

## **Swiss Nudes**

### **Book launch & Exhibition**

### **Veronika Minder and Efa Mühlethaler**

**Booklaunch: Saturday, May, 21, 5–9pm**

**Round table discussion: Sunday, May, 22, 4pm**  
**Swiss Nudes – homosexuelle Aktfotografie wird salonfähig**

Counter Space is pleased to present the Zurich publication launch of *Werner Bandi. Swiss Nudes 1943–1952*.

Young attractive men in revealing poses, amidst breathtaking mountain and lake countryside views, were the motives of Swiss photographer Werner Bandi (1891–1964). These photographs have been compiled and presented in *Swiss Nudes*, a project initiated by Veronika Minder and Efa Mühlethaler. A first book launch was held on the occasion of the exhibition *Bob, le Flaneur* at Kornhausforum in Bern (Nov. 8–Dec. 20, 2015). A fragment of these photographic works will be on view for the weekend launch at Counter Space.

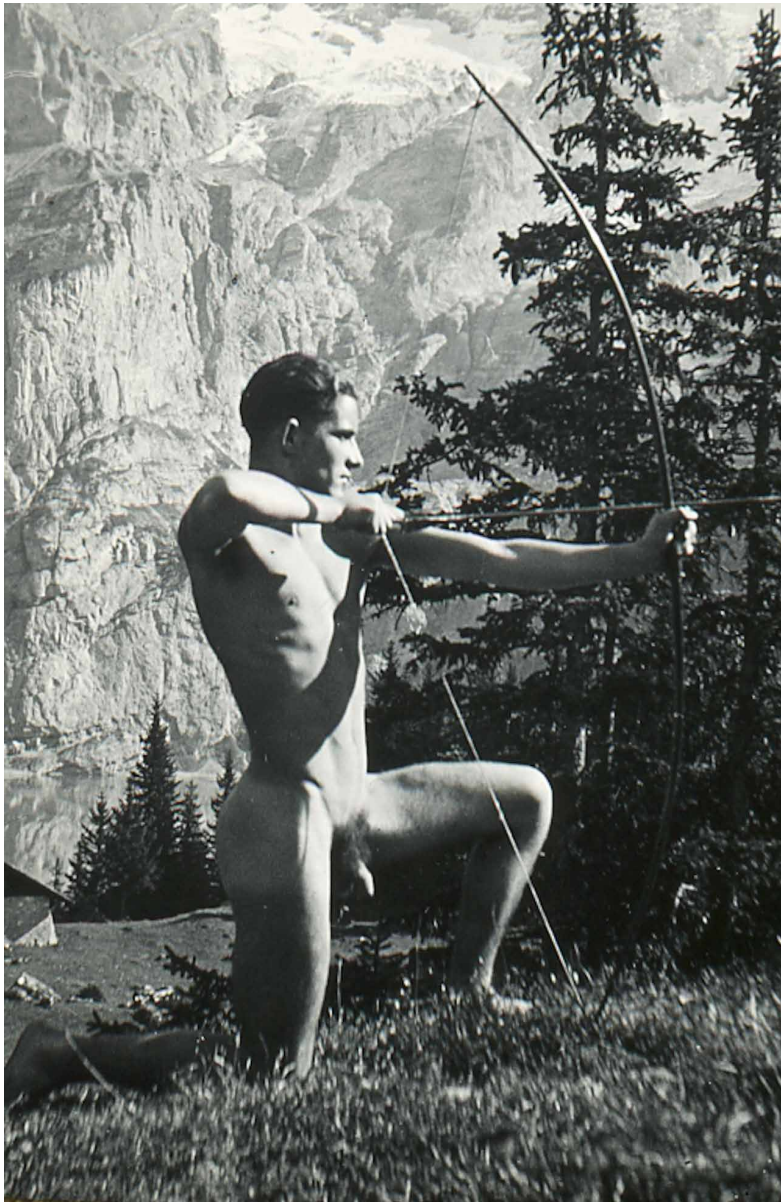
Many of Bandi's photos, repeatedly printed in *Der Kreis [The Circle]*, a Swiss gay magazine in existence between 1932 to 1967, date from the 1940s and were signed under a pseudonym. His favorite model was the young Bob Steffen from Bern. It was only in 2012, after his death, that Bandi's photographic work was rediscovered.

The nudes, mostly taken in the nearby areas of Bandi's home Spiez, at Lake Thun, at Oeschinen Lake and in Kien Valley, show idyllic sites in nature, strangely disconnected from a time shattered by World War II. Bandi was influenced by classical motives, such as *Young Male Nude Seated beside the Sea*, the work of 19th-century French painter Jean-Hippolyte Flandrin. The semi-erotic, semi-innocent eye of the photographer following an explicit homosexual aesthetic, is also of art historical interest. *Werner Bandi. Swiss Nudes 1943–1952* gathers for the first time a representative cross-section of the photographer's work, a plethora of male nudes taken between 1943 and 1952.

The curators and editors, Veronika Minder and Efa Mühlethaler, and the publisher Björn Koll from Salzgeber (Berlin) will be present.

#### **Publikation:**

Verein Bob le Flaneur (Ed.)  
*Werner Bandi. Swiss Nudes 1943–1952*  
Salzgeber Verlag, 2015  
64 pages, 41 images (b/w and color)



*Vor der Berghütte*, Berner Oberland, 1944, Fotograf Werner Bandi  
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**Counter Space** is an independent exhibition and project venue in Zurich, where contemporary and process-like methods in artistic practice are presented. The programme is curated by Linda Jensen and Angelo Romano; Yasmin Kiss (Research and Text); Vicenta Rodrigo-Jiménez (Administration); Tashi Brauen (Associate).

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