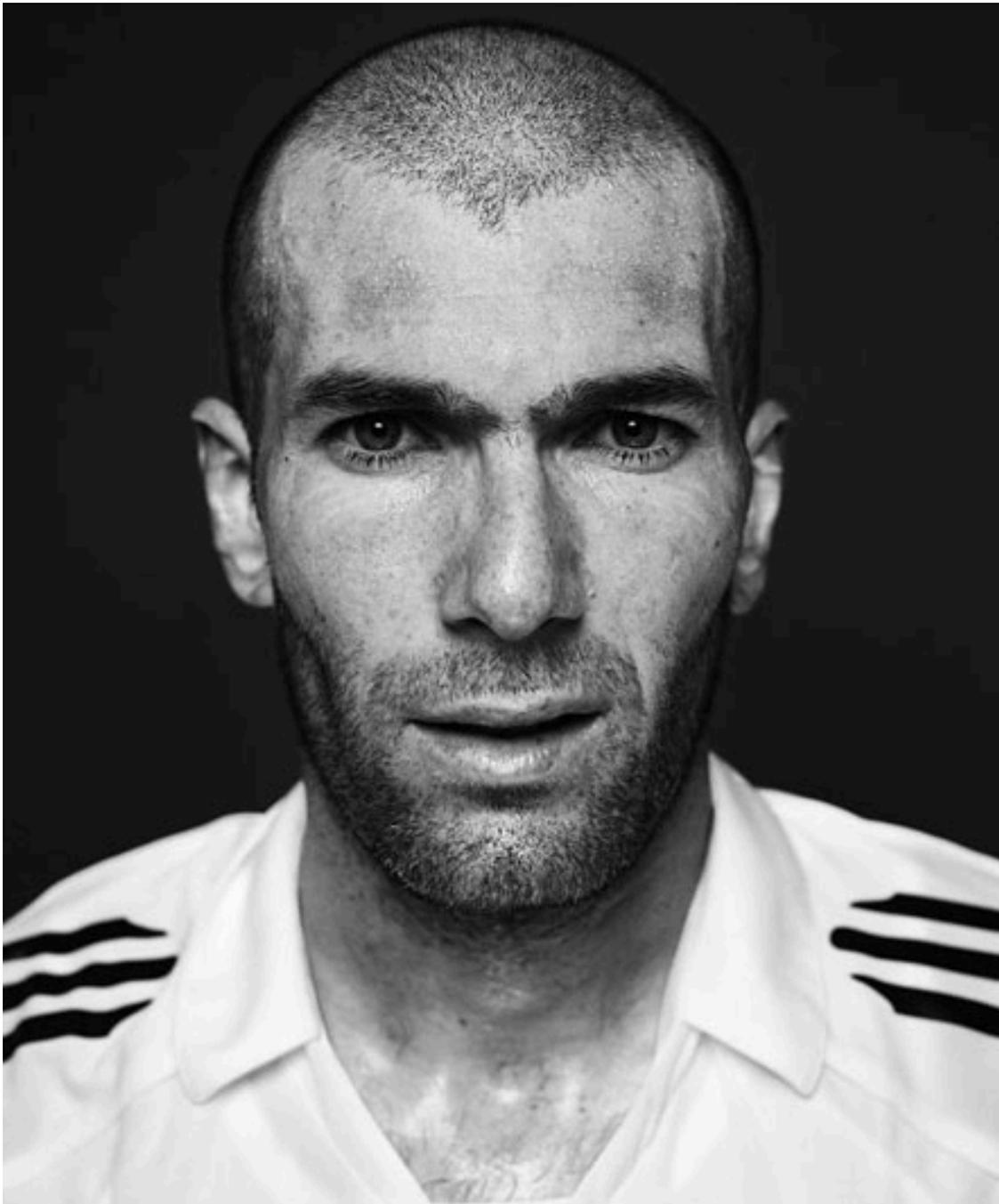


Zurich Development Center



Exhibition MATHIAS BRASCHLER & MONIKA FISCHER
June – September 2006
The series FACES OF FOOTBALL



The series FACES OF FOOTBALL, 2006, Prints on Dibond, 120 x 150cmcm, Ed1/5

Mathias Braschler and Monika Fischer are known for their documenting but also investigative photographic series realized all over the world. In 2003, when their collaboration started, a series of portraits emerged, taken during a six month road trip through the United States. Fifteen years after the fall of the wall between East and West Germany they travelled along the longitude of 13 degrees East in Germany and portrayed East Germans, focusing on their hopes and fears.

In 2005/2006 the idea for the book "Faces of Football" came into being. After long phases of administration and dealing with managers and clubs, and with idealistic support from FIFA, they managed to photograph thirty soccer stars immediately after important games.

The result is thrilling! The faces we see in pin-sharp black and white, without any make up, and without any kind of post production are still sweaty. But far more than that, they tell us stories about the outcome of the game. About their role in the game and their emotions. Gerald Asamoah for instance, was dripping-wet from sweat when entering the small mobile photo booth Braschler & Fischer had installed in the stadium. He was still in kind of a trance – his eyes more looking inside than into the camera – his mouth showing exhaustion. Or Ronaldo, almost recovered from his sportive efforts because he was taken out of the game half an hour before the final whistle, was still looking grumpy into the camera. Zinedine Zidane, wearing three-day beard and three-day hair and looking as he'd wanted to give his demission. He had just finished the game Madrid – Betis Sevilla with an unpleasant 0:0. Some weeks later his decision was indeed spoken out loud... Ronaldinho is the only one to be seen smiling – he'd just won with Barcelona against Real Sociedad 5:0...

Faces of Football show us faces mirroring victory and loss, joy and anger, passion, but also weariness. They do it in a highly intimate way, but still full of respect for the individuals being shown.