



Fotografieprojekte
Frankfurt/RheinMain

Press kit

Frankfurt / 5 February 2015

IMAGINE REALITY
RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain



Fotografieprojekte
Frankfurt/RheinMain

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Frankfurt/RheinMain

Press Release
5 February 2015

IMAGINE REALITY **RAY 2015 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain**

For decades a considerable number of collections and institutions in Frankfurt and the region have put special emphasis on the medium of photography. This extraordinary concentration set the stage for the RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain, which premiered in 2012 and will continue as a triennial this summer. RAY 2015 brings together over 30 artists, 12 institutions and 12 curators. This unique collaboration makes the focus of this region visible and strengthens it on an international level.

From June 20, to September 20, 2015 the RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain will present outstanding positions of contemporary photography in Frankfurt and the Rhein-Main region. The core of this extensive program consists of the main exhibition and partner projects. The main exhibition **IMAGINE REALITY** will be shown collectively at the **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt**, the **Museum Angewandte Kunst** and the **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main**. Together with **six further partner institutions** in Frankfurt and the region, RAY 2015 focuses on images of subjective and staged realities.

Dr. Helmut Müller, CEO of Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain says about the project: "Following the initiative of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain, the RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain was created in 2010. Its first edition was a widely recognized national and international success. The intense collaboration between these important institutions and collections that promote the medium of photography will once again strengthen Frankfurt and the RheinMain region as an influential epicenter of photography and broaden its recognition on an international level. It is already clear that 2015 will be another great leap in the continuing success story of RAY."

Curators of the partner institutions and collections are again developing the central exhibition of RAY 2015: "as directors and curators of these institutions, we are very happy to be sitting at one table again, in order to work on a first class, international program. Now we can firmly establish the RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain as a triennial in the international and regional cultural landscape" says Anne-Marie Beckmann, curator of the Art Collection Deutsche Börse, on behalf of the RAY curatorial team.

In its second edition, the international triennial RAY 2015 sets a special focus on **new artistic productions**. The productions commissioned by RAY 2015 are developed in close collaboration between the artists and the curators and linked to the theme of the main exhibition **IMAGINE REALITY**. They will be presented within the central exhibition as well as in the partner institutions in Frankfurt and the region, partly complimenting solo exhibitions by the selected artists. Thus RAY 2015, on the initiative of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain not only combines



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the competence of the partners in the region but also strengthens its sustainability through the promotion of new productions.

Further partners in Frankfurt and the region include the **Frankfurter Kunstverein**, the **Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim**, the **Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie** and the **Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie**. The **Frankfurter Kunstverein** is planning a new production alongside a comprehensive exhibition of works by the American artist **Trevor Paglen** (*1974). The **Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim** will once again be an active partner, featuring new works by the artist **Jörn Vanhöfen** (*1961). **Sascha Weidner** (*1975) will be on show with two new works at the **Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V.** in the **Stadtmuseum Hofheim**. The **Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie** will present a site-specific work, developed by the artist **Georges Rousse** (*1947).

In 2015, RAY is extending its reach to Wiesbaden for the first time with two projects: The **NKV Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden** will showcase a new installment of the video piece "Me in Me" (2013) by the Berlin-based Singapore artist **Ming Wong** (*1971). The German photographer **Nicole Ahland** (*1970) will complete a new room series for the **Museum Wiesbaden**.

Further new productions by renowned international artists such as **Barbara Breitenfellner** (*1969), **David Claerbout** (*1969), **Kathrin Sonntag** (*1981), **Jan Tichy** (*1974) and the artist duo **Gusmão & Paiva** (*1979/*1977) will be included in the main exhibition **IMAGINE REALITY** on display at the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, the Museum Angewandte Kunst and the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main.

Professor Dr. Felix Semmelroth, Councilor of Cultural Affairs of the City of Frankfurt, comments: „The Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain supports a remarkable initiative with RAY 2015 that rests on a well-established and international focus specific to Frankfurt. High-quality photography collections and exhibition projects show that photography and Frankfurt fit together perfectly. I am even more pleased about more partners and venues joining after the success of 2012. When we present ourselves as the city of Frankfurt beyond the city limits together with Wiesbaden, Rüsselsheim, Darmstadt, Hofheim and further more, then it is clear that RAY is more than the sum of its singular parts!”

Moreover, RAY 2015 is working with the three most significant corporate collections in the Rhein-Main region. This year, the finalists of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2015 will be presented at the MMK 3 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main during RAY 2015. The Deutsche Börse Photography Prize is an annual award established in 1997 by The Photographers' Gallery, London who has been in partnership with the Deutsche Börse Group since 2005. The DZ BANK Kunstsammlung is also represented with an exhibition in its ART FOYER. The Deutsche Bank AG is supporting a new production by the Portuguese artist duo Gusmão & Paiva that will be on display at the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst.

RAY 2015 is also collaborating with students of the h_da Hochschule Darmstadt, the HFG Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach, the Hochschule Rhein-Main and the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste – Städelschule: Planned are an



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exhibition and a symposium. Additionally, the photography triennial RAY 2015 will be accompanied by an extensive education program with guided tours, workshops and lectures.

Artists

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Nicole Ahland (*1970 DE), Sonja Braas (*1968 DE/US), Barbara Breitenfellner (*1969 AT), Sophie Calle (*1953 FR), David Claerbout (*1969 BE), Jonas Dahlberg (*1970 SE), Cristina de Middel (*1975 ES), Klaus Elle (*1954 DE), Jan Paul Evers (*1982 DE), Lucas Foglia (*1983 US), Joan Fontcuberta (*1954 ES), João Maria Gusmão & Pedro Paiva (*1979/*1977 PT), Beate Gütschow (*1970 DE), Barbara Kasten (*1936 US), Annette Kelm (*1975 DE), Cinthia Marcelle (*1974 BR), Maix Mayer (*1960 DE), Abelardo Morell (*1948 CU/US), Sanaz Mazinani (*1978 IR/CA), Yamini Nayar (*1975 US), Hans Op de Beeck (*1969 BE), Trevor Paglen (*1974 US), Miguel Rio Branco (*1946 BR), Georges Rousse (*1947 FR), Viviane Sassen (*1972 NL), Kathrin Sonntag (*1981 DE), Simon Starling (*1967 GB), Anook Steketee (*1974 NL), John Stezaker (*1949 GB), Jan Tichy (*1974 CZ/US), Jörn Vanhöfen (*1961 DE), Sascha Weidner (*1975 DE), Ming Wong (*1971 SG), Wolfgang Zurborn (*1956 DE).

Commissions

Main exhibition

Barbara Breitenfellner (*1969 AT), David Claerbout (*1969 BE), João Maria Gusmão & Pedro Paiva (*1979/*1977 PT), Beate Gütschow (*1970 DE), Kathrin Sonntag (*1981 DE), Jan Tichy (*1974 CZ/US).

Partner projects

Nicole Ahland (*1970 DE), Trevor Paglen (*1974 US), Georges Rousse (*1947 FR), Jörn Vanhöfen (*1961 DE), Sascha Weidner (*1975 DE), Ming Wong (*1971 SG).

Curators

Main exhibition

Anne-Marie Beckmann (Art Collection Deutsche Börse), Peter Gorschlüter (MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst), Jule Hillgärtner (Kunstverein Braunschweig) Alexandra Lechner (Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie), Celina Lunsford (Fotografie Forum Frankfurt) and Matthias Wagner K (Museum Angewandte Kunst).

Partner Projects

Eva Eicker (Deutsche Börse Photography Prize), Peter Forster (Museum Wiesbaden), Elke Gruhn (NKV Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden), Beate Kemfert (Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim), Christina Leber (DZ BANK Kunstsammlung), Franziska Nori (Frankfurter Kunstverein) and Gregor Schuster (Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie).

RAY 2015 is an initiative of Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain and a collaboration between Art Collection Deutsche Börse, Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie,



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Sammlung Deutsche Bank, DZ BANK Kunstsammlung, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V./Stadtmuseum Hofheim, Museum Angewandte Kunst, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main, Museum Wiesbaden, NKV Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden and Stiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim.

RAY 2015 press conference and preview
Friday, 19 June 2015, 11 am
at MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main
Domstraße 11, 60311 Frankfurt am Main



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Main exhibition – Introduction to the theme

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In close cooperation with international artists, RAY 2015 presents outstanding positions of contemporary photography. From June 20 until September 20, 2015, the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, the Museum Angewandte Kunst and the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main are collectively showing the main exhibition of RAY 2015 **IMAGINE REALITY**. 28 contemporary artists have taken fragments of reality to their source in order to create imaginary and visionary worlds. In doing this, they move between documentary, applied and artistic photography.

Early pioneers of the art of photography already fathomed the possibilities of this medium apart from the original intent of its invention. Artists used the process, which initially was for making life-like pictures possible, for their own unforeseeable purposes: for the creation of illusions, for pictorial realities that were designed and staged. Using equipment such as the magic lantern or the camera obscura, they were closer to the carneys and illusionists of the 19th century than to the documentarians of their time.

One and a half centuries later, parallel worlds and identities have obtained entry into our every-day life through digital media. For the consumer, there is a multitude of means available to travel within two realities or to create them. This poses new challenges to the reflectivity and complexity of artistic photography. While the separation between reality and imagination has become less defined, the act of transformation has gained in significance and has itself become the subject of artistic inquiry.

The group exhibition **IMAGINE REALITY** investigates these processes: through the unlimited possibilities for producing, developing and preparing pictures in the present-day, a multifaceted spectrum opens new interpretations of these transformation scenarios. Visual worlds have emerged that testify to our present as well as point to our future. How can we and would we like to see the world today? How are new perspectives due to the alienation or dissolution of every day realities created through and in photography? How do we develop beyond the documentary language of pictures, the philosophical and existential aspects of human and tangible entities that are conveyed in our time? The exhibit introduces artistic positions that remove themselves from the demands of authenticity and consciously oppose the flood of pictures of private as well as social occasions. Real and virtual space, documentation and staging penetrate their works and lead to an expansion of reality.

The photographic means that are used are as multifarious as the history of photography and reflect the transformation of the medium: Traditional photographic processes and new processes, due to possibilities incurred by



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technological developments, are likewise being used in current artistic photography. Thus **John Stezaker** (*1949) and **Abelardo Morell** (*1948) go back to analog picture formation using collage techniques or camera obscura. Photographers such as **Viviane Sassen** (*1972) and **Barbara Kasten** (*1936) create abstract motifs, playing with light, shadow and perspective. Thereby the three-dimensional levels merge, resulting in new and often unexpected correlations.

The expansion of photography through scientific and digital processes led artists such as **Beate Gütschow** (*1970) or **Simon Starling** (*1967) to a debate with transformation processes; one that starts from individual elements of reality and ends up in the utopian as well as the dystopian. Gütschow photographs building fragments throughout the world and brings them together to form fantastical architectures. Another expression of the artistic debate with transformation processes, is encountered by the observer in the work of the British concept artist Simon Starling. He runs his original materials through complex production and transformation processes, which bear witness to our present living conditions in their global dimension.

The works of artists such as **Lucas Foglia** (*1983) or **Cristina de Middel** (*1975) aesthetically follow a documentary approach, revealing however a shift in reality upon closer look. Lucas Foglia breaks from the tainted stereotypical perception of the American West and creates surreal worlds with his landscapes portrayed. Cristina de Middel transposes fictitious stories in her series „This is what hatred did“ (2014) into images. They are based on the short story collection by Nigerian author Amos Tutuola, „My life in the bush of ghosts“ and are staged in Makoko, the notorious floating slums of Lagos.

With all of the various processes and possibilities of this medium, this exhibition shows what these artists have in common: Their images lead through a transformation of the environment into a world in which reality and fiction, facts and illusion are inseparably woven together.

Next to the main exhibition, the team of curators works closely together with this year's partner institution curators, who are developing monographic exhibits alongside new productions. These tie in to the exhibition theme **IMAGINE REALITY**.



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Main exhibition – Artists

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Sonja Braas (*1968 DE/US), Barbara Breitenfellner (*1969 AT), Sophie Calle (*1953 FR), David Claerbout (*1969 BE), Jonas Dahlberg (*1970 SE), Hans Op de Beeck (*1969 BE), Cristina de Middel (*1975 ES), Klaus Elle (*1954 DE), Jan Paul Evers (*1982 DE), Lucas Foglia (*1983 US), Joan Fontcuberta (*1954 ES), João Maria Gusmão & Pedro Paiva (*1979/*1977 PT), Beate Gütschow (*1970 DE), Barbara Kasten (*1936 US), Annette Kelm (*1975 DE), Cinthia Marcelle (*1974 BR), Maix Mayer (*1960 DE), Sanaz Mazinani (*1978 IR/CA), Abelardo Morell (*1948 CU/US), Yamini Nayar (*1975 US), Miguel Rio Branco (*1946 BR), Viviane Sassen (*1972 NL), Kathrin Sonntag (*1981 DE), Simon Starling (*1967 GB), Aniek Steketee (*1974 NL), John Stezaker (*1949 GB), Jan Tichy (*1974 CZ/US), Wolfgang Zurborn (*1956 DE).



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Main Exhibition – Venues

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Fotografie Forum Frankfurt

The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) is a unique center that exhibits all aspects of photography in highest quality and promotes the importance of the medium as a universal, visual language. Since its foundation in 1984, the FFF has presented the many-sidedness of photography in over 240 exhibitions to date and has been a platform for critical dialogue within the medium. Through a widely diverse program consisting of exhibitions, publications, workshops, lectures and symposia, the continuing development and classical interpretation of photography have been highlighted. The emphasis has been to present photographic works of international or national visual makers, individual exhibitions of historical and contemporary icons to exciting group exhibitions from international up and coming talents to the general public.

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt
Braubachstraße 30 – 32
60311 Frankfurt am Main
www.fff Frankfurt.org

Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main

As a vibrant location of discovery, the Museum Angewandte Kunst in Frankfurt am Main directs its focus on the perception of societal currents and developments, with an emphasis on design, performance and fashion. Against the background of its significant collections, it wants to make the hidden visible and to establish relationships between the events and the stories around things. The alternating exhibitions reveal cultural values and ever changing circumstances of life. In addition, they point also to the question of what applied art is today and what it can do and demonstrates the opposing poles of function and aesthetic benefit.

Museum Angewandte Kunst
Schaumainkai 17
60594 Frankfurt am Main
www.museumangewandtekunst.de



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MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main

The MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main belongs to the worldwide leading museums for contemporary art and in its comparatively short history has taken its place in the international museum landscape. Since the Museum opened in 1991, its building, which stands today as a classic example of postmodern architecture, has become an integral and important hub for cultural and social life in Frankfurt. Today, the MMK Collection is comprised of over 5,000 works of international art from the 1960s to contemporary art. Since its foundation, the medium of photography has been equally collected along with other categories such as installation, painting, sculpture and film. With over 2,600 works of photography, the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst has built up an outstanding collection of international contemporary photography.

MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main
Domstraße 10
60311 Frankfurt am Main
www.mmk-frankfurt.de



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RAY 2015 – Partner Projects
ART FOYER – DZ BANK Kunstsammlung

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Die Idea of Landscape
26 June – 5 September 2015

The exhibit “The idea of landscape” being presented within the framework of RAY 2015 in the ART FOYER of the DZ BANK Art Collection shows contemporary examination of the landscape motif by international art photographers. For the artist, it’s not about a perfect reproduction of nature as in the tradition of classical landscape painting but rather about visualizing a world of thought. The landscape as shown in these works is on the one hand a conceptual object that on the other hand is converted into abstraction. The landscape is here indeed a contributor to the photographic processes; the sculptural result leaves the assumed photographic touch of reality behind however and points out that each picture is an abstraction and interpretation of reality. A spectrum of diverse positions can be seen from established artists such as **Valie Export** and **Detlef Orlopp** to young art photographers such as **Jose Dávila**, **Adrian Sauer** and **Anna Vogel**.

The ART FOYER of the DZ BANK Art Collection shows four changing exhibits per year in approximately 300 sqm of exhibition space. The Collection, consisting of over 7000 works from approximately 700 artists, is dedicated to the photographic image in international contemporary art.

Curator: Dr. Christina Leber

Press Contact

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RAY 2015 – Partner Projects
Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie

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Georges Rousse
28 June – 30 August 2015
Opening: 27 June 2015

For RAY 2015, the Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie (Darmstadt Days of Photography) is showing a new production by the French artist **Georges Rousse** (*1947). Rousse engages himself with space and its transition into a two dimensional image. He uses material, color and wood constructions to create two- or three-dimensional objects, which he then photographs from a predetermined fixed position. In so doing, his intervention and the architectural structure merge. The effect of his images goes far beyond trompe-l'oeil- or an op-art aesthetic, and is much more a penetration of picture and space that join together in such a way as to create a new entity. At the beginning of December, Georges Rousse visited Darmstadt scouting possible locations for a new production: an abandoned US armed forces barracks, the Hessische Landesmuseum Darmstadt, a small art gallery, a World War II fall-out shelter and the Hofgut Oberfeld. In addition to the new production, further current works can be seen at the Designhaus Darmstadt.

The Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie originated from an initiative of photographers in 2004. Since then, this international festival numbers amongst the most important German photography events. It sets relevant themes and promotes interdisciplinary discourse in photography. The festival exhibits offer a unique and in-depth, often surprising synopsis, of how art photographers interpret a respective theme. Alongside established photographers, up-and-coming artists have the chance to present their new perceptions and photographic approaches at various exhibition locations. For artists and visitors alike, the festival offers a lively platform for mutual discoveries and personal exchange. The Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie has been from the beginning a part of the RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain.

Curator: Gregor Schuster

Contact and program information:
Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie, Kasinostr. 3, 64293 Darmstadt,
Telefon: +49 (0)6151 271608, info@dtdf.de, www.dtdf.de.



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Art Collection Deutsche Börse

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Deutsche Börse Photography Prize
at the MMK 3
MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main
20 June – 20 September 2015

During the RAY 2015 photography triennial, the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst will present the four finalists of the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2015 at the MMK 3: **Nikolai Bakharev, Zanele Muholi, Viviane Sassen** and a joint project by the artists **Mikhael Subotzky & Patrick Waterhouse**. The Deutsche Börse Photography Prize is an annual award established in 1997 by The Photographers' Gallery in London and presented in collaboration with the Deutsche Börse Group every year since 2005. The company has been collecting and supporting contemporary photography for the last 15 years. Every year, a living photo artist who has made a significant contribution to photography the previous year in Europe in the form of an exhibition or publication receives the purse of 30,000 £. The award is considered one of the most prestigious art prizes worldwide. The announcement of the winner will take place on 28 May 2015 within the framework of an award ceremony at the Photographers' Gallery.

About the Art Collection Deutsche Börse

Deutsche Börse Group is one of the world's leading stock exchange companies and also one of the most important promoters of photographic art. The Group owns a large collection of contemporary photography in the form of the Art Collection Deutsche Boerse, which is exhibited at the company's main locations world-wide. The Art Collection now includes groups of works by more than 100 international artists. The company also supports exhibition projects, international museums and Institutions.

Curator: Eva Eicker, Deutsche Börse Photography Prize

Contact

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Trevor Paglen

20 June – 30 August 2015
Opening: 19 June 2015

On occasion of RAY 2015 the Frankfurter Kunstverein is showing the first comprehensive exhibition of the American artist and activist **Trevor Paglen** in Germany.

In his photographs, photo series and books, Trevor Paglen (b. 1974 in Maryland, USA) penetrates military locations, secret organizations and surveillance objects, whose existence is supposed to be hidden from the public. The artist's projects are dedicated to mostly highly volatile sociopolitical themes and produce an enormous media echo. Through lengthy research, supported by scientists, hobby astronomers and technicians and through the use of state-of-the-art photo-technology, he manages to find, document and reveal state-arranged and undemocratically authorized monitoring and surveillance. In his haunting and aesthetic pictures of military sites, drones and satellites, he combines documentary projection with media and photo theoretical discourse. Depending on the content of his motif, Paglen chooses photographic stylistic means such as blurring, exposure time and zoom and reflects his motif through the act of seeing and optical devices. Spacious shut-in and hidden military sites, whose directive is to collect and connect realms of data, are for example subjected to a microscopic view using special telephoto lenses in his photos. At this visual plane, the relationship the site takes toward the world is reversed. He raises the unfocused and vague to a category in itself. This leads one to take a closer look. Because his pictures are of what is invisible and officially non-existent, they could be understood as "photography of a state-of-emergency".

Alongside a comprehensive selection of existing photography, this exhibit of Trevor Paglen's works will also present new productions as well as materials and documents from his research.

Press Contact

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RAY 2015 – Partner Projects
Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim

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Jörn Vanhöfen

1 July – 20 September 2015

Opening: 28 June

Jörn Vanhöfen's images zoom in on upheaval. In recent years, the photographer, born in Dinslaken in 1961, has turned his attention to the destruction of nature in the same way that he has already documented ravaged streets and dilapidated factories in various parts of the world. Nevertheless, his pictures always possess a fascinating beauty while simultaneously serving as a warning about the inevitable consequences of man's actions.

For the photography triennale RAY 2015 Vanhöfen has turned his attention to the Rhine/Main region. The past, present and future of Rüsselsheim and its surroundings are all equally important to him. Subjects such as growth, innovation, unemployment, public debt and the linked transformation of society shape the living environment of the people in the region. For Vanhöfen, his investigation of the present caught between memories of a positive past and a seemingly bleak outlook for the future gives rise to various questions: What can we do today? What can we put off until tomorrow? How can we solve the problems of the future?

A nostalgic view of the days long gone cannot help to answer these existential questions; the tried-and-trusted approaches to solving things cannot settle current and future problems. Equated in the past with affluence and security, nowadays economic growth no longer seems to be the guarantee for social progress.

The art and culture foundation Opelvillen Rüsselsheim was established in 2001 by the city of Rüsselsheim and, since 2004, has been devising and hosting exhibitions on trends and developments in photography. Vanhöfen's photography project will be the first site-specific commissioned work.

Curator: Dr. Beate Kemfert

Contact

Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen, Ludwig-Dörfler-Allee 9,

D-65428 Rüsselsheim,

T +49 (0)6142 835907

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RAY 2015 – Partner Projects
Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. im Stadtmuseum
Hofheim

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Sascha Weidner
22 June – 20 September
Opening: Sunday, 21 June

For the theme of RAY 2015 IMAGINE REALITY, the German art photographer **Sascha Weidner** is developing two new works for exhibit in the Stadtmuseum Hofheim. In one work-in-progress-project, he takes on the current status of photography: every second thousands of new pictures will be taken, snapped, uploaded, released, manipulated and separated. The work reflects the transformation in photography, which is no longer understood as “evidence”, but rather much more as a play with the imagination leading to various realities. The installation “The Observatory” consists of over 250 empty frames that Weidner hangs on the walls of the exhibition room in the Stadtmuseum Hofheim. These empty frames will be filled daily with new pictures that the artist has taken on his trip and digitally sent to Hofheim. In this way, the walls will be constantly filled with pictures and the visitor becomes a traveling companion of the artist.

A further work of Sascha Weidner, “Travelling through China”, being presented publicly for the first time at this exhibition, originated during a residence program at the Goethe-Institute China in autumn 2014. Large billboards that display idyllic landscapes from various regions of the country provide thousands of genuine backgrounds for vacation portraits of Chinese city dwellers. This work shows once again how contemporary art photography, fiction and the desire to be immersed into other realities are woven together.

The Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. was founded on May 23, 2001 in the Stadtmuseum Hofheim am Taunus. The Society is committed to the photographer Marta Hoepffner (1912-2000), who lived and worked in Hofheim between 1944 and 1970. Since its foundation, the Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. has arranged tours and lectures in the Stadtmuseum Hofheim and every three years awards the Marta Hoepffner Prize for photography in combination with an exhibit and catalogue.

Contact:

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T +49 (0)69 35350671, info@hoepffner-preis.de, www.hoepffner-preis.de

Stadtmuseum Hofheim am Taunus, Burgstraße 11, 65719 Hofheim,
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RAY 2015 – Partner Projects
Museum Wiesbaden

IMAGINE REALITY
RAY 2015 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

Nicole Ahland. Non-Space – The thing about light

19 June – 13 September 2015

Opening: 18 June 2015

Nicole Ahland (*1970) counts as one of the most exceptional present day art photographers. For this exhibit, the artist will plan and realize a new multipart complex room series. Nicole Ahland photographs rooms. She has mastered the form of suggestion as a language of extreme reduction and simultaneously uses immense precision when working with photographic means. In her room pictures, she accumulates light in a highly sensitive way, sometimes in great amounts, sometimes in small doses. She removes the partition between the surface displaying her motif and the actual production process, allowing them to flow together.

Her art deals with light; she gives light substance. She has developed her own photographic language. A language in which her works emerge as worlds where themes such as evasion, emptiness, stillness, and seeing are orbiting within, created by her own radical minimalist way of dealing with space and light.

The Museum Wiesbaden has an excellent international reputation due to its outstanding Expressionist collection. This collection has been formed with an emphasis on installations, objects, sculptures and paintings from the second half of the 20th century. Moreover, the Museum presents outstanding special exhibitions from the old masters to international contemporary art as well as natural history.

Curator: Dr. Peter Forster

Contact

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Opening Hours:

Tue & Th 10 am – 8 pm, We & Fr – Su 10 am – 5 pm, Mo closed

www.museum-wiesbaden.de



Fotografieprojekte
Frankfurt/RheinMain

RAY 2015 – Partner Projects
NKV Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden

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Ming Wong „Me in Me“

19 June – 2 August 2015

Opening: 18 June, 7 pm

In his film and photography project “Me in Me”, **Ming Wong** isolates the figure of the idealistic Japanese woman from three recurring archetypes in Japanese cinema. Ming Wong takes the roles of the Geisha, the Manga-hero and the traditional housewife and slips them into the role of the woman as a lonely creature, misplaced in a patriarchal context looking for fulfillment and belonging. As a result of this search, the protagonist in the end defines her notion of self and finds her will to survive.

Foundation and metamorphosis of identity are Wong’s central themes. He traces phenomena such as alienation, medial visual worlds and stereotypes and sets them cinematically, partly enhanced by installations, into scenes. In this way, the work “Me in Me” asks the question: to what extent do gender-specific role images from the medial visual worlds over the last century mold our self-concept or our societal understanding. It is this key question going beyond what is purely medial that links his work with the RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain. This is the first site-specific installation of his video piece “Me in Me”.

The NKV Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden was founded in 1847 by the citizens of Herzogtum Nassau as the “Society of Friends for Fine Arts” and has hence since 167 years counted as one of the most traditional Art and Cultural institutions in the capital city of Hesse. Since that time, the NKV has been committed and consistent in showing and procuring contemporary art and offering young and not yet established artists and cultural producers an experimental site and spring board into their professional career. The focus of the exhibition activities is cultivating the promotion and advancement of young emerging experimental art from Germany and other countries. Conscious of the cultural history of Wiesbaden, they promote young artists with an annual international grant “Follow Fluxus – after Fluxus”, whose works suggest ideas inherent to the Fluxus art movement in order to keep the art current alive.

Curator: Elke Gruhn

Press Contact

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Fotografieprojekte
Frankfurt/RheinMain

Initiator, support and media partners

IMAGINE REALITY
RAY 2015 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

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Fotografieprojekte
Frankfurt/RheinMain

Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain

The Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain was founded on the initiative of the Hessian state government together with the cities and counties for the common good of its citizens, the local cultural institutions, but also in order to increase the attractiveness of the cultural landscape in the Frankfurt Rhine/Main region. Additionally, it promotes large cultural events of national and international significance.

For a polycentric region, which boasts first-class cultural, educational and scientific facilities, a connecting element can create synergies – and thus outstanding results. The Kulturfonds has dedicated itself to this mission.

Organization

The shareholders of the of the Kulturfonds RheinMain are the state of Hesse, the cities of Darmstadt, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and the Main-Taunus district, as well as the Hochtaunus district. The shareholders delegate their representatives to the cultural committee, where decisions are made on the realisation of projects.

The cultural committee is advised by a board of trustees consisting of outstanding persons from different areas of national and international cultural life and production. Dr. Helmut Müller is the managing director.

Projects

The spectrum of funding is broad, it must be provided however, that the art and cultural projects are outstanding in quality, promote the .. oft he region and strengthen the collaboration of cultural institutions.

Further information and an overview of other funded projects can be found on www.kulturfonds-frm.de

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Frankfurt/RheinMain

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Fotografieprojekte
Frankfurt/RheinMain

Information for journalists/service

IMAGINE REALITY
RAY 2015 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

Exhibition IMAGINE REALITY

20 June – 20 September 2015

Publication

IMAGINE REALITY will be accompanied by an extensive catalogue published with Kehrer Verlag.

Admission: RAY 2015 main exhibition IMAGINE REALITY in the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Museum Angewandte Kunst and MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst
Regular € 12 (reduced € 6)

Interviews

We are at your service for arranging interviews with curators and artists of RAY 2015 as well as other inquiries. Please send an email with your inquiry to presse@ray2015.de or contact us by telephone at +49 (0)69 74 090 993.

Image Archive

You will find photo material of selected artists as a complimentary download. Please note that that this material may only be used in the context of press coverage referring to RAY 2015 and under compliance to the copyright listed.

www.ray2015.de/presse

Press Mailing List

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RAY 2015 is an initiative of Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain and a collaboration between Art Collection Deutsche Börse, Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie, Sammlung Deutsche Bank, DZ BANK Kunstsammlung, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V./Stadtmuseum Hofheim, Museum Angewandte Kunst, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main, Museum Wiesbaden, NKV Nassauischer Kunstverein and Stiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim.

