

„Chamber Studies“

or alternatively
“Space, Boundary, Visibility”

In this series we explore the relationship between body and space. At its centre stands a metal chamber, one metre by one metre – a container that confines and liberates in the same breath, that offers shelter and holds one in. Photographed on film, this architectural miniature becomes the setting for images that speak of confinement and release, of hiding and being seen.

Die Box wird gekippt fotografiert. Das Model nimmt darin verschiedene Posen ein – es geht um den Raum, den man sich nimmt, oder der einem von außen zugewiesen, begrenzt oder verweigert wird. Um die Spannung zwischen Innen und Außen, zwischen der Begrenzung, die man spürt, und dem Schutz, den derselbe Raum bieten kann. Mit der Zeit verändert sich auch die Kammer selbst: kleinere und größere Boxen zwingen den Körper zu immer neuen Anpassungen. Erst in der Vergrößerung auf Papier gleichen sich die Formate wieder an – der Körper scheint zu schrumpfen oder zu wachsen, obwohl er sich nie verändert. Es ist der Raum um ihn herum, der sich verschiebt.

The chamber is photographed tilted. Within it, the model takes on a series of poses – it is about the space one claims, or the space that is assigned, limited, or denied from outside. About the Tension between inside and outside, between the confinement one feels and the shelter that same space can offer. Over time, the chamber itself begins to change: smaller and larger versions ask the body to adapt again and again. Only once enlarged and printed do the formats align – the body appears to shrink or grow, though it never changes at all. It is the space around it that shifts.

The individual negatives are assembled into a single large grid – adjoining chambers, each holding a pose, a gesture, a moment of the same body. What emerges is not a single image but a multiplicity: a body shown in many simultaneous states of being. The series treats visibility not as a single act, but as an ongoing, many-sided process of self-assertion in space.

The project is conceived as a collaboration: the sensations, movements, and interpretations of the model are central to how the work comes into being – a dialogue between the artist duo and the Person photographed, in which everyone involved explores together the limits and possibilities of the space.

The Maleks, 2026



chamber studios
make it how

Who we are: a fe-male artistic duo
DIE MALEKS: Nicole und Claus-Peter Malek



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Together in contention. Stillness and movement, opposites and common ground, female and male perspectives. This tension guides us in how we find our images. As a duo, we make analogue photography with an artistic ambition. In project-based work we study ourselves, our surroundings, and nature. Together we reflect on and share our thoughts through our visual language.

We have been creatively active together since 1995. Neither of us exists alone. The tension, familiarity, and ease that mark our connection are part of our art. Through our exchange, our tension, and our collaboration we inspire one another and distil the best from what we do. Over the years, our respective roles within a work have increasingly blurred. All of our projects are joint productions. For this reason we deliberately refrain from attributing the work to a single author.

Mindfulness

We have chosen analogue photography. Every technique that reduces and limits us forces us to engage more and more deeply with individual thoughts and images. Patience and slowness teach us to look even more closely. For Chamber Studies we work with film and large-format cameras; the negatives are enlarged in the darkroom and printed onto photographic paper. All images are unique originals.

Recent Exhibitions:

Places of retreat - between light and shadow - 2025

OFF//FOTO Festival Ludwigshafen, Joint exhibition Günther Wilhelm

Biomimikry - 2024, Deidesheim 3F Museum

Our work on 'Biomimicry' in the 3F Museum – a German museum for photography, film and television technology in a historic building.

Contradiction - 2022, Wien

As part of the rotlicht festival 2022 we were exhibiting in Vienna at the Semperdepot.

Rest and Movement - 2022, Köln

Solo exhibition at the Stadtmuseum Köln (Wehrturm Zündorf) – over eight floors we showed works on the theme of rest and movement.

Generations - 2021, Plauen

In the context of the exhibition „Father and Son – Very Real!“ of the gallery e. o. plauen we presented specially made photographs on the topic „Generations“ and mainly focused on the female aspect.