

# White Splendour

**Technique:**

Photography

**Year of origin:**

2009/2010

**Size:**

45 cm x 30 cm; 5 Portraits à 5 Photos

**Content:**

Through her photographic series *White Splendour* Valérie Wagner is paying homage to age and the beauty of white hair.

Humans of all descents are connected by the phenomenon of white hair, no matter which colour they have. People are equal in the fundamental human experience of heading to a terminal point: the process is marked by physical changes of body and appearance.

Valérie Wagner has staged and photographed white hair as a visual phenomenon: she is observing precisely and staging the photographs in a neutral, almost scientific way.

People of various skin colour are an important part of the project as well as younger participants who are celebrating the beauty of white hair by dyeing their hair before they go white naturally. Each portrait has been completed by an image of snow visually connected to the respective person.

The expression *White Splendour* is often used for snow masses in winter which marks the last season of the year and is linked to old age and the end of life. Valérie Wagner chose photographs that combine snow and earth: ageing is a process not a definite final condition, as white hair is not necessarily connected to old age – the project participants were aged between 29 and 93 years.

**Award:** Art Award SKULL 2013 (2nd Category Photography), Kunsthalle Leoben/Austria

**Exhibitions:**

**2013** Kunsthalle Leoben, Austria (G)

**2011** BBK-Gallery Mainz/Art Society Essenheim, Germany (S)

**2010**, Gallery bautzner 69, Dresden, Germany (S)

**2009**, Pentiment 2009, Hamburg, Germany (G)