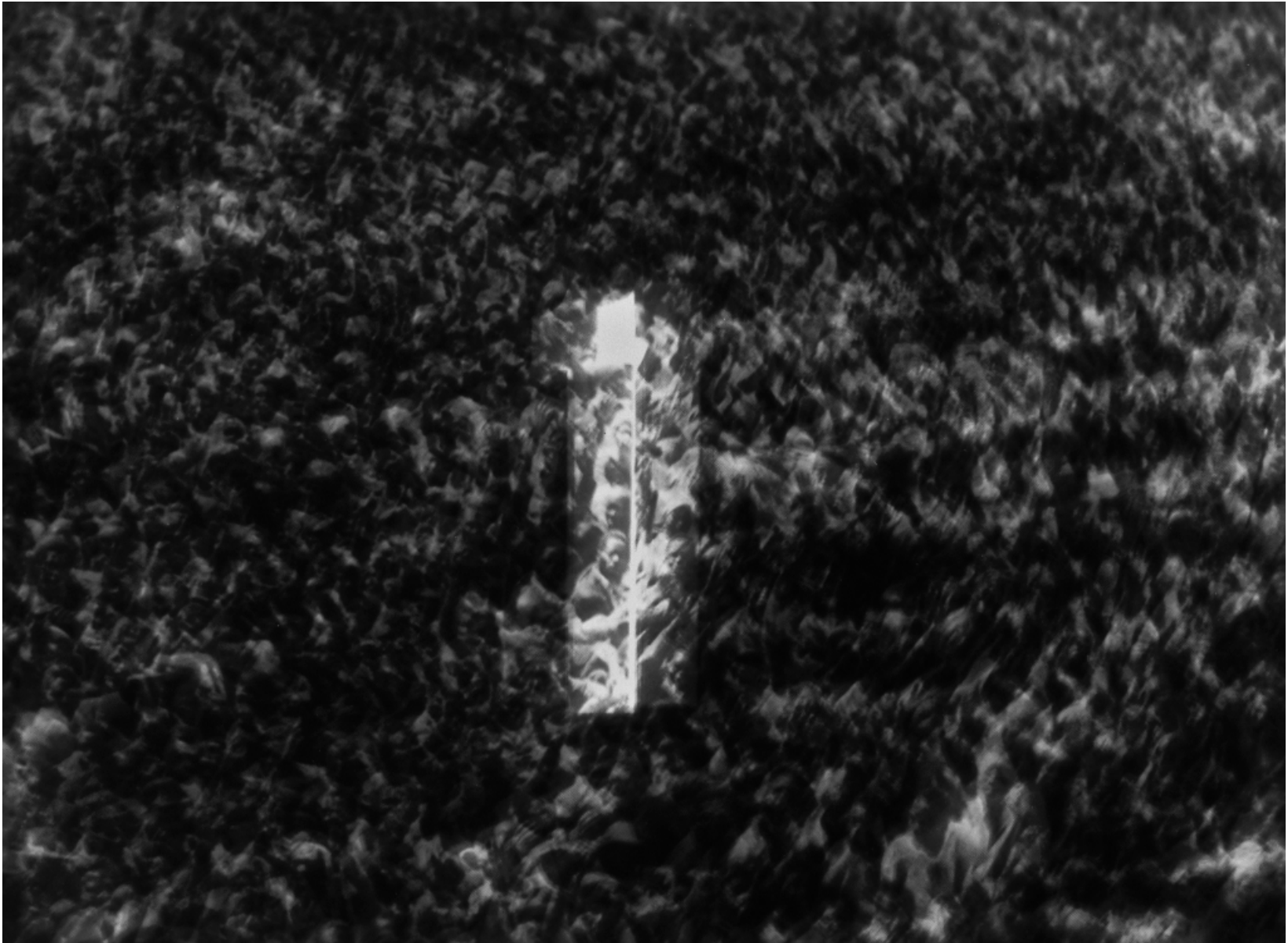
Montag,



Stories of Life: Monday at noon



Stories of Life: Tectonics



Stories of Life: Urban life



Stories of Life: North and south light

Maria Dundakova

**"Game Rules for Everyday Life" Project
Work in progress – "20 Stories of Life".**

Statement

Artificial light makes the Earth glow at night. Our feeling for light, space and time has taken on new dimensions.

I use a laser light beam to draw. I write (the "ich" or "I" picture) on photosensitive paper. Using light and shadow, I create landscapes on Ilford b&w photographic paper, reducing each statement to a photogram picture code that is both ambiguous and unambiguous.

I construct visual scenes and small stories from the light itself and performative actions I undertake for myself.

The interaction of light and shadow communicates personal emotional messages.

By interdisciplinary means, I relate the fluctuating language of the picture to small, photographically documented, life- and light-based events. Realities emerge, acquiring presence from light.

In the dialogue of light, I draw experienced, considered and sensed realities or metaphors.

A picture is not an illustration or document of an idea but the idea itself!

Photograms and new technologies

I arrange photographic, drawn or edited visual elements straight onto photo paper, textile and transparent crystals, expose it to light, move the light, and then develop the photographic paper in a chemical bath.

Each photo is the unique sum of individual events, therefore not reproducible.

The direct effect of light on the photographic paper opens up new dialogues between material presence, personal performative actions, emotional intelligence and computer image processing.

The resulting photogram series is interdisciplinary and rich in experience, new and related directly to life, just as photography has always found and explored its motifs in life itself.

A book of "Stories of Life"

Each image can be viewed on its own or interpreted together as stories. **The viewer** can combine the visual stories into complete sets. A picture does not illustrate or document a reality or an idea but is the idea itself, the picture-code grammar of the constantly self-renewing world. The visual language of communication is as old as the world itself.

A photo book can be an object that enriches viewers as they explore their own feelings and reflections.

Themes: Work in progress – "Stories of Life".

A picture is more than just a picture!

Pictures are the new world language that unites all cultures. They create virtual realities, transport information and are also the information itself that, in the communication pathways, generates and stores images that permeate our collective unconscious.

In an era of change, questions arise regarding the boundaries between conflicts, stabilising relationships, concerns about human identity, documented life events and experiences. How do we reconcile the scientific view of the world, which is kept in perpetual motion by genetic engineering, nanotechnology, highways of digital light photons, data pools and manipulations, with our innermost, unseen but deeply felt being? The beauty of fragility, the intelligence of longing and the strategies for survival are all firmly linked with our constantly renewing VISUAL WORLDS, in which there has always been a place for poetry.

Nature slowly formed our body sensors thousands of years ago. The need for us to respond properly to the world through our own senses requires a far-reaching re-evaluation of verbal and visual realities.