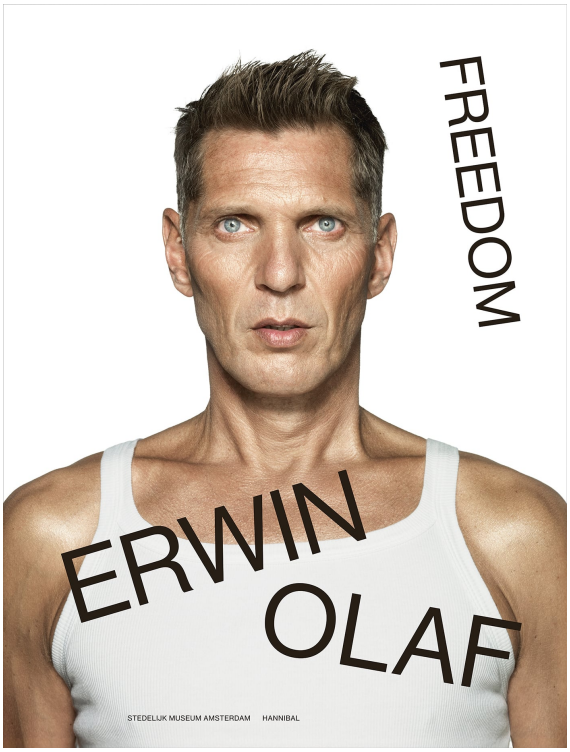
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Erwin Olaf

Freedom

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ISBN	9789493416185
Publisher	Hannibal Books
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	11.5 in x 12.25 in
Pages	384 Pages
Price	$75.00

- Grand Overview of Olaf's Oeuvre: a comprehensive look at his groundbreaking photography, from iconic works to never-before-seen pieces
- Celebration of Activism & Identity: showcases Olaf's powerful exploration of sexuality, vulnerability, and equal rights
- Tied to Major Museum Exhibition: released alongside a landmark Stedelijk Museum retrospective
- Legacy of a Visionary: a final look at one of the Netherlands' most influential photographers and his lasting cultural impact
- Accompanying the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam exhibition of the same name, running from 10 October 2025, to February 2026

Erwin Olaf – Freedom offers an intimate look at the life and work of Erwin Olaf, one of the Netherlands' most groundbreaking photographers. Known for his staged, cinematic imagery and bold aesthetic, Olaf's work explored themes of sexuality, transience, vulnerability, and activism. This book, launching alongside a major Stedelijk Museum exhibition, provides a fresh perspective on his artistic legacy, including unseen works created during his final years.

A tireless advocate for equal rights, Olaf's photography captured the beauty and struggles of marginalized communities – queer individuals, people of color, those with disabilities, and the everyday person. His final pieces, including *Self-Portrait with Lungs* (2023), reveal an even deeper personal and artistic reckoning.

With striking imagery and personal insights, ***Ewin Olaf – Freedom*** is a powerful tribute to an artist who redefined contemporary photography and left behind a legacy of beauty, defiance, and humanity.

Erwin Olaf was an internationally exhibiting artist whose diverse practice centered around society's marginalized individuals, including women, people of color, and the LGBTQ+ community. In 2019 Olaf became a Knight of the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands after 500 works from his oeuvre were added to the collection of the Rijksmuseum. Taco Dibbits, Rijksmuseum director, called Olaf "one of the most important photographers of the final quarter of the 20th century". In 2018, Olaf completed a triptych of monumental photographic and filmic tableaux portraying periods of seismic change in major world cities, and the citizens embraced and othered by their urban progress. Like much of his work, it is contextualized by complex race relations, the devastation of economic divisions, and the complications of sexuality. Olaf has maintained an activistic approach to equality throughout his 40-year career after starting out documenting pre-AIDS gay liberation in Amsterdam's nightlife in the 1980s. A bold and sometimes controversial approach has earned the artist a number of prestigious collaborations, from *Vogue* and Louis Vuitton, to the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. He served as the official portrait artist for the Dutch royal family in 2017, and designed the national side of the euro coins for King Willem-Alexander in 2013. He has been awarded the Netherlands' prestigious Johannes Vermeer Award, as well as Photographer of the Year at the International Color Awards, and *Kunstbeeld* magazine's Dutch Artist of the Year. Erwin Olaf has exhibited worldwide.

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