

Baron (2016–2023)

37 C-prints on Fuji Crystal Archive and Fuji DP II,
different sizes

I first met the Baron on the stairwell of his house. He told me about his family customs, about his father, a police general and monarchist, and about his mother, an elegant aristocratic lady. The Baron had dedicated his life to film and theater, working as an actor in Dresden, Munich, Vienna, and Graz. His family never came to accept neither his career choice nor his homosexuality. He lived alone and had no children. Three students came into his life at what seemed the wrong time — rented an apartment in his house, took over his finances, and steadily supplied him with alcohol, gaining his trust. He was then duped into signing a contract that would give away the entire real estate from his inheritance in exchange for a monthly life annuity of five hundred euros. As is often the case with fraud, the students were found out, but not before they had emptied his bank account. After that, the Baron fell into a depression.

He spent two years in rehab and then returned to the apartment where he had nearly drunk himself to death. By then I had moved to the apartment below. Together, we slowly began to clean up his apartment, and with help of family and friends, also begin to gather the documents needed to open the legal case. A year later, he lost his leg in an accident. By that time, the three students had become real estate agents. They took advantage of the situation and, just a few days after his hospital admission, made his apartment uninhabitable. They disposed of all his belongings, documents, and photographs, stripping him not only of his inheritance but also of his story.

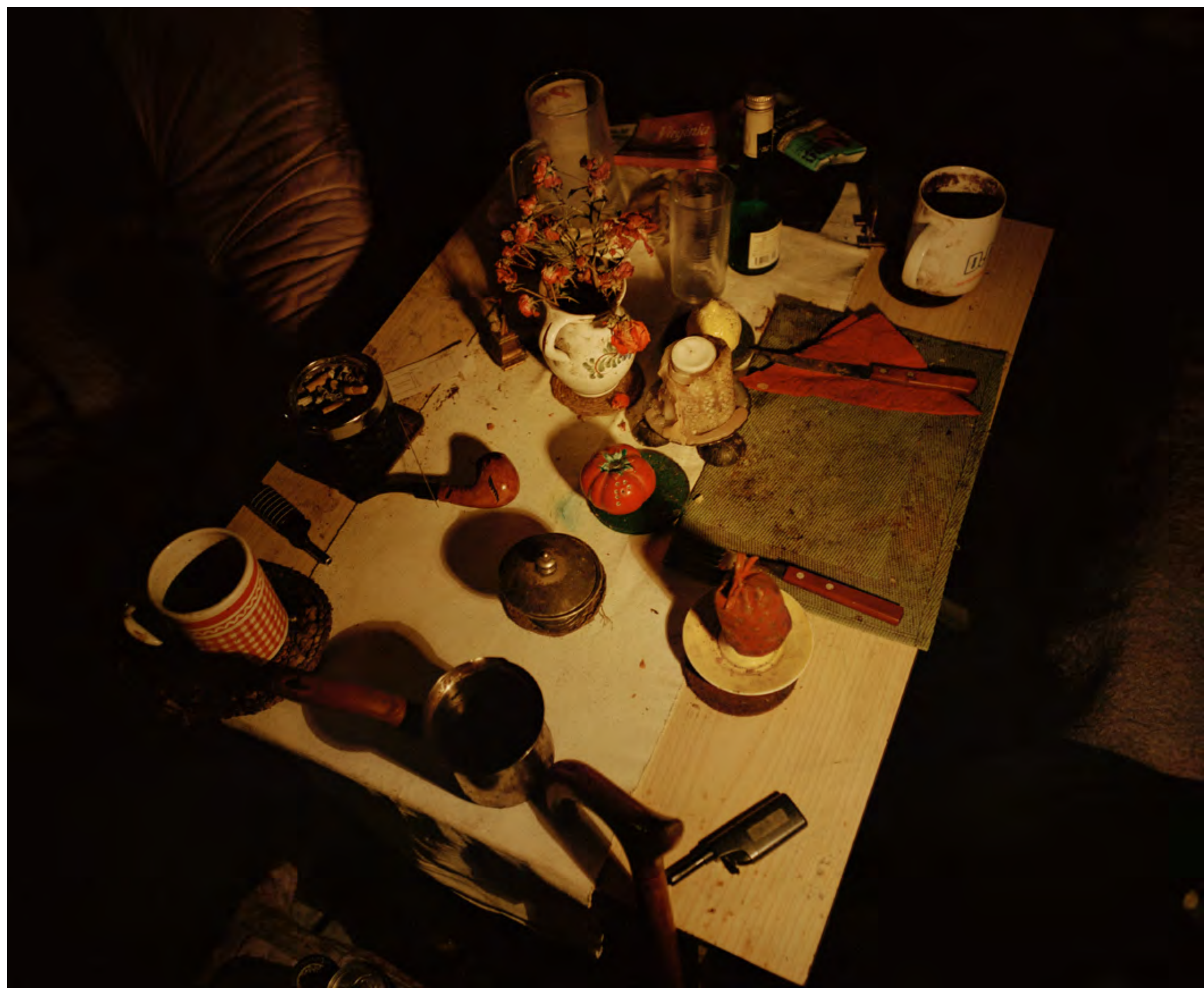
My family and I brought to my studio whatever we could salvage. There, I began to sort and rephotograph the objects. The Baron spent another two years in the hospital before passing away in 2020 at the age of 75.

These images have stayed with me since before I even started my studies. The Baron was the one who introduced me to art. Without any particular aim, he integrated it into his daily life. His still lives and installations were never intended to be recorded as they existed only for the brief or extended moments of their presence.

The Baron became part of my family. I learned from him, photographed his spaces and belongings, absorbed his visual language, and wrote down his story. Like a crime scene, photography initially served as an inventory to piece together his rather incomprehensible story. Only later on, after happening upon his objects again — now removed from their original place and stored in my studio— was I able to confront them for what they were. There, alongside the remnants of Franz Göttfried, they formed still-life constellations — silent arrangements of remembrance, loss, and preservation.









//

Baron

Interieur No. 28,

2017

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 40 x 50 cm,

frame dimensions: 42 × 52 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//



//

Baron

Interieur No. 54,

2018

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 40 x 50 cm,

frame dimensions: 42 x 52 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//



//

Baron

Interieur No. 36,

2017

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 40 x 50 cm,

frame dimensions: 42 x 52 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//







//

Baron

Interieur No. 48,

2018

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 40 x 50 cm,

frame dimensions: 42 x 52 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//



//

Baron

Interieur No. 10,

2016

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 40 x 50 cm,

frame dimensions: 42 x 52 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//



//

Baron

Interieur No. 34,

2017

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 40 x 50 cm,

frame dimensions: 42 x 52 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//















//

Baron

Still Life No. 16,

2021

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 40 x 50 cm,

frame dimensions: 42 x 52 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//











//

Baron

Still Life No. 52,

2020

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 40 x 50 cm,

frame dimensions: 42 x 52 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//



//

Baron

Still Life No. 47,

2020

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 80 x 64 cm,

frame dimensions: 82 x 66 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//







//

Baron

Still Life No. 65,

2021

//

C-print on Fuji Chrystal Archive,

framed, museum glass,

print dimensions: 80 x 64 cm,

frame dimensions: 82 x 66 cm,

edition: 5 + 1 artist's proof

//







//

Baron

Still Life No. 60,

2021

//

C-print on Fuji DP II,

mounted on honeycomb board,

print dimensions: 100 x 120 cm,

edition: 3 + 1 artist's proof

//









