

## 脚/LEGS

Legs is a series produced 2009 in Fukuoka on Kyushu island in Japan, which found its form in an artist book.



### Year of production

2009

### Show

November 2009, IAF Shop Fukuoka, Japan  
March 2010, [www.pepnoname.ch](http://www.pepnoname.ch)

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### Buchreproduktion

脚/Legs, Benjamin Füglistner, 2009

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76 Abbildungen

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## NICE LEGS

A fascination with slender female legs in high-heeled shoes unites perhaps millions of men. Images of this kind show up most often in fashion photography, as a vehicle for displaying stockings, shoes and the style associated with them - consistently, for example, in classic works by Guy Bourdin or Helmut Newton, whose subtle treatment of the fetish aspect of women's shoes is well known. But the subject matter is so timeless and untethered to genre that it is also present in contemporary photo art, as evident in the work of Benjamin Füglistner. Surprising is his chosen perspective: Füglistner sets his camera on the ground, cutting off the model's image at the hip or navel. The void of the foreground - usually the unadorned floor of the environment - is sometimes over-emphasized, while the protagonists, lacking head or torso, are simultaneously depersonalized. This enigmatic trick of form leaves space for the viewer to make his or her own associations, while still underlining the conceptual framework of the sequence. What remains unusual is the abundance of photos, which are all similar and yet individually composed.

The photographer skillfully keeps the viewer in suspense.

Whether Füglistner directed his models to walk past his camera, or quasi ambushed them, making the series one of „stolen“ pictures, remains an unanswered question. At times the viewer is reminded of a flight attendant's quick pace to the airport gate, and others of a classic fashion show catwalk. Indeed, it is usually the street scenes that capture the fleetingness of the moment and bustle of the urban fabric, while simultaneously fading into a conscious blur. But the interplay - of public spaces, radical cropping and an almost obsessive focus on the slim legs of the presumably young, Japanese women - is clear.

In this substantial photo series, Benjamin Füglistner scrutinizes contemporary conventions in fashion imagery using a traditional, Western beauty ideal, delivering quite an interesting, enticing and still intellectual game for us to engage in.

Matthias Harder, curator of the Helmut Newton Foundation, Berlin



Untitled, from »脚/LEGS«, 2009



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