

## ART AS STAGING OF THE SELF

In her multi-part black and white photographic series 'RENÉE ou RENÉ', Renate Bertlmann conveys temporal change and transformation through the use of photographic sequences. This method of performative photography has gained a special significance in the socio-critical analysis of gender specific role-play, brought to life as artistic self-performance. Dressed in a men's suit, the artist woos and seduces a female shop dummy. Bertlmann presents feminist reflection and elements of performance – a staging of the self – in a photographic role-play that questions male and female behavioural patterns, patterns which move between two extremes, and in so doing reveals or deciphers these. Since the 1970s Bertlmann's work has focussed strongly on the topic of sexuality as well as on the role and status of women and the relationship between the sexes. The breadth of her work ranges from performance and objects to drawings, paintings, writings and photography.

Carl Aigner, 1991

Übersetzung Larissa Cox