**Leni Riefenstahl**

(1902 - 2003, Germany)

Leni Riefensthal was a dancer, actress, film director, photographer and protagonist of many movies between 1926 and 1932 where she was widely noted for her aesthetics and innovations as a filmmaker. In 1936 she shot *Olympia* about the Olympic games in Berlin. In 1937 the photo book *Schönheit im Olympischen Kampf* (beauty in the Olympic wrestle) was published in Berlin. The movie was presented in 1938 at the Venice Film Festival where it won the maxim award, the Coppa Mussolini. Between 1945 and 1948 she was shut in some prison camps because of her Nazi ideal but she was acquitted in 1949. In 1956 the Venice Biennial dedicated to her a film retrospective. Leni Riefenstahl moved to Kordofan in Sudan in 1962. Here she could meet “her” Nuba who became the favoured subjects of her photos. In 1972, 36 years after *Olympia* she realised a photocall named “*Leni Riefenstahl's Second Olympics*” about the Olympics in Munich for the Sunday Times Magazine. She also published *Die Nuba. Menschen wie von einem anderen Stern*, and in 1976, *Die Nuba von Kau*. In 1980 she exhibited her photos of Nuba at *The Seibu Museum of Art*, in Japan, in 1980. In 1987 her controversial biography, *Memoiren* was published in Germany. The book was translated and published in many languages. In 1990 the *Wunder Unter Wasse* (underwater wonders) was published. In the same year *Leni Riefenstahl –Life*, her most important solo exhibition was opened in Japan. In 1994 a new edition of the photo book *Olympia* was published in the US. Two years later, at the age of ninety-four, she accomplished scuba diving in the coast of Cuba and Coco Island.