Heidi Harsieber – Werner Kuntschik

Edited by Bertold Ecker, Heidi Harsieber

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With texts by Bertold Ecker, Heidi Harsieber, Werner Kuntschik, Claudia Schumann
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In just a few years, the Austrian artist Werner Kuntschik created an intense body of work, most of which is now part of the Wien Museum's collection. He painted figuratively and explored the themes and styles of his time, favoring the grotesque and the uncanny, taking his cues from Surrealism and Francis Bacon.
The photographer and artist Heidi Harsieber was closely associated with Werner Kuntschik until his death in 1972. She later created new series and the large *Epitaph for Werner* from their joint photographic work. Most of these works are now part of the Albertina's collection.
In this book, Heidi Harsieber brings together Werner Kuntschik's work in a meticulously documented catalog. In addition to his paintings, she presents the joint photographic works and her later photo series that belong in this context.
Heidi Harsieber has been present on the Austrian photographic art scene since the 1970s and has been able to confirm her position in recent years. In May 2025, she will open a solo exhibition entitled *Heidi Harsieber. Full Spectrum. A Life with Photography* at the Landesgalerie Niederösterreich in Krems (May 10 – November 9, 2025).

The artist performs his high-wire balancing act between mirror image and silver backing, a balancing act everyone should perform, and has done so, for everyone is an artist, or was once; indeed, art is nothing but a part of life: it is merely a means of development, a means to be born before one dies. Werner Kuntschik