

## **1944**

Born on the 26th of September, in Graz, Austria. Six years of his childhood he spends at his grandparents home. Almost every day his grandfather told him experiences and stories from the First World War. His grandfather had survived the war despite being shot in the head at the Eastern Front.

## **1958**

Begins to take photographs with his father's camera on a trip to Yugoslavia. Visits every week the Nonstop Cinema in Herrengasse in Graz. Passionately interested in documentary films as well as Buster Keaton and Laurel & Hardy. Starts dreaming of visiting New Guinea, New York and South America. Wants to be a photographer and seeks as an apprentice to photographers in Graz, without success. Works for three years as an apprentice to confectioner Heinrich Sekirnjak in Graz.

## **1962**

Moves to Vienna to train to become a chef at the Hotel Imperial.

## **1964**

National Service.

## **1965**

Leaves Austria for Sweden. Works as a chef at the restaurant Operakällaren in Stockholm.

## **1966 - 67**

Signs on the Swedish American Line's passenger ship M.S. Kungsholm in Gothenburg bound for New York, South America, Australia, New Guinea, Bali, Hong Kong and Japan and other places.

## **1968**

Attends evening classes at Stockholm School of Photography.

## **1969**

Starts to work as an assistant to photographer Walter Hirsch.

## **1970**

Works as a freelance photographer. Gets three images published in the Swiss magazine, Camera.

## **1973**

Makes the serie "The changing of the Guard at the Royal Palace in Stockholm".

## **1974**

One - Man Exhibition Fotografiska Museet, Stockholm.

## **1974 - 75**

Makes the serie "Dogs Best Friend".

## **1977**

Group Exhibition "Arte Sueco Contemporaneo", Galeria J.C Orozo, Mexico City.  
One - Man Exhibition, Kulturhaus, Graz.

**1978**

One - Man Exhibition Galerie Nagel, Berlin.

**1979**

One - Man Exhibition Galleri Camera Obscura, Stockholm. The Gallery produces the catalogue Otmar Thormann.

" In March 1977, when I for the first time was able to see an original photograph by the Czech photographer Josef Sudek, it made such an impression on me that I visited the Camera Obscura gallery daily in order to look for a few minutes at this olive green print, showing two leaves on the ground. A feeling took hold of me that it had been taken long before the beginnings of photography, somewhere in a virgin forest unseen by mankind." (from the catalogue "Otmar Thormann" The Gallery Camera Obscura, 1979).

**1980**

Group Exhibition "Nouvelle Nature Morte", Viviane Esders, Paris.  
"Photographes Contemporains", Galerie Michèle Chomette, Arles.

**1981**

Group Exhibition, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.  
One - Man Exhibition Palais des Beaux - Arts, Bruxelles.  
Group Exhibition, The Photographic Gallery, Cardiff.

**1982**

One - Man Exhibition Stephen White Gallery, Los Angeles , USA.  
Group Exhibition The Austrian Institute, New York .  
"The Frozen Image", the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, USA.

**1984**

One - Man Exhibition, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.  
One - Man Exhibition, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, where the museum publishes the book "Fotografier - Variationer" by Åke Sidvall.

**1985**

Moves into the studio at Luntmakargatan 52 in Stockholm.  
Is awarded the Ruperinum Fotopreis in Salzburg, Austria.

**1987**

One - Man Exhibition Rupertinum, Salzburg.  
One - Man Exhibition Malmö Konsthall, Sweden. The Museum publishes the catalogue "Otmar Thormann".  
One - Man Exhibition The Vision Gallery, Boston, USA.

**1988**

One - Man Exhibition Galerie Michèle Chomette, Paris.  
One - Man Exhibition the Fotogalerie Wien, Vienna.

**1989**

Group Exhibition "Fotofest", Houston, USA.

Group Exhibition "Prospect Photography", Frankfurter Kunstverein.

"There are certain traces which interests me. The traces in my photos cannot be found, but they can be discovered. They are constructed and built up to be photographed. Only through photography can they begin to exist and only through my prints do they acquire special color and form, beauty and ugliness. My aim is to find the right balance between documented and poetic reality".

Otmar Thormann.

(From the catalogue "Prospect Photography" Frankfurter Kunstverein 1989).

Group Exhibition "Co Je Fotografe" , Muszeum Hovniho Mesta, Prague.

**1990**

One - Man Exhibition "Low Moral, Dreaming Dogs", Fotohof, Salzburg. The book "Low Moral, Dreaming Dogs" with text by Kurt Kaindl is published.

**1991**

One - Man Exhibition at the Palais du Tau, Reims, France.

**1992**

One - Man Exhibition Lichtbild Galerie, Worpswede, Bremen.

**1993**

One - Man Exhibition at the Galerie Michéle Chomette, Paris.

**1995**

One - Man Exhibition "Formfiguren", Rupertinum, Salzburg.

**1996**

Group Exhibition "Prospect", Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt.

**1997**

One - Man Exhibition "Formfiguren", Galerie Faber, Vienna.

**1998**

Group Exhibition "Private Fictions", Fundacio Joan Miró, Barcelona.

**2001**

Group Exhibition "La natura della natura morta", Galleria d'arte Moderna, Bologna.

**2002**

One - Man Exhibition "Scheitel", Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

One - Man Exhibition Early Works, Photographs 1970 - 85. Galerie Faber - Vienna.

## 2005

Group Exhibition "Scandinavian Photography", Falconer Gallery, Grinner College, USA.

## 2007

One - Man Exhibition "Xiang", Acne, Stockholm.

"For an extended period, Otmar Thormann interrupted his work as an artist to engage in a completely different and considerably more challenging study, one that focused not only on his means of expression but also on the person he was. This radical self-evaluation – an endeavour few people are capable of – resulted in an outlook on life based on the Tao. To not struggle to keep in control, to not attempt to govern at all costs, but instead, to simply let things happen. An approach that allows the world to reveal itself as the shimmering mystery that it is. Thus his images have now been created not by using a lens, but rather by using forty years of experience of the alchemistic process where acids, metals and light create traces of a fleeting moment."

Text by the curator of the exhibition Björn Springfeldt.

## 2009

Group Exhibition "Åter till verkligheten" (Reality Revisted), Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

Group Exhibition "Die Fragilität des Seins", Muezul National de Arta Contemporana, Bukarest.

Group Exhibition "Die Fragilität des Seins", Museum der Moderne, Salzburg.

## 2010

Time for contemplation.

## 2011

Group Exhibition, "Another Story" Moderna Museet Stockholm

The Chronicle, publishes the Portfolio Sense & Sensibility  
Boris Mikhailov – Otmar Thormann Text: Rasmus Folehave Hansen.

## 2012

Group Exhibition, "Selbstporträts", Museum der Moderne, Salzburg.

Group Exhibition "The Supersurrealism", Moderna Museet, Malmö.

Rodeo magazine, publishes the Portfolio "Xiang" and an interview by Olga Krzeszowiec.

## 2013

Fotohof edition in Salzburg, Austria, publishes the book, "Otmar Thormann Ursprung" (Origins).

The magazine Elephant, publishes photographs and an interview by Katya Tylevich.

Group Exhibition, Musee de la Chalosse, France.

Group Exhibition, "Hoho Dosis" Galerie Fotohof, Salzburg.