

## Save the Date

### 2nd Foto Festival Mannheim-Ludwigshafen-Heidelberg

#### 'Reality Crossings'

22nd September to 21st October 2007

### Subverting Realities

In autumn 2007, the three cities of the Rhine-Neckar triangle, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg, are joining forces to present cutting-edge international photography and video art under the heading '**Reality Crossings**'.

The 2nd Foto Festival Mannheim-Ludwigshafen-Heidelberg runs from **22 September to 21 October 2007**. Some 80 photographers and video artists from 25 countries will be showing their work at distinguished exhibition venues. Internationally acclaimed artists such as David Clearbout (B), Tacita Dean (GB), Christoph Draeger (CH), Peter Friedl (A), Harald Hauswald (G), Noritoshi Hirakawa (JAP), Via Lewandowsky (G), Peter Neusser (G) and Walter Niedermayr (I) have already accepted the invitation to participate in the Festival. In some cases, artists, including Beth Yarnelle Edwards (USA), Michelle Sank (GB) and Kim Yunho (South Korea), will create works for the Festival on site.

### The concept

**Christoph Tannert (Berlin) is the new Festival art director and curator.** He is also responsible for re-orienting the content of the Foto Festival, which moved from Herten to the Rhine-Neckar Metropolregion two years ago. As director of the Künstlerhaus Bethanien and an experienced curator of photography and visual arts events, Christoph Tannert will, with his concept, completely make over the Festival to stand out from the previous Fototage and link up more closely with leading-edge trends on the current art scene.

For the first time, the Festival will not focus on any particular country. 'Good works can be found throughout the world. Narrowing ourselves down to a single country would be the wrong approach,' thus Tannert. In addition, the Fototage were purely documentary in content and showcased photography only. The focus of this year's Festival will widen to include moving pictures (video). Moreover, numerous installations and works from all sorts of different yet related fields of contemporary art will be integrated.

Reviewing sessions for photographers and experts will be held, the DGPh (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Photographie) Salomon Prize will be awarded and the exhibitions will be accompanied by workshops. The individual exhibition venues in Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg will also offer guided tours for the public.

### The exhibitions – How real is reality?

'**Reality Crossings**' invokes the convergence of different levels of reality and the media in current photography and art with the realities of life surrounding us. The works chosen to be shown will render in visual terms what is otherwise only perceived (sub)consciously, over looked or ignored. They discuss socially relevant topics and uncover multiple facets of reality – at times to shock, at others to enlighten but always making a direct impact. The positions shown will stir viewers by triggering off feelings and stories in their minds. 'What delights and distresses us is what brings this exhibition to life,' explains Tannert. For him, pictures are occasions for thinking about pictures. The Foto Festival is a process of reflection to find new answers beyond the scope of conventional documentary photography.

### Artist in Residence projects

In recent months, three artists taking part in the Festival have been living and working in the Rhine-Neckar Metropolregion. Beth Yarnelle Edwards (USA), Michelle Sank (GB) and Kim Yunho (South Korea) have been capturing the realities of the three cities Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg and the people who live in them. The work they have been doing here in film and photography will be on view for the first time at the Festival.

### The venues

This year the 2nd Foto Festival is collaborating with numerous regional institutions to concentrate exhibition activities more and promote anchoring the Festival more firmly in its present location. Exhibition venues are the Kunsthalle Mannheim and the Mannheim University, Schloss. In addition, there will be exhibitions at the Kunstverein Ludwigshafen, at the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum (Ludwigshafen), the Ernst-Bloch-Zentrum (Ludwigshafen), the Kurpfälzisches Museum (Heidelberg), the Heidelberg Kunstverein and the Sammlung Prinzhorn (Heidelberg).

**The press conference will be held at the Kunsthalle Mannheim at 11 am on Friday, 21 September 2007.**

The catalogue will be published by *European Photography* as a special edition. It will be available on 1 September 2007, for 16 Euros.

Information: [www.fotofestival-ma-lu-hd.de](http://www.fotofestival-ma-lu-hd.de).



HEINRICH – VETTER – STIFTUNG

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