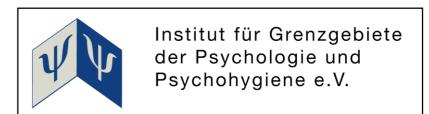
#### **Archives and Exhibitions**

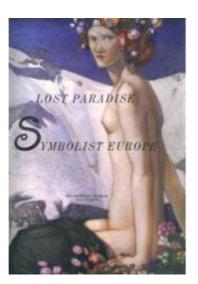
Andreas Fischer (IGPP, Freiburg i.Br.)

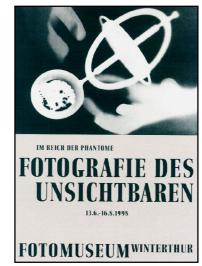


#### A new field of work at the IGPP: exhibition projects

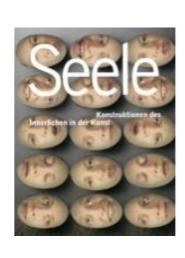








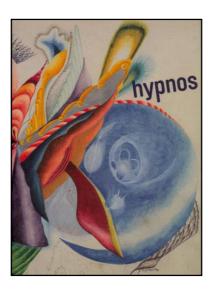


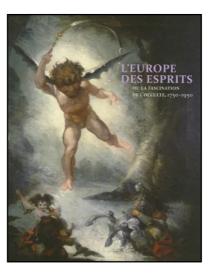








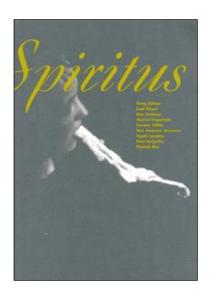




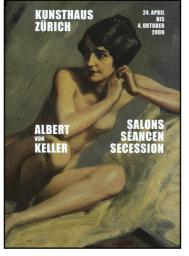


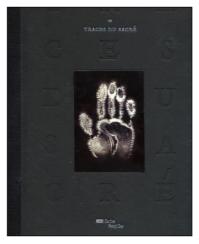




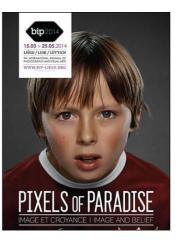






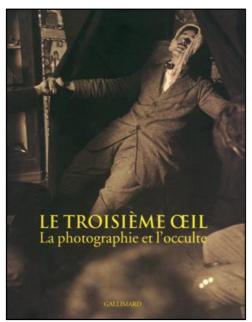








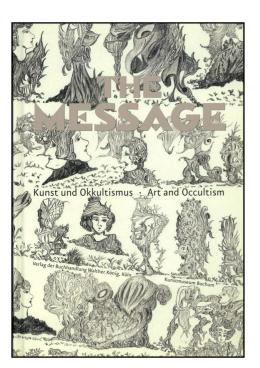
#### Main topics



"Photography":

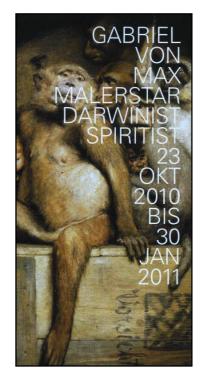
Occult and paranormal photographs in the context of history of photography, theory of media etc.

"The Perfect Medium - Photography and the Occult" /"Le Troisième Oeil - La photographie et l'occulte"
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Maison Europeenne de la Photographie, Paris 2004 / 2005



"Spirit/Mediumistic Art" / "Outsider Art" (Art brut)

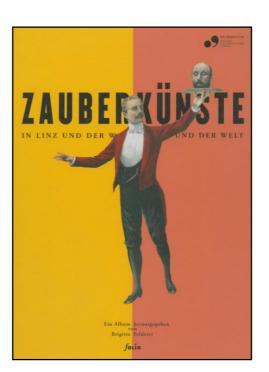
Automatic drawing and painting.



Lenbachhaus München, 2011

"Art and the Occult":

Influence of occult theories and related visual documents on art and artists from the 19th century to the present.



"Zauberkünste", Nordico -Museum der Stadt Linz, 2009

"Cultural History":

magic, history of science, religious and spiritual context, etc.

The Message. Kunst und Okkultismus Cologne Fine Art, Kunstmuseum Bochum, 2007, 2008

#### Other exhibitions



The Spiritual in Art - Abstract Painting 1890 - 1985 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1986



Johannes Itten, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee. Das Bauhaus und die Esoterik Gustav-Lübcke-Museum Hamm, Museum im Kulturspeicher Würzburg, 2005



Laura Larson ,Apparition ' 2005



Holy Inspiration: Religion and Spirituality in Modern Art Stedelijk Museum in de nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam, 2007/2008.



Rudolf Steiner und die Kunst der Gegenwart Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, 2010



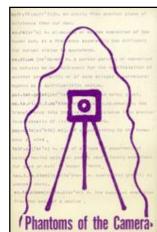
"Wach sind nur die Geister" Phoenix Halle Dortmund, 2009



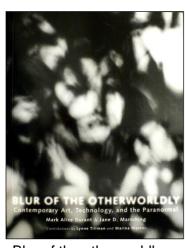
Gespenster, Magie und Zauber in der Kunst. Konstruktionen des Irrationalen von Füssli bis heute (2011/2012)



Horst Ademeit Wohnen in der Strahlenkälte Galerie Zander, Köln, 2009



Phantoms of the Camera New York, 1972



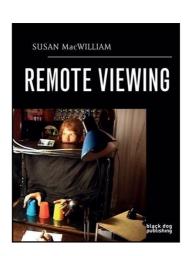
Blur of the otherworldly: contemporary art, technology, and the paranormal Center for Art and Visual Culture, 2005



The Disembodied Spirit Bowdoin College Museum, Brunswick, Maine 2003/ 2004.



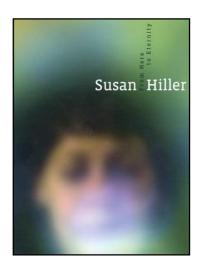
Shift, Basel, 2009 Exhibition



Susan MacWilliam Remote Viewing Biennale Venedig, 2009



Transformation.
Art and Tactical Magic.
(Kunst und taktische
Magie)
Frankfurter Kunstverein
, u.a. 2008



Susan Hiller: From Here to Eternity Neues Museum Nürnberg, 2011

#### Research topics

The exhibition included and inspired lots of studies about the history of Spiritualism, occultism, early psychical research and parapsychology in different academic fields, in different countries.

Example: "Art and the Occult" at the IGPP

- Historiography of exhibitions: historical developments, possible changes in regard topics, academic preferences, "forgotten" or extinguished positions, etc.
- Different types of artistic approaches to the "occult" and relevant topics (e.g. artists acting like a "medium", as "theorist of media" etc.) Incl. interviews e.g. on motivation, theoretical background etc., understanding better the reciprocity of both fields.
- Different "cases studies" related to archival material at the IGPP: "The reception of A.v. Schrenck-Notzing in art", (incl. a ,Catalogue raisonée' of his photogr. work), "Reconstructing the Poltergeist: Hans Bender, Leif Geiges and the work of the artist A. and B. Blume" , etc. (exhibitions, catalogues).
- Documentation, enriching the archival section.

**Example:** Art works simulating "occult practises"



Sam Ashlev Ghost detector 1994 - 2005



Katrin Günter The Clearing (Cabinet of

2009



**Thougtphotographi** 



Aids 3D Ghost Trone.



Archival ressources as a source for artistic works

(3 Audio-Cds with recordings of "poltergeist-phenomena", "direct-" or "trance speech", "paranormal music", "xenoglossy" etc.)

Example: Art works connected with "occult voices"

#### **Exploring Archives**

The projects included, to varying extents, the worldwide search for relevant archival and historical resources for research purposes and for possible exhibits. At the beginning the search was hindered by the lack of reliable or detailed information on locations, holdings, accessibility, context, etc. Repositories or individuals holding several hundred collections of different types were contacted or visited.

Of great importance were also the IGPP archives which have been built up systematically since 1995 thanks to the financial support received from the Holler Foundation. The archives of the German "scientific occultist" and medical doctor Albert von Schrenck-Notzing (1862–1929) played an important role in this context.



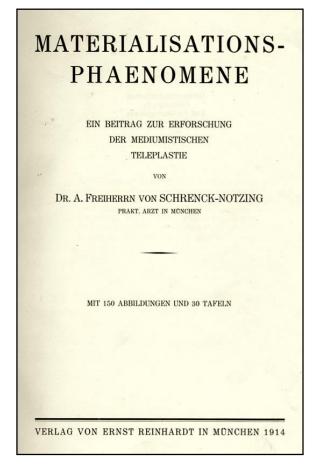


A wooden box with photographic glass plates used for conferences by **Schrenck-Notzing** 

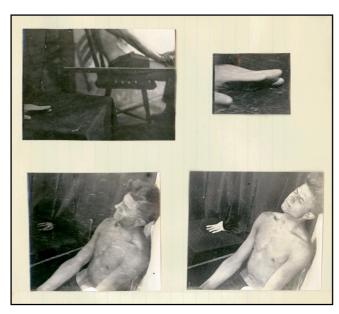
A.v. Schrenck-Notzing, c. 1886.

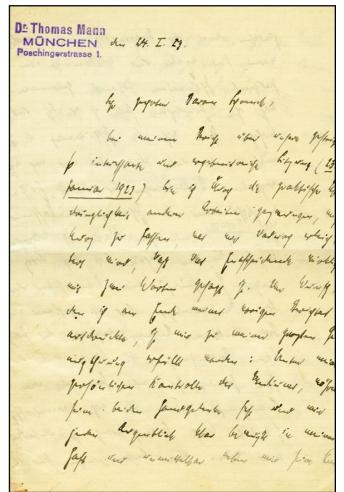
At this age he started his first investigations on paranormal phenomena, on "Telepathy and Hypnosis".

#### Two memorable cases









Letter from T. Mann to Schrenck-Notzing at the archives of the IGPP

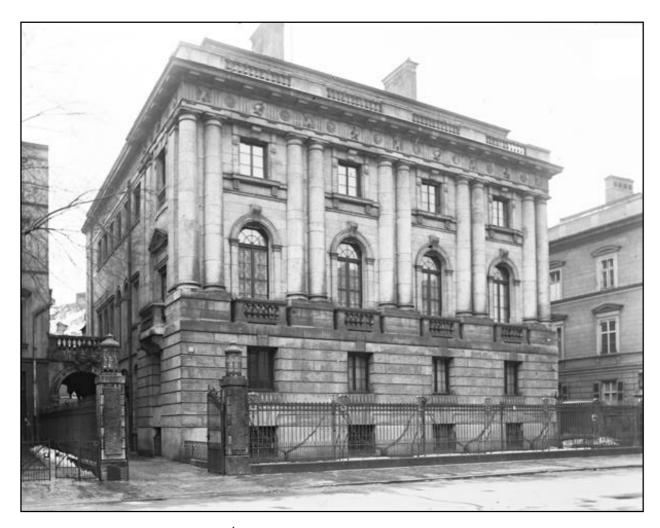
Research on "materialisationphenomena" (1909 -1913)

**Experiments based on,,photographic evidence**"

Experiments with Rudi and Willi Schneider on telekinesis and materialisation-phenomena and (1919 - 1928)

Experiments based on "public evidence" by renowed eye witnesses, such as the writer Thomas Mann.

#### The "Stiftung Schrenck-Notzing"



The Munich ,Palais ' of the researcher, around 1910



Hans Bender (1907–1991), around 1950

Schrenck-Notzing, who had no institutional background, made no arrangements for securing his collection on parapsychology, although colleagues tried to convince him repeatedly about his "moral responsibility"

Hans Bender showed as early as 1933 a particular interest in the preservation of the scientific legacy of Schrenck-Notzing, covering "fifty years of collector activities".He succeeded not until 1941, when the "Palais" had to be cleared out. (The residence was transformed in a administrative building of Nazi authorities.) The archives were transferred to Bender, then Professor at the "Reichsuniversität" Strasbourg.

# Fragmenting Schrenck 's archives



Manfred Dierks

- Lots of "incriminating matters" were destroyed shortly after his death to protect his memory.
- Separation of "valuable" and "useless" material by colleagues in regard further research on parapsychology. Later separation of Schrenck 's library and papers, without making an inventory of the literature. Part of the books were sold.
- The archives were several times moved. No detailed inventory had ever been made, few arrangements in regard protection. The boxes were stored for decades at the attic at the IGPP. There are further losses in this period.
- The archival work of arrangement and description revealed the irrecoverable loss of great parts of Schrenck-Notzing's heritage, considering the richness of his work and life.

  (Rarely scientific correspondence, very little material on hypnotism, on spiritism, about his work as expert for occultism before the courts, about his worldwide "occult" network etc. The collection of "valuable, unpublished manuscripts" disappeared or most of the content of almost hundred files
- Nevertheless the archives offers fascinating insights into the great era of physical mediumship, esp. in regard the rareness of such documents in Germany.

with press clippings from 1890 to 1929.)

(Highlights are documents on the "Schneider-case", the collection of photographs on materialization-phenomena, some papers on investigation on poltergeist phenomena).

"Narrative" biography on Schrenck-Notzing by Manfred Dierks, based on the archives at the IGPP (2012)

# Some further remarks in regard archival research on Schrenck-Notzing

- "Path of destruction": Many archives of Schrenck 's colleagues or relevant institutions disappeared almost completely.
- Many archives related to history of parapsychology, which survived in public institutions are not arranged or even available.
- Historic aspects are often underestimated in todays parapsychology due to other priorities. There are also very different concepts in regard what belongs to the "proper" field incl. its history. Some materials were regarded as "dangerous" for the (academic) respectability.
- There were quite some hindrances conducting research in archives or collections in the field, mainly due to their limited resources. On the other hand we experienced also "informal" access to holdings and a very cooperative behaviour, which facilitated basic research in an incredible way.

# New framing of Schrenck 's photographs

First presented as documents illustrating a scientific approach to the paranormal at the beginning of the 20th century they were more and more interpreted from an aesthetic perspective, even reframed as works of art.







#### Schrenck and Art



The medium Lina M. in hypnotic trance showing "Furious threat" (1887)

Experiment on gestures and bodily expressions under hypnosis.

"Dr. von Schrenck-Notzing kommt die Ehre zu., auf dem ersten "Congrès International de Psychologie" (Paris, 1889) ausdrücklich auf den "künstlerischen Wert der hysterischen und hypnotischen Ausdrucks-phänomene" hingewiesen zu haben."

André Breton, Le Message automatique, 1933.



The "dream dancer" Magdeleine G. at the Schauspielhaus München (1904) Experiments on hypnosis and art

"Der Tanz der Zukunft" Günther Fuchs, 1904.



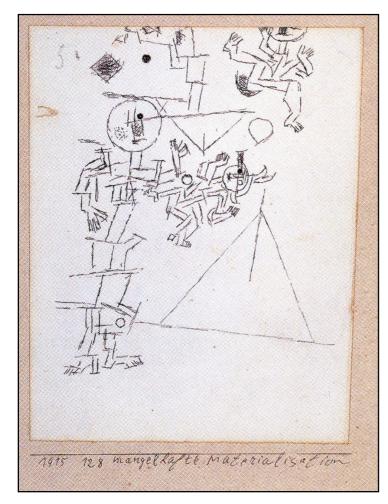
The medium Eva C. with a materialization of a female figure (1911)

Comparing mediumistic with artistic production

"So ist die Schöpfung … als Form, Linie und Komposition von unübertrefflicher Schönheit, wie sie nur das Werk eines großen Meisters zeigen kann."

Albert von Keller, 1913.

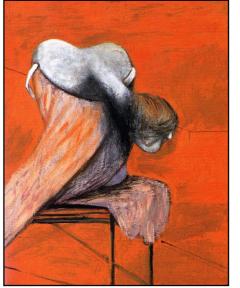
#### Art and Schrenck



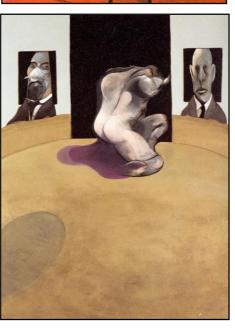
Paul Klee "Mangelhafte Materialisation" 1915



Serie of Schrenck-Notzings photographs at the exhibition "Film und Foto" (1929), selected by Lazlo Maholy-Nagy





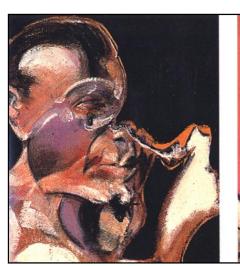


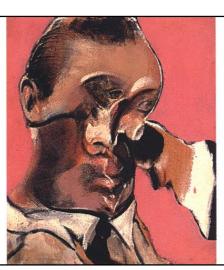


**Francis Bacon** 

Part of "Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucufication" 1944 Part of "Tryptichon 1974 - 77"

#### Visualisation of "Emanations"









Francis Bacon, "Three Studies for Portraits including Self-Portrait" und "Head" 1969







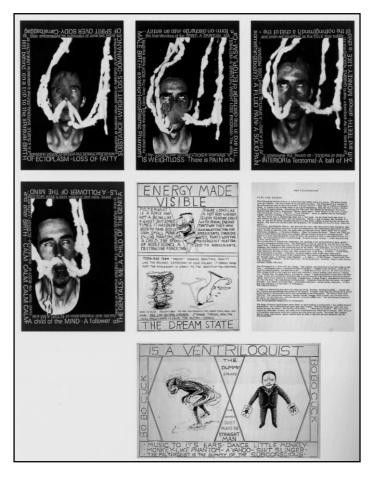
Paul Laffoley, Mind Physics:The Burning of Samsara, 1967



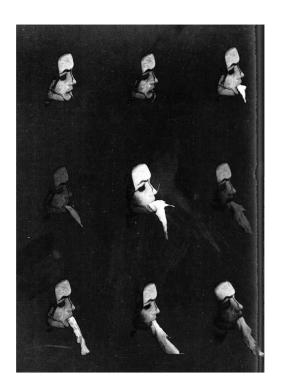
Jan Fabre Materialisierung der Sprache 1987, (presented at the Kunsthistorischen Museum Wien, 2011)



Bernhard Blume Ideoplastik 1972



Mike Kelley, David Askevold "The Poltergeist", 1979

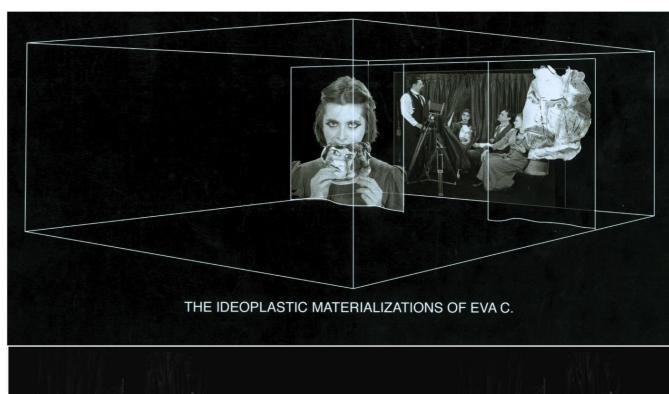


Sebastian Hammwöhner Linea Lactea 2006





Alexander Gehring Messages from the Darkroom 2011





Zoe Beloff, The ideoplastic materializations of Eva.C. 2004 (Four-Channel Stereoscopic Surround Sound DVD Installation)

#### Loosing Control and Context?



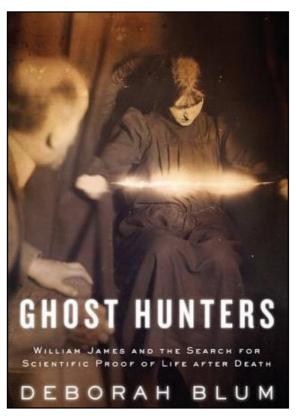
Albert von Schrenck-**Notzing** The medium Eva C. with a materialization on her had" 17. Mai 1912.



Detail published in "Materialization-Phenomena" (1913)



Copy of a photographic glass negativ from the photographic collection of Schrenck-Notzing with a "luminous apparation" between the hands of Eva C. In the protocols and writings the researcher didn't mention the "extra".



Book cover (2007) with retouched image. (The "materialization" on the had has been painted over).

Ignoring the historical context, ignoring the complexity of the field, ignoring the Institute 's "mission" and interest, ignoring "copyrights" etc.

# Looking for Photographs

archival work, documentation, collecting, preserving







Finding the "State of the Art" in regard historical photographs related to the paranormal



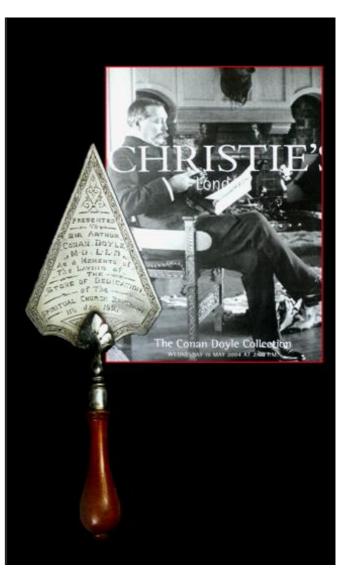
Resulted in a list with c. 150 collections assembling many thousands of vintage prints

#### **Outsiders**

The preservation of some parts of the history of the "occult" is due to "outsiders", like collectors of history of magic.

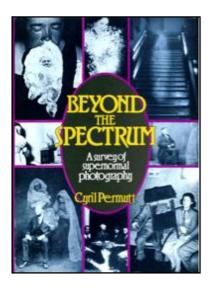






#### **Tracing Photographs**

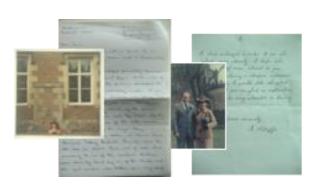
C. Permutt collected "paranormal" photog raphs. Among others he was the "photographic expert" of the SPR.



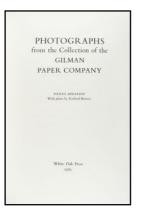
Obviously some of the material has been sold in the 1990th at Christie's



2006: The rest of the Permutt collection were purchased for the archives of the Society for Psychical Research with financial support of the IGPP







The Gilman Paper Company Collection purchased prints



2006 Sale at Keith de Lellis Gallery, New York, presenting some material, which was sold at Christie 's



2005 The Gilman
Paper Company
Collection was
included at the
collection of the MET



Some of the material forms part of the collection of the gallery (A.o. the famous Crookes and Katie King photographs)



#### Gabriel von Max and his "Museum of the Future"







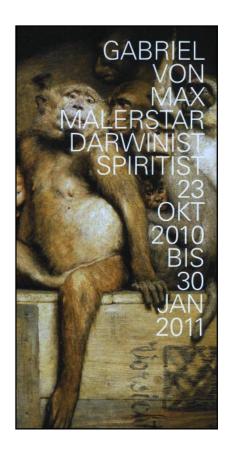
Serie of photographs of Florence Cook, c. 1900







Serie of photographs of the experiments with Eusapia Palladino in Milan



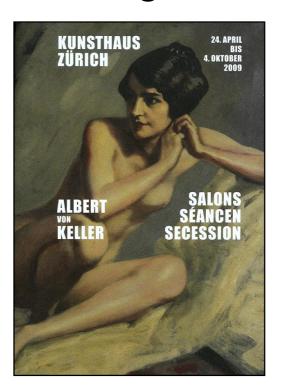


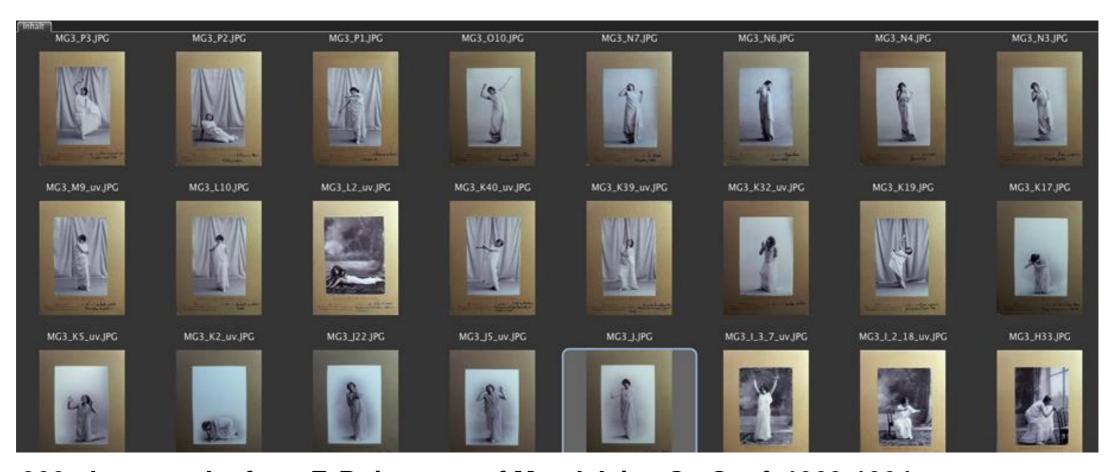
Map of Max', Museum of the Future ", which included a section on Occultism, c. 1890)

### Albert von Keller and the "dream dancer" Magdeleine G.



Albert von Keller Magdeleine Guipet as Cassandra, c.1904



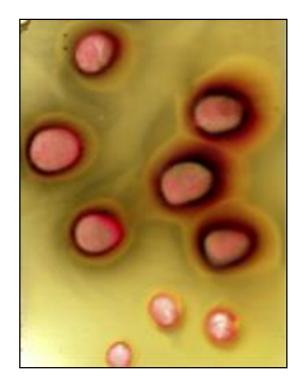


300 photographs from F. Boissonas of Magdeleine G., Genf, 1903-1904

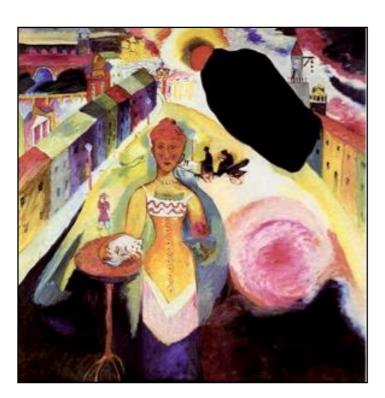
# The photographic estate of Louis Darget

(c.700 photographs, prints and glass plates, notes, correspondence, etc.)

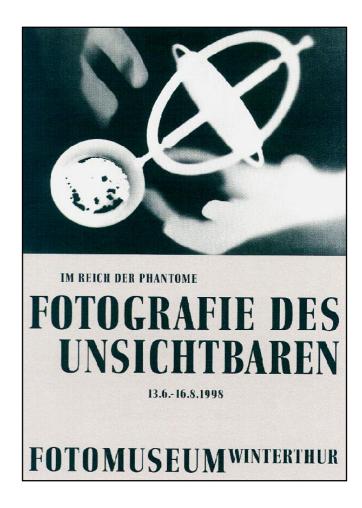




Louis Darget Photographs of "Fluids" 1896 - 1900

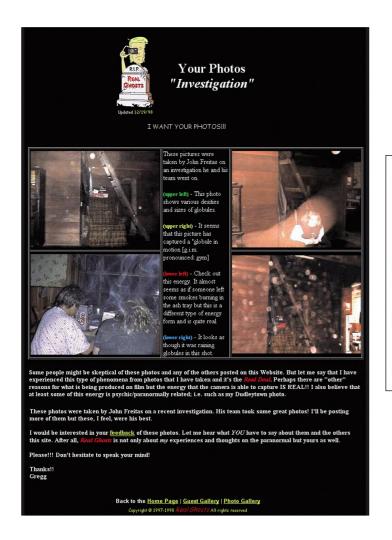


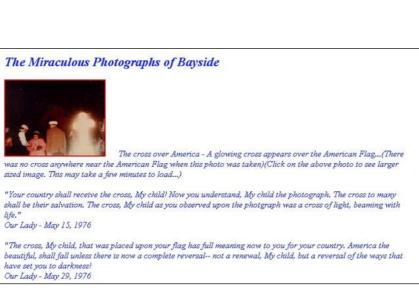
Wassily Kandinsky, Lady in Moskau, 1912

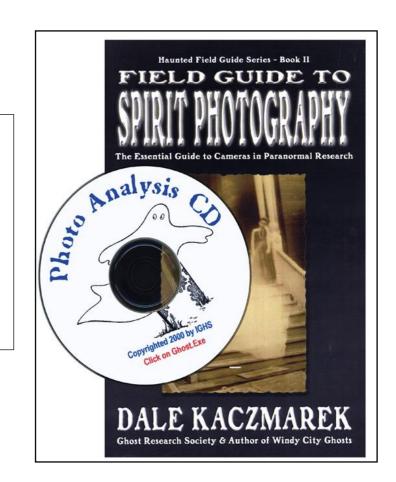


#### Collecting "new data"

#### (Historical material of the future)

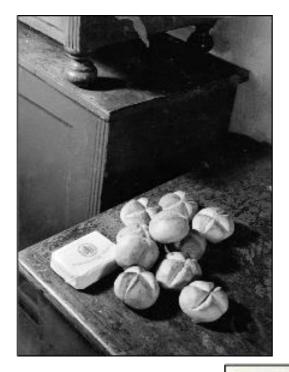






#### Archival work, research and exhibitions









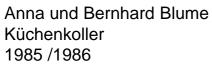
Soukfall Vechenderf

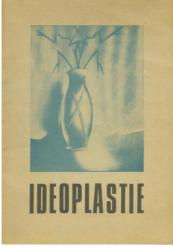
5.) Herr Plach war in Dorf und hat
für das Frühstück Butter und Brötonen eingekeuft. In der Käche lect
er Butter und Brötchen auf eine
Eruhe neben den Tisch.

Smarfall Vacherdorf

6.)Wenigo Firuten spater beginnen die
Brotohen in der Kuche herunzufliegen
und fallen schliebelich auf den Pursbeden.....







Leif Geiges / Hans Bender Fotografische Rekonstruktion des Spukfalls Vachendorf 1949