

Urs Lüthi

Istituto Svizzero

Urs Lüthi (Kriens, 10 September 1947) is a Swiss photographer, painter and performance artist.

Lüthi attended the Zurich School of Applied Arts from 1963 to 1964. He then worked as a freelance graphic designer and artist. In 1966 he held his first solo exhibition "Pinksized", with paintings of Pop Art influence at the Beat Mäder Gallery in Bern.

In 1969 he switched to photography and in 1970 he gained quite some success with a series of androgynous self-portraits exhibited at the Galerie Toni Gerber in Bern.

In 1980 he began to paint also large acrylic paintings. In the late 80's he switched to art installations. Since 1994 he has been a professor at the Kassel Art Academy. During the 2001 Venice Biennale, he transformed the Swiss pavilion entitled "Trademarks, low action, Game II, Run for your life ..." into an installation work where he presented himself, ironically, lying in the center of the room, smiling, dressed in a suit with sports shoes and sunglasses.

His works can be viewed in many museums, for example at the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, at the Kunstmuseum in Bern and at the Pompidou Centre in the National Museum of Modern Art in Paris and at the MADRE in Naples.