

FACE(S) OF AFRICA

Photo project by Wolf Nkole Helzle

„To give Africa a face in this way - that thousands through their participation get the feeling of being a part of something big, valuable - it takes not only an idea and my personal energy and strength, it takes many to support it, so that the portrait shots can be taken on location and the result - the soul of Africa - becomes visible to many.“

Wolf Nkole Helzle, January 2021

ONLINE / OFFLINE

Such an idea of portraying thousands of people across an entire continent only becomes an imaginable reality when, due to Corona's travel restrictions in 2020, the artist developed various formats by means of which portraits can be taken both online and offline, thereby eliminating his personal travel expenses.

Two smaller projects have already been carried out successfully: Under the title WHO ARE WE?, a work was created during the second lockdown in Germany, in which the artist was available online for two hours every day and photographed the visitors on the screen with the video conferencing software Zoom. Shortly afterwards, a contact was made in Kathmandu, Nepal, asking if he could photograph the children and teachers of a school via Facebook video call. This is how the group picture FACE(S) OF NEPAL came into being.

At the same time, the concept of the app „YUTUU“ was developed, with which people all over the world can have their picture taken by someone for this pro-



A collective portrait is created from many individual portraits, then a meta-portrait from several collective portraits.

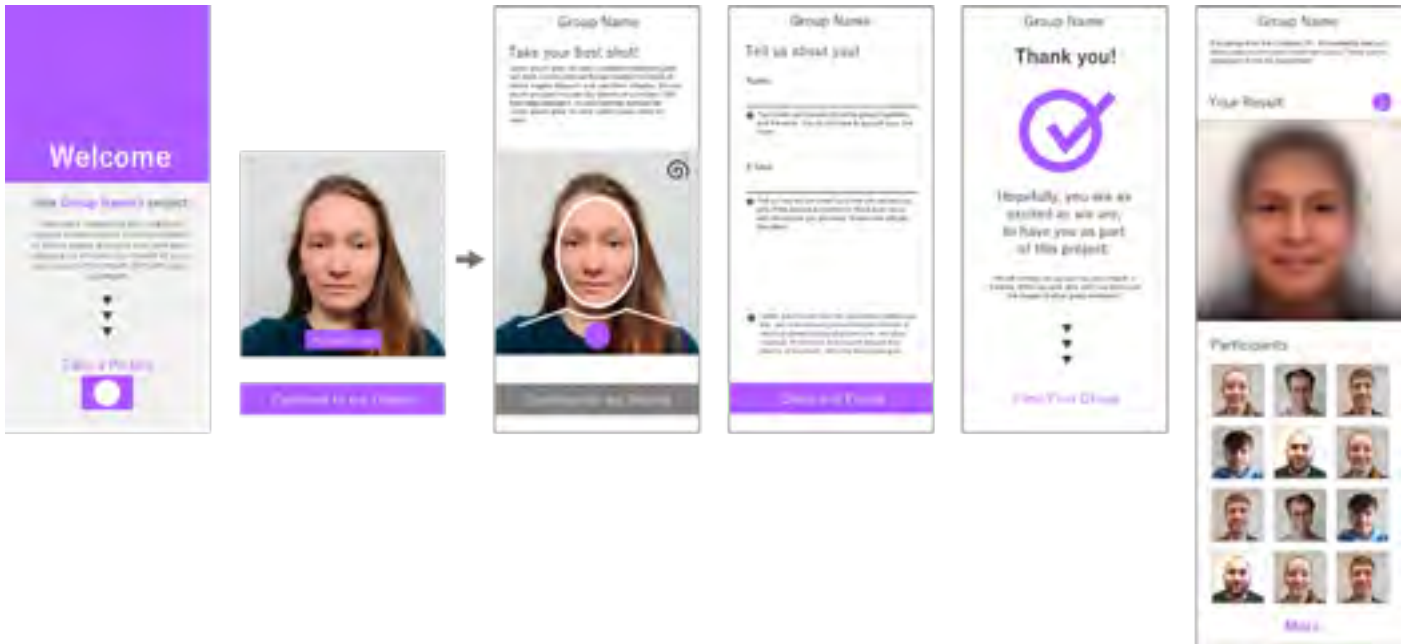


Example of a project in Endingen, in which 28 clubs participated, each group was represented by a flag.

... and I am a part

FACE(S) OF AFRICA

Photo project by Wolf Nkole Helzle



ject. The data ends up in Helzle's database, from which he can then calculate the group portraits and make them available. In places where there is no internet connection, photos can be taken and then sent to Helzle.

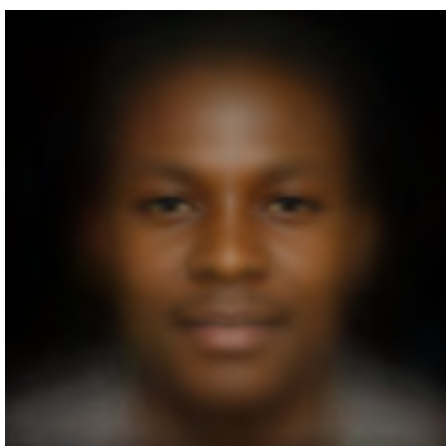
First sketch of the „YUTUU“ app



Result of the first online photo shoot in November 2020

FACE(S) OF AFRIKA

In 2005, Helzle was invited to Lusaka in Zambia with his photo project and was able to photograph 550 people during a 14-day stay. Since then, the artist has dreamed of undertaking a larger Africa project one day, as the stay opened his eyes in many



Result of the photo shoot with students, parents and teachers of the Sanga Sanga School in Kathmandu, in December 2020.

... and I am a part

FACE(S) OF AFRICA

Photo project by Wolf Nkole Helzle

areas. Whenever Africa is in the news, this feeling of wanting to do something for this unique continent and its people comes back, to express the eye level he felt during all the encounters at that time in a picture, for a new appreciation of Africa.

ORGANISATION

Currently, 54 countries in Africa are officially listed: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo (Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Chad, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Central African Republic.

One concern of the project is to attract participants from as many of these countries as possible. A dream would be at least 100 people from each African country. To achieve this, it is necessary to find people or institutions locally who will take over the organisation and, if necessary, the photography.

WHAT HAPPENED SO FAR

Over the past 25 years, the internationally successful media artist Wolf Nkole Helzle has photographed more than 50,000 people in many different countries and cultures around the world. He



Exhibition view of the participatory photo project at Museum Biedermann, Donaueschingen 2014. Different groups of visitors were photographed.



Participants from a disabled facility at the opening of the exhibition



Exhibition view of the photo project in Schussenried Monastery 2014. 2,249 people in 15 towns were portrayed for the „Face of Upper Swabia“.

... and I am a part

FACE(S) OF AFRICA

Photo project by Wolf Nkole Helzle

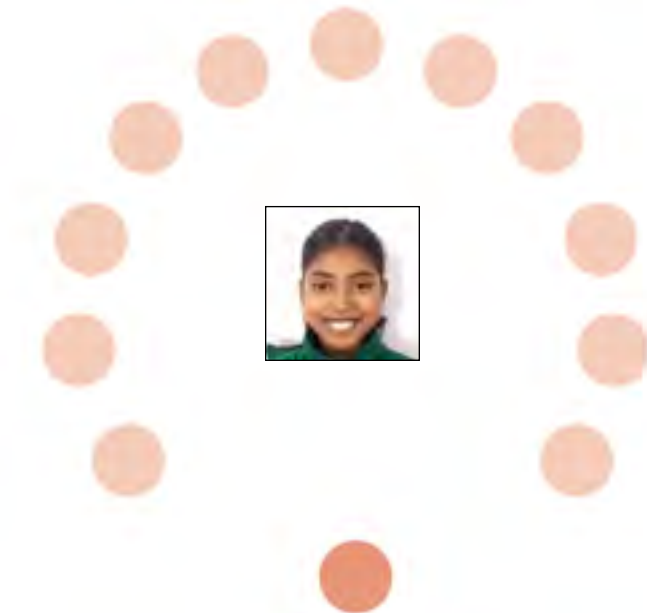
has set up his mobile photo studio in a wide variety of places, at exhibitions, festivals, town halls, offices and trade fairs. Using a specially developed programme, he superimposed the individual portraits of the participants in such art projects in a wafer-thin layer, creating a face in which each individual is included on an equal level.

HELP

With this project outline, Wolf Nkole Helzle starts the project FACE(S) OF AFRICA in order to win partners both for the financing and on site for the organisation of the photo shoots.



Homo universalis, 2018. This portrait was calculated from 4,620 individual portraits of people from 15 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and America.



Assistent who knows the people of the group and is photographing them with a smartphone, format 1:1, with a calm light background

A group should consist of around a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 100 people. It can be a family, a school class, a club, inhabitants of a village/town, a religious community ...

... and I am a part

FACE(S) OF AFRICA

Photo project by Wolf Nkole Helzle

VITA

Medienkünstler Wolf Nkole Helzle arbeitet vorwiegend mit Fotografie, Video, Installationen und Performances. Viele seiner Arbeiten sind partizipativer Natur; Zuschauer, Gäste, Passanten und Besucher werden Teil des künstlerischen Prozesses. Eines der zentralen Themen seiner künstlerischen Arbeit ist die Frage nach der Beziehung zwischen Individuum und Kollektiv. Dieser Frage geht er im internationalen Kontext nach, wie beispielsweise bei der Oga-ki-Biennale in Japan und dem internationalen Ausstellungsprojekt *media_city* Seoul, Südkorea. Er war eingeladen vom National Visual Arts Council, Lusaka, Sambia, vom College of Art and Design, Beijing, China und vielen weiteren internationalen, deutschen und europäischen Ausstellungsprojekten und Festivals.



International bekannt wurde der Künstler mit seinem partizipativen Fotoprojekt „Homo universalis“, für welches er seit 1996 bereits über 50.000 Menschen in vielen Ländern der Erde fotografiert hat. Ein Archiv, welches sich laufend erweitert. Mit einer speziell für dieses Projekt entwickelten Software überlagert Helzle Einzelportraits einer Menschengruppe zu einem kollektiven Antlitz.

Wolf Nkole Helzle (* 1950)

1973-1975 Studium der Malerei an der Hochschule für bildende Künste Kassel bei Prof. Harry Kramer

1978-1996 Arbeit in der Hard- und Softwareindustrie

Seit 1996 freischaffender Medienkünstler

Mitglied im Deutschen Künstlerbund

Lebt und arbeitet auf der Schwäbischen Alb

Lehrtätigkeiten

College of Art and Design, Beijing, China / Hochschule der Medien, Stuttgart / Fachhochschule für Gestaltung, Schwäbisch Hall

Preise / Stipendien

2012 Digital Content Fund MFG - Medien- und Filmgesellschaft Baden-Württemberg

2006 Atelierstipendium Künstlerhaus Stuttgart

2004 Projektförderung ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Stuttgart

Ausstellungen (Auswahl)

2020 Atelierausstellung Obermarchtal

2019 Paris Miki in Kyoto, Himeji und Nara, Japan

2018 Stiftung Regens Wagner, Absberg

2017 Deutscher Ev. Kirchentag, Berlin / Oracle Open World, San Francisco, USA

2016 Digital Humanities HUB - University of Birmingham, UK

2015 College of Art and Design, TU Beijing, China / JavaOne, San Francisco, USA

2014 Museum Biedermann, Donaueschingen / Hashima Namazu Festival, Japan / Werkschau im Kloster Bad Schussenried / Photographic Centre PERI, Turku, Finland

2011 Festival des Migrations, Luxembourg

2009 Museum für Kunst und Technologie, Schorndorf

2007 Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart

2006 UNESCO World Youth Festival, Stuttgart

2005 National Visual Arts Council, Lusaka, Zambia

... and I am a part

FACE(S) OF AFRICA

Photo project by Wolf Nkole Helzle

2004 Ogaki Biennale, Japan / Biennale „media_city seoul“, South Korea
1998 European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück

Kunstmessen

art Karlsruhe 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (One Artist Show)
Galerie Kunsthaus Fischer, Stuttgart

Sammlungen (Auswahl)

Museum Biedermann, Donaueschingen
Städte Stuttgart, Rottenburg, Marburg, Poitiers, Emdingen, Donzdorf, Korntal-Münchingen, Eppingen
Landratsamt Tübingen
Landratsamt Reutlingen
Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten, Baden Württemberg
Städtische Galerie Ostfildern
College of Art and Design, Beijing

Publikationen (Auswahl von 10)

„ICH BIN WIR“, Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg
„Homo universalis“, Museum Biedermann, Donaueschingen
„ICH BIN WIR“, Stiftung Regens Wagner

Vertretungen

Kunsthaus Fischer, Stuttgart
dewald Art+Rahmen, Waldshut-Tiengen

Wolf Nkole Helzle
Kirchgasse 25
72537 Mehrstetten

Atelier:
Meiertorweg 12
89611 Obermarchtal
mobil 0170 - 188 71 40
mail@helzle.com
www.helzle.com

... and I am a part