



Photo: Marco Reeuwijk.

# Art, elevated.

**Dr. Peter Wallimann**

Managing director  
WBB Gallery, Zürich.



Photo: Ursula Hersperger.

At the top of the steps on Trittligasse, one of the steepest streets in Zürich's old town neighbourhood of Niederdorf, there's been an art gallery on the corner since 1957. In 2015, the gallery was expanded and modernized as WBB Gallery by artist and author Peter Wallimann and a business partner. The piercing blue eyes of American photojournalist Steve McCurry's *Afghan Girl* (1984, pictured at right) literally drew me up the stairs of Trittligasse to find out more. The gallery is now one of my favorite spots in the altstadt. I asked Peter about how they coped in 2020 and how they're doing.

"As everywhere in Switzerland, cultural life largely came to a standstill during two lockdowns in Zurich, starting in March 2020. Galleries and museums recorded a massive decline in visitors during these times, and WBB Gallery was also affected. We used the spare time to get digitally fit. We modernized our website, produced several art videos and were increasingly



Pterophant, Peter Wallimann, 2019. naturapoetica.com  
Photo: Revati Wawra.



Exhibition poster featuring *Afghan Girl*, 1984, Steve McCurry.



present on social media. Despite bad sales, few visitors and difficult planning, we were able to realize several exhibitions, including a benefit event.

With the exhibition *Moments Of Intimacy*, we exhibited works by top international photographers that deal with the beauty of people and their relationships. A return to the emotional quality of interpersonal relationships, especially during the forced isolation, seemed important to us.

With the Art & Nature exhibition, we sensitized visitors to the beauty and fragility of nature. By selling pictures made from natural materials, we were able to donate a considerable amount to the NGO project "Trees for Peace" in Africa.

Our current exhibition *Floral Meditation* is the first European retrospective on the life and work of the great photographer Don Worth (USA, 1924 - 2009). His legacy teaches us a different view of nature and offers a meditative approach to the aesthetic world of plants.

Art not only has the task of critically questioning society or expressing personal feelings, it is also a medium to lift people up and to sensitize. Especially in times of crisis, art should enable constructive dialogue, connecting people with one another instead of dividing them further. Our future depends on our ability to overcome divide, and art should contribute to this goal and continuously inspire us to manifest beauty and love."

WBB Gallery's current exhibition *Floral Meditation* continues through May 2021.

- [wbb.gallery](http://wbb.gallery)
- [/wbbgallery](https://www.facebook.com/wbbgallery)
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