

MARKUS HANSEN is interested in how information is communicated and transmitted between individuals, and in a larger sense, across generations. In his videos and photographs, Hansen (b. 1963, Heidelberg) is concerned with indirect, nonverbal ways in which people are indelibly connected by shared experience—in particular, the traumatic impact of postwar German history on the emotional, social, and political sensibilities of his generation. His recent video and photographic project *Other People's Feelings* (2001–04) is an exercise in empathy and evocation. The photograph below, entitled *Rachel* (2004), is one of several poignant double portraits from this series depicting an image of Hansen alongside that of another person. For the picture, the artist strives to empathically assume the facial expression and general mien of his “double” as closely as possible. He chooses subjects of different genders and races in an attempt to erase difference, or at least draw attention to the artificiality of that concept. Hansen has said that “these portraits are about how we inhabit each other, reside in each other, and how we always leave traces in each other.” In this way, Hansen’s portraits capture emotional rather than physical likeness. —M.D.



Markus Hansen, *Rachel*, 2004. C-print mounted on Plexiglas, 38 x 29 ½ inches. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. Purchased with funds contributed by the Young Collectors Council, 2004.82.