

## **Eiženija Anna Freimane – Riga, Latvia**

### **Professional Career:**

1972-1991 Stage Photographer, Production Collective of Latvian Theatre Association

1995-today Art Director of Riga Photographic Club, VEF Palace of Culture, Department of Education, Culture and Sport of the Riga Town Council

### **Creative Associations:**

1987-1989 Photographic Society

1989 Federation of Photo-Artists

1995 Art Director of Riga Photo Club

2009 Latvian Professional Ballet Association

2012 FIAP Liaison Officer for Latvia, International Federation of Photographic Art

2013 Latvian Association for Theatre Employees

2017 Director, Latvian Association of Creative Photographers

### **Awards and Distinctions:**

2006 Mārtiņš Buclers Award

2012 Title of AFIAP (Member of the Federation of International Artistic Photographers)

2015 National Cross of Recognition of the Republic of Latvia, Officer's Degree (Fourth Rank), awarded for merits in the field of Latvian culture, development and popularisation of the art of photography

**Eiženija Anna Freimane** started her professional career in 1968, specialising in photographing opera and theatre performances, thereby taking photos in many Latvian theatres. Her pictures were published in the books of creative personalities, theatre programme-booklets, magazines, calendars, and encyclopedias. The author's archives contain some of the most well-known figures in the culture business, among them Mikhail Baryshnikov.

From 1995 on, Ms. Freimane organised numerous photo-exhibitions in Latvia ("Only Sea" 2001; 4<sup>th</sup> International Photographic Art Exhibition with FIAP Patronage of '40 Years of Riga Photographic Club', 2001; "In Connection with Nature and Humans", 2012; "50 Years of RIGA Football Club", 2012; "A World of one's own for Everyone", St. Peter's Church, 2013; "XXV General Latvian Festival of Choirs and XV Festival of Dancing" (2013); "RGB-Red, Green and Blue", 2013, and others) as wells as in Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, Italy, Israel, and other countries. She also staged her own exhibitions, participated in group exhibitions at home and abroad, and was a jury member.

### **Artistic Statement**

The photographs of Eiženija Anna Freimane are reflections of Riga, capital of the Republic of Latvia, and several well-known and popular symbols of the city are easily recognizable. The TV Tower at sunset with birds flying away to unknown lands. A popular meeting point for young and old, the legendary Laima Clock for decades counted down the moments, years, and events people experienced in the heart of Riga. The Laima Clock is regarded as a symbol of love, so it is highly possible that the lovers who can be seen in one of the pictures met here for the first time, spending moments of happiness in a boat gliding through the water of the city canal at a leisurely pace. Not far from the Laima Clock, in the park of the city canal downtown, stands the building of the Latvian National Theatre, for many years the stage for Zita Erss, the well-known ballet dancer. One of the photos shows her bowing to the audience for the last time. The picture closing the circle is a photograph of the young generation marching in the parade during the traditional Latvian Song and Dance Festival which takes place every five years. Here, the young people marching symbolise the continuation of life and Latvian traditions.

The topic is reflected in five photographs, each measuring 30 by 40 cm. The pictures are framed by a passe-partout mat with an outer size of 40 by 50 cm.

