

**OLAF HEINE**  
**“SAUDADE”**

CHAUSSEE 36  
OCTOBER 10th – NOVEMBER 10th, 2019



"He who says goodbye takes longing with him." This Brazilian saying, whereby the word 'Saudade', can only be insufficiently translated as 'longing'. What words cannot evoke, Olaf Heine succeeds with his photography. Since 2010, the renowned portrait and fashion photographer has been seeking out the soul of Brazil. The fact that he presents us with the land of Copacabana and Carnival in black and white is only an apparent contradiction. Heine's photographs are sometimes as sensual and extant as deep melancholy.

With an intuitive feeling for forms and textures, he simultaneously fills the words by the legendary Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer with life: "The whole universe is made of curves. Curves in architecture, in human bodies and also transferred in the attitude to life. And when everything is made of curves, nothing is straight. It's not just about the richness of curves in the buildings and the Brazilian women, but about a continuation in life: Everything is flexible and constantly changing.

From the intensity of longing to the lightness of forms, Olaf Heine shows us a fascinating country in all its diversity and beauty. This is all the more astonishing when you follow the headlines of the last weeks and months. Since President Jair Bolsonaro took office from his predecessor at the beginning of the year, the country has been run with brutal power; criminals have been executed in the streets, homosexuals have been imprisoned and the destruction of the Brazilian rainforest has been driven forward.

In his photography, on the other hand, Heine draws the very place of longing that the first generation of Brazilian modernists created in the mid-20th century in architecture, literature, and music as the aesthetic expression of a society that is positively changing, social, political, and urban. A wishful thinking and supposed utopia that many look back on with longing, especially in today's context: Saudade!

The photographer and director Olaf Heine has become known for his work with internationally renowned artists such as U2, Sting and Coldplay, for his portraits of actors such as Daniel Brühl, Thomas Kretschmann and Don Cheadle, and for his photographic examination of the work of the Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. Born in 1968 in Hanover, he studied photography and design at the Lette-Verein Berlin. His photographic works have been published on countless album covers, in international editorials and the photo volumes "Leaving the Comfort Zone" (2008), "I Love You but I've Chosen Rock" (2010) as well as "Brazil" (2014) and "Rwandan Daughters" (2019).