

PRESS RELEASE



Lost, Rediscovered, and Presented to the Public for the First Time
The Chelsea Hotel Photographs by Albert Scopin (1969–1971)

New photobook published by KERBER VERLAG,
accompanied by an exhibition at
FWR GALERIE, Berlin

OPENING:

March 14, 2026 | 6–9 pm

ARTIST TALK AND BOOK PRESENTATION:

March 24, 2026 | 7 pm

Moderated by Michael Biedowicz

March 14 – April 4, 2026

For more than four decades, they were considered lost. Now they are being published for the first time in a photobook and presented in an exhibition: the rediscovered photographs taken by **Albert Scopin** between 1969 and 1971 at the legendary **Chelsea Hotel** in New York. **FWR Galerie, Berlin** presents the first comprehensive exhibition of this extraordinary series and simultaneously hosts the official book launch.

Between 1969 and 1971, the young photographer Albert Scopin (Albert Schöpflin) lived at the Chelsea Hotel in New York, where he worked as an assistant to the renowned photographers Mikel Avedon and Bill King. Using a simple Kodak Instamatic camera, he captured the restless, creative, and at times chaotic life of this iconic place.

In 1970, Scopin submitted the photographs for publication to the newly founded ZEITmagazin. However, the originals were not returned to him after publication. For decades, they remained untraceable.

It was not until 2016 that an unexpected turn occurred: Galerie Ahlers contacted him with the information that negatives, prints, and slides had “reappeared.” How the images disappeared from the archive and, via unknown routes, resurfaced years later in Bavaria remains unclear to this day.

Following this rediscovery, a publication has now emerged that brings together one of the rarest photographic chronicles of the Chelsea Hotel: intimate, unposed moments, captured without looking through the viewfinder, in order to preserve the authenticity of unfiltered, everyday life.



The photographs depict, among others:

- » **Patti Smith** and **Robert Mapplethorpe** in their early, still-unknown years
- » Directors such as **Wim Wenders**, **Rosa von Praunheim**, **Miloš Forman**, and **Jonas Mekas**
- » **The Warhol** scene during improvised performances
- » Spontaneous moments of everyday life and nightlife
- » Intimate glimpses into the “wild years” of the Chelsea Hotel

The volume is accompanied by personal texts by Albert Scopin as well as an interview with the artist. The book will be presented to the public for the first time in conjunction with the exhibition at FWR Galerie (Feldbusch Wiesner Rudolph).

The exhibition presents approximately 30 photographs, including the most significant rediscovered originals. It evokes the atmosphere of the Chelsea Hotel in its early, wild years—unvarnished, raw, and as full of promise as the people who lived there. The exhibition not only traces Scopin's photographic work and the story of this extraordinary rediscovery, but also opens up a broader view of the Chelsea Hotel as a social and cultural focal point for an entire generation.

Scopin, born in 1943, began his career as a photographer before turning exclusively to drawing from 1988 onward, and later to working with asphalt. His oeuvre is marked by artistic shifts and a consistent pursuit of authentic expression.

The rediscovery of the early photographs creates a new connection between his documentary gaze at the time and his later, materially driven works.



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EXHIBITION VENUE

FWR Galerie
Jägerstraße 5
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www.feldbuschwiesnerrudolph.com

