



# GENTLE HEALING

**PHOTOS: NOMI BAUMGARTL**

For the organisation „dolphin-aid – dolphins help children“ Nomi Baumgartl developed a fine art image campaign with media presence, exhibitions, and calendars. The resulting pictures visualise a sensitive rapprochement between people and dolphins in a powerful way.





For her project 'dolphin aid' Nomi Baumgartl received the support of Tatjana Patitz and other famous personalities. This picture is part of the cycle 'Yin & Yang' which was done at the same time

1972 is definitely the starting point: Just 22 years old, Nomi Baumgartl is like a rising star at the Photokina in Cologne. Her first photo reportage 'Gesellschaft 1972' wins the highly-regarded first prize at this international photo event. But even more important is her encounter with the legendary Leica-Icon Ernst Haas, who happens to be member of the jury. It is not only the beginning of a friendship, but also Nomi's 'initiation' to the Leica.

After having finished her studies in visual communications at Düsseldorf, Nomi moved on to work as a photo journalist for well known publications such as 'Vanity Fair', 'Vogue', 'Geo' and 'Stern', launching a stunning international career. She published several books, initiated exhibitions, and produced photo films. Since 1993 she has been heavily involved in image and fashion productions for advertising. In the mid-nineties Nomi moved to New York, the new focal point of her professional life. Shortly

afterwards her biography took a dramatic new direction: At the age of 46 a car accident changed here life abruptly and resulted in several years of extensive rehabilitation. The incident marked a turning point in her career.

"My strength derives from self-experience", says Nomi Baumgartl and with this statement refers to her private as well as to her professional life. During her rehabilitation in Hawaii she is introduced to dolphin therapy. This impressive encounter with sea mammals not only inspires her recovery but also her social attitude. 'Dolphin aid', an institution engaged in dolphin therapy for children, attracts her attention. As part of an image campaign she initiated for the organization, Nomi created an ambitious fine-art project. Reports, exhibitions and calendars are bound to introduce the idea of dolphin therapy to a broad audience. In 2000 and 2001 Nomi invited stars from the international surfer scene and top-model Tatjana Patitz to the Bahamas to





From upper left to lower right:  
Tatjana Patitz, a passionate dolphin swimmer,  
Mickey Eskimo, surf-legend and artist,  
Francisco Goya, windsurfing wave champion 2000,  
Robby Seeger, world class-big-wave-surfer









More pictures of Nomi Baumgartl and informations about her work can be found at:  
[www.I-WONDER-NOMI.com](http://www.I-WONDER-NOMI.com) and [www.ocean-mind.com](http://www.ocean-mind.com).  
Informations about „dolpin aid“ can be found at [www.dolphin-aid.de](http://www.dolphin-aid.de)

work on the project. Her constant companions are her Leicas, R6.2, R7 and R8 and her favourite: the M6. Simultaneously she also worked on the cycle 'Yin&Yang', the landscape and sea images and the portraits of Tatjana Patitz and Olli Ferguson found on these pages.

Nomi explains how her Leica cameras are essential to her creative expression. "Especially for these projects, the Leicas incorporate the sensuality of photography - the tool changes into a music instrument for magic moments", she raves. Leicas are used exclusively in this project, with the exception of the underwater shots, which are taken with a Nikonos.

Nomi Baumgartl's fascination for dolphins is highly evident as you look at the pictures: They reflect an intimate closeness to her subject and clearly visualize a mysterious tie revealed

during her encounter with these intelligent sea mammals. The photos portray an evolving unity in communication between human and dolphins, a perfect synchronicity of motion. "Dolphins are a symbol for a deeply felt joy of life and strength", says Nomi Baumgartl. Her work for 'dolpin aid' truly reflects this feeling to the viewer. Her experience of self-healing that was fostered by the dolphins has provided further creative impetus for projects dealing with the subject of interaction between man and animal. Nomi Baumgartl was contracted as visual director for 'The Elephant Man' project which was produced in California, commissioned by the 'Norddeutsche Rundfunk' and directed by Daniel Opitz ([www.ocean-mind.com](http://www.ocean-mind.com)). A series of photographs on the subject is to be expected soon. KATJA HÜBNER

From the cycle 'Yin & Yang': Tatjana Patitz with Ollie Ferguson, chief diver of the Underwater Explorers Society. Pu'uhonua O Honaunau - a sacred place, Big Island, Hawaii, 2002

