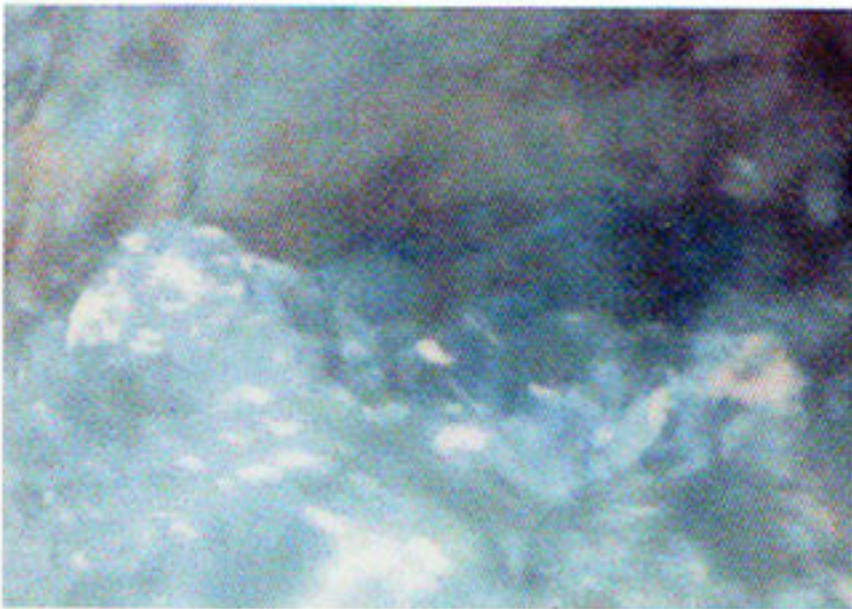


janine von thüngen

germany, munich b.1964 / act: rome

Thüngen's "Europa" is a contemporary take on the ancient myth. Primarily, the work is about the European woman; handsome, strong and mature. Thüngen chose eight different women as models for "Europa". Without interfering, she records what each of these women consider as the most beautiful and ugly part of their body. In a certain way, Thüngen feels like a nomad; continuously changing the country she lives in. As her starting point, she takes the diversity in people's opinions about their own countries. She is inspired to create a living portrait of contemporary Europe. Thüngen captures in her photographs the models' beauty and ugliness, to juxtapose them as pairs against a general background

of the image of water from the Danube, which is of cultural importance to Europe and its longest river. It so happens that in Indo-European languages the river is male. Hence, Zeus features here in his guise of the Danube. The river also resembles an artery of blood for the earth's body. It comes out of a source and flows over the land to nourish her. Impregnated by Jupiter, Europa created the first Europeans. Nowadays, regardless of official origin, every inhabitant of the continent is emotionally a European, which explains why Thüngen is not concerned to reveal the nationality of her models. Their shared mother is "Europa", a portrait in which all eight women took part in re-creating.



janine von thüngen
europa: belgium • england • italy

2003

layers of lambda-prints in perspex boxes

3 boxes : 60 x 60 x 10 cm





*the
rape
of
europe*

luke & a
london