

James Kline - a man who studied the light

The exhibition "Seeing Beyond Three Dimensions" by James Kline features portrait drawings and photographs. Works for which vibrations and energy are meaningful.

Nathalie Benelli

Rilke looks at the viewers penetratingly. But not only his portrait can be seen on Sunday, January 14, in Salgesch, Switzerland. 14 personalities are captured in black and white graphite portraits. The portraits are drawn in such detail that a confusion with photos can only be ruled out at second glance. James Kline has drawn the personalities from photographs. "I was looking for photos where people are looking directly into the camera and where the light is interesting," says James Kline. During the long process of drawing from ten to twelve hours, he got to know the portrayed persons better. He chose people who had conveyed a message. People from literature, art, science, politics, spirituality.

Fabienne Mathier is the wife of James Kline. She says, "When James is drawing, it's just him and the people he's portraying, then he's in another world for hours." When you look at the portraits, you enter into a relationship with the person depicted. And inevitably you ask yourself: What kind of person is this person, what does he/she have to do with me and my life?

"The eyes are the most important thing," says James Kline. Only if he manages to capture the special expression of the eyes, the portrait is good. "When you look into their eyes, you can feel their energy."

In the meantime James Kline has created about 60 portraits. Series allow him to show more variations and cover a topic more comprehensively. Many portraits have been drawn while traveling with the campervan. "During the pandemic we bought a campervan and used it to travel through Switzerland and later Europe," says Fabienne Mathier. The A4 format was well suited for working in tight spaces.

James Kline has only been engaged in portrait painting for the past two years. He grew up in Ohio, USA. He attended three art schools and devoted many years to photography, especially architectural photography. He later turned to film. "Photography, film and drawing are not all that different," says James Kline, "it's always about the light. I've done nothing but study the light all my life," he says.

Met at a film project

James Kline met Fabienne Mathier on the set of *Oneness – Journey of Awakening*. Fabienne Mathier comes from Salgesch, Switzerland and she worked for ten years as a psychologist and psychotherapist. She then studied theatre pedagogy, wrote a play, completed further



James Kline and Fabienne Mathier between the portraits in Salgesch, Switzerland.

Picture: pomona.media

training as a First Assistant Director and acquired skills in directing, screenplay writing and editing at the München Film Akademie. Her first film was released in 2014: "Winna – Path of the souls". It was a success.

When Fabienne Mathier was looking for a cinematographer for her second film "Oneness – Journey of Awakening" in 2017, James Kline was recommended to her. "While working on the film, we realized there was more than just a professional connection between us," she says. They became a couple in 2018 and married in 2020.

In fact, another joint film project was planned. James Kline made drawings for this film. For various reasons, the film project was not realized. Fabienne Mathier does not see this as a failure: "It was only during the preparations for the film project that I realized how well my husband could draw. Then it was clear to me that these drawings had to go out into the world." She has put her own film projects on hold and is supporting James Kline in organizing the exhibitions.

Fabienne Mathier and James Kline are guided by the flow of life. "If we had always planned everything strictly, we would have missed out on a lot of beauty. Things and events that we felt were the great gifts of life," she says. One leads to the other. Everything is connected and is one.

An eye for the subtle, beautiful

James Kline captures special moments with his camera. Photographs under the title "Golden Vibrations" can also be seen in Salgesch. They

are images of the mouth of a river into the ocean. James Kline photographed how the energy of the water constantly reshapes the sand and creates structures. "I was stunned by these ever-changing patterns created by the flowing water. I captured these moments on camera knowing they were unique." The sheer beauty of these vibrational patterns fascinates him. He has an eye for the subtle, the energy that drives and sustains life.

James Kline wants to inspire people with his pictures and photographs and make them think about life. "Sometimes I can see things that others don't see, and I want to share those insights," James Kline says. His motivation is joy. It is as if he is calling to the viewers with his art: "I have discovered something, look closely, I will show it to you!"

"I knew that these drawings had to go out into the world."

"When you look into the eyes of the people portrayed, you can feel their energy."

James Kline
Artist

Fabienne Mathier
Filmmaker