

SIEGLINDE VAN DAMME



**ART
&
ART-TO-WEAR**

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ABOUT ME

ARTIST
PHOTOGRAPHER
ART-TO-WEAR DESIGNER

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BIO

An internationally exhibiting artist specialized in lens-based media. Over the course of her 17+ year career she participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions spanning the US, Europe and Japan.

In 2017, Sieglinde launched studiosiegXclusive, an art-to-wear clothing and accessories line based on her photographic work which won the prestigious Leigh Weimer's Award in 2018.

Sieglinde received multiple awards for her work, including:

- 2009 "Lorenzo di Medici Award" at the Contemporary Art Biennale in Florence (Italy)
- 2014 Belle Foundation Individual Grant for artistic merit in California
- 2018 Leigh Weimers Artist Award in San Jose, CA
- 2019 San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs' Creative Industries Incentive Fund through the Center for Cultural Innovation.

Her work and writings have been published in various catalogs and media publications both in the US and in Europe. Her art is included in numerous private and corporate collections, including Sotheby's Realty in France - Monaco.

MY STORY



How my artistic focus on identity and experience paved the way for an art-to-wear clothing line.

I am Sieglinde, I am an artist, a photographer mostly, and the day I was looking to be more than the creative mind behind that expensive framed image on your wall - I became an "accidental fashion designer" on top.

Truth is I was looking for a closer connection with you through my work, and my art-to-wear clothing and accessories line turned out to be the most logical next step to expand my body of work. Here's why ...

Being a European import into the US (21 years and counting!) my artistic journey has been fueled by an obsession with identity and experience. You see, it didn't take long to realize that I was not able to fully transplant Sieglinde in Europe, to Sieglinde in the US. I had to adapt to a new society and re-evaluate my value and belief system along the way. I had to re-imagine what else was possible ...

I started exploring this process in my work as a dynamic of "defining and re-defining," and a blending of existing realities into a newly imagined one.

This translated into the use of alternative cameras and alternative processes, resulting in soft, veiled imagery and layered photography. The more ambiguous the better, but together creating some kind of constructed or adopted reality, along with an invitation to define or re-define it in its newly observed context.

Right: my favorite camera: a Holga (low-fidelity aesthetic) used with 120 medium format film.



But something was missing from the experience part. That framed image: too disconnected. The process: too non-committal. And there was no social aspect either.

So I started creating immersive, room-size video installations where you would walk in and simply become part of the artwork. Same type of imagery, except that they were now moving, and I was moving closer to better connect with you.

And then I wondered, what if people could WEAR my art?

In 2017, I launched **studiosiegXclusive**, an art-to-wear clothing and accessories line featuring my photographs on skirts, dresses, scarves, a few shirts, bags and more to come (well, as long as you can wear it).



Photograph: "9:16am (San Jose)"



Art-to-wear: the "Traffic Skirt"

And here is the best part: when people wear my clothing designs I have zero control over how or where my work is presented. As you add my pieces to your wardrobe you redefine my art through the way you allow it to serve your own identity, your reality. You define the context in which it is worn, you define the image that is most authentic to you. Flip-flops- boots, heels, dressed up, dressed down - it doesn't matter. It all works, and that's on purpose

Below: Pivot 2018 Fashion Show - Santa Cruz, CA



So, mission accomplished? Well, yes, I have definitely come full circle in bringing down the social experience of identity to its most rudimentary form: your outfit, the first impression you choose to make.

Then again, when all is said and done ... as an artist I am most happy when I can create. And if my creations, hanging on your wall or making you look good in the mirror, if my creations make you feel good?

Then, mission accomplished indeed.

Sieglinde '19

WORK SAMPLES

studiosiegOriginal

Limited Editions and original art to hang.
All lens-based work with final digital production.



"Ice Transitions" in private residence

studiosiegXclusive

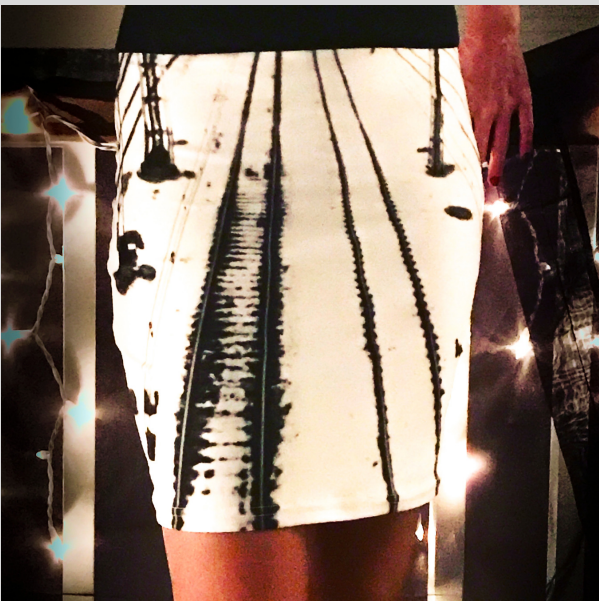
Award winning art-to-wear clothing and accessories
based on my original photographs.

- The Idealist Collection
- The Optimist Collection
- The Believer Collection

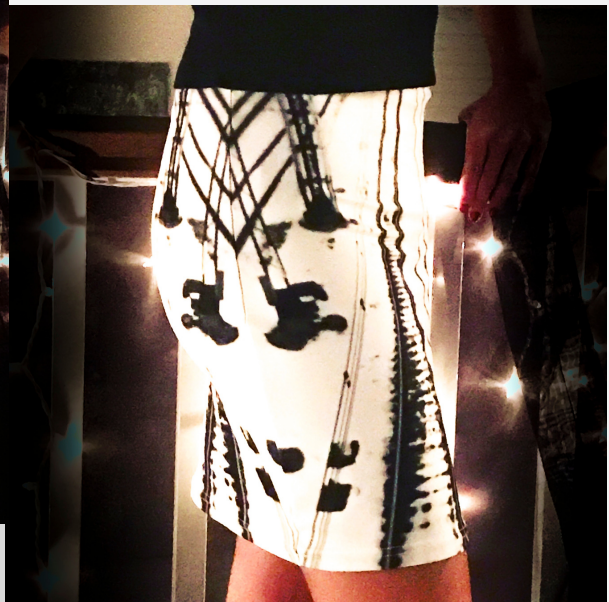
THE IDEALIST



"Railway in the Snow"



The Railroad Skirt





The Railroad Dress, Reversed

*"Let the mirror reflect what you knew
was on the inside all along ..."*

THE BELIEVER



Fun Fair Skirt



"Zipper"



"Retro"



Retro Top



Morning Musing Urban Bag



"Morning Musing"

THE OPTIMIST



"Luxury"



Water Lily & Koi Pond Dress



"Golden Tree"



Golden Tree Scarf



"Untitled Chemigram"



Abstract Summer Dress



"Dragonfly" and "Butterfly" in private residence



Dragonfly Top



"Mystery Rose"



Mystery Rose Skirt

RE-IMAGINE WHAT ELSE IS POSSIBLE

Signature Style: Layered Images & Double Exposures



This visual signature style is a direct translation of my immigration experience. As I re-imagined who I could be on this side of the ocean, I had to define and redefine my value and belief system. An open mind led to the adoption of new US beliefs, other times I stayed true to the European values I grew up with because I saw them as more true to my core.

After 21 years, I realize I have become a tourist in both places, my home country and my new home base alike.

Being an active hybrid of both cultures ("Third Culture") I create that same hybrid in my visual work where I seamlessly blend two separate existing realities into a new, combined reality where one can no longer be distinguished from the other.

