



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

Press kit  
RAY 2018 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain  
**EXTREME**  
Frankfurt / 8 February 2018



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

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Frankfurt / 8 February 2018

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Fotografieprojekte  
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## RAY 2018 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain EXTREME

The image defines the reality of our life day in and day out. With the theme **EXTREME** the photo triennial **RAY 2018** accounts for this power of the image with a multitude of international artists' positions. For decades, the institutions and collections in Frankfurt/RheinMain have shown an outstanding focus and competence in the field of photography. After the first two successful editions RAY 2012 and RAY 2015 this unique quality and versatility is presented with a unique constellation: Over 40 artists, 15 partner institutions, 10 exhibition venues and 6 cities in the Rhine/Main region put this focus in the international spotlight. With exhibitions, a multitude of events and – for the first time – a four-day festival dedicated to the Triennial theme **EXTREME**, RAY offers yet another summer of photographic highlights.

### RAY 2018 EXTREME

Geographic and cultural borders have become blurred due to the advancing technological possibilities and suggest a new global togetherness: We consume the same products, we use the same communication channels and implement the same image vocabulary within the social media. But at the same time, the ideological positions harden. Dichotomies such as North–South, local–global, true–false, intensify each other and juxtapositions turn into extremes. Our world oscillates between post-factual information policies and the whistle-blower impetus of Wikileaks, between a differentiated critical discourse and populism, liberalisation and conservatism, religion and secularism, between the handcrafted and the technological, digital and analogue.

Through a multitude of correlating exhibitions, the selected artists reflect upon these gaping differences, social transformation, concepts of identity, and aesthetic tendencies in the twenty-first century. The success of the extreme has always been inextricably tied to photography. What makes the extreme especially viral today is the over-abundance and unlimited availability of digitally circulating information and images that demand an economy of attention. The more extraordinary, nonconformist and marginal the image, the more attention it receives. The extreme triggers the wish to capture it in an image and make it available for future generations. The resulting images are both objects of proof and photographic expression of a fascination with the extraordinary. Thus, **RAY 2018** focuses on forms of the extreme beyond the spectacle. The point where the norm ends and the deviation begins is constantly subject to change. The reference to the extremeness of one position sometimes only becomes apparent when directly confronted with another position that creates an anti-pole with its opposing substance, its image vocabulary or artistic strategy. The notion of the extreme is always to be considered in the context of its time and in dialogue with others.

The curatorial concept of **RAY 2018 EXTREME** was developed by curators of the participating institutions and collections of photography in Frankfurt and the region: Anne-Marie Beckmann (Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation), Peter Gorschlüter (MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main), Alexandra Lechner (Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie), Celina Lunsford (Fotografie Forum Frankfurt), and Matthias Wagner K (Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main).



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Together the curatorial team has developed five exhibitions in which the selected artists examine different aspects of extremeness. The exhibitions are on view between 24 May and 9 September in Frankfurt and throughout the region.

The exhibition **EXTREME. SELF** presented by the **Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie** in collaboration with the **Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt** presents the three artists **Aneta Grzeszykowska**, **Laís Pontes** and **Isabelle Wenzel** who dedicate themselves to personal and imaginative aspects of self-perception, which move beyond the selfie mania.

In the exhibition **EXTREME. TERRITORIES** the **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation** shows landscapes, some of which have been turned into dystopian places through political and economic developments. Photographs presented include works by **Christoph Bangert**, **Anne Heinlein** and **Göran Gnaudschun**, **Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong**, **Gregor Sailer**, and **Guy Tillim**.

The **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt** dedicates itself to ecological shifts: The exhibition **EXTREME. ENVIRONMENTS** brings together artists who critically examine the influence of mankind on nature in different parts of the world: **Mathieu Asselin**, **Krista Caballero** and **Frank Ekeberg**, **Lois Hechenblaikner**, **Paula Luttringer**, **Pradip Malde**, **Gideon Mendel** and **Ami Vitale**.

With the works of **Cao Fei**, **Richard Mosse**, and **Paulo Nazareth** the exhibition **EXTREME. NOMADS** at the **MMK 1** of the **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst** focuses on contemporary forms of nomadic existence and deals with the dissolution of boundaries in politics, economy, society, and culture in the digital age.

In the **Museum Angewandte** artists investigate representations of body and identity in the exhibition **EXTREME. BODIES**. Artists including **Antoine d'Agata**, **Arno Rafael Minkinen**, **Boris Mikhailov**, and **Carolín Saage** explore topics such as gender, drug excesses, borderline lifestyles, poverty, as well as the under- and over-representation of their own body.

### RAY 2018 Festival Kick-off

For the first time, RAY 2018 launches with a versatile **four-day festival programme** from 24 to 27 May 2018. With talks and panel discussions artists, renowned academics and experts of different fields jointly investigate the phenomenon of the extreme from different perspectives. Together they discuss themes and artistic examples in order to generate sustainable impulses for art practitioners, cultural institutions, and the general public. The festival will be hosted at the **MMK 3** of the **MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main**. During the festival kick-off RAY 2018 will also offer a diverse education programme that invites children, teenagers and adults to explore the photographic medium and aspects of the triennial theme while enabling participation on different levels.

### RAY MASTER CLASS and RAY JUNIOR

Moreover, RAY 2018 is organising the premiere of a **Master Class** with the artist **Arno Rafael Minkinen** in collaboration with the **HfG Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach**, **Hochschule Darmstadt**, **Kunsthochschule Mainz** as well as the **Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste Städel**. The results will be



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

presented in an exhibition at the festival hub. With this, RAY fosters an exchange between the regional art academies and international artists in the field of photography and offers young artists a public platform. The Master Class is made possible by the support of Olympus and the Crespo Foundation.

Additionally, RAY 2018 continues its youth programme **RAY JUNIOR** that will offer workshops for schools in the Rhine/Main region. The produced outcomes will be published in a catalogue produced in collaboration with the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain.

### RAY PARTNER PROJECTS

As part of the overall RAY 2018 exhibition programme the DZ BANK Kunstsammlung, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim, Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. im Stadtmuseum Hofheim and the Nassauische Kunstverein Wiesbaden present their own exhibitions, which broaden the scope of the theme **EXTREME** with multilayered perspectives within contemporary photography.

In its **ART FOYER** the **DZ BANK Art Collection** dedicates its exhibition **Deciphering Numbers in Art** to a topic that permeates both throughout art and the financial sector. The **Frankfurter Kunstverein** broadens the RAY network to Amsterdam and presents young photographers who were selected from the annual open call **FOAM TALENT**, an initiative of the Photography Museum in Amsterdam.

For the first time, the exhibition **Pure Passion** at the **Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim** presents prints and negatives from the amateur photographers **Peter Dammann**, **Eugen Gerbert**, **Axel Herrmann**, and **Vasilii Lefter**. Over decades each of them documented their travels, families, and partners minutely and almost obsessively.

For the **Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V.** at the **Stadtmuseum Hofheim** the artists **Stefanie Schroeder** and **Christian A. Werner** develop the exhibition **Holy Smoke**, an artistic-documentary examination of poverty. The exhibition **H × B × T** at the **Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden** features the artists **Felicity Hammond**, **Bianca Pedrina**, **Kathrin Sonntag**, and **Julian Irlinger** who examine the relationship of space and art.

### RAY PLUS

Next to RAY **EXTREME**, RAY **PLUS** offers an overview of independent photography exhibitions taking place in the Rhine/Main region during RAY 2018. This includes the group exhibition "Partial Truth. Aspects of the Documentary in the Photographic Collection of the MMK" at the MMK 2 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2018 at the MMK 3 of MMK the Museum für Moderne Kunst, and the solo exhibition of the photographer Ursula Schulz-Dornburg at the Städel Museum.



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#### About RAY

The collaborative initiative RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain was founded in 2010 on the initiative of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain in order to highlight and bring together the competence and diversity of photography in the Rhine/Main region: “After the success of the first two editions of the photography triennial RAY, I look forward to the continuation of RAY 2018, which will undoubtedly strengthen the artistic diversity of our region and our reputation as an outstanding region of art and culture. We see the international importance of the photo triennial RAY 2018 as a stellar example for our funding goals that includes supporting projects that foster visibility beyond the region and contribute to the regional network at the same time” concludes Dr. Helmut Müller, managing director of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain.

#### Website RAY 2018

Starting in February, the newly designed Triennial website [www.ray2018.de](http://www.ray2018.de) offers a comprehensive and easy-to-grasp overview of the exhibition venues and events taking place in the context of RAY 2018. The entire festival programme will be online in the Spring. Thanks to its responsive design, festival and exhibition visitors can keep themselves up-to-date about current events in the festival centre as well as events accompanying the exhibition in the palm of their hands.



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### RAY 2018 Dates and Facts

#### **RAY 2018 EXTREME – Exhibition venues**

Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie with the Kunstforum of the TU Darmstadt (26.5.–22.8.2018); Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation in The Cube, Eschborn (25.5.–28.9.2018); Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (24.5.–9.9.2018); Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main (24.5.–9.9.2018) and MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main (24.5.–9.9.2018)

#### **RAY 2018 EXTREME – Artists (Selection)**

Antoine d'Agata (\*1961 FR), Mathieu Asselin (\*1973 FR/US), Christoph Bangert (\*1978 DE), Jamie Brunskill (\*1983 GB), Krista Caballero (\*1976 US) and Frank Ekeberg (\*1970 NO/US), Cao Fei (\*1978 CN), Göran Gnaudschun (\*1971 DE) and Anne Heinlein (\*1977 DE), Aneta Grzeszykowska (\*1974 PL), Lois Hechenblaikner (\*1958 AT), Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong (\*1970 MX/GB/US), Martin Liebscher (\*1964 DE), Paula Luttringer (\*1955 AR), Pradip Malde (\*1957 TZ/US), Gideon Mendel (\*1959 ZA/GB), Boris Mikhailov (\*1938 UA/DE), Arno Rafael Minkinen (\*1945 FI/US), Richard Mosse (\*1981 IE/US/DE), Paulo Nazareth (\*1977 BR), Laís Pontes (\*1981 BR), Carolin Saage (\*1988 DE), Gregor Sailer (\*1980 AT), Guy Tillim (\*1962 ZA), Ami Vitale (\*1971 US), Isabelle Wenzel (\*1982 DE/NL)

#### **RAY 2018 PARTNER PROJECTS – Exhibition venues**

DZ BANK Kunstsammlung, ART FOYER (24.5.–20.10.2018); Frankfurter Kunstverein (24.5.–26.8.2018); Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim (2.5.–29.7.2018); Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. im Stadtmuseum Hofheim (26.5.–9.9.2018) and Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden (25.5.–8.7.2018)

#### **RAY 2018 Opening Press Conference**

Wednesday, 23 May 2018, 11 am  
MMK 3 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst

#### **RAY 2018 Opening Ceremony in Frankfurt am Main**

Wednesday, 23 May 2018, 7 pm  
MMK 3 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst

#### **RAY 2018 Festival Kick-off**

Thursday, 24 May to Sunday, 27 May 2018  
MMK 3 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst

#### **RAY 2018 Festival Pass**

25 Euro



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## RAY 2018 — EXTREME EXHIBITIONS Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie

### EXTREME. SELF

26 May — 19 August 2018

Opening: 25 May 2018, 7pm

In the exhibition EXTREME. SELF, three artists focus on personal as well as imaginative ideas of the perception of self. Aneta Grzeszykowska dissects the process of the self-portrayal. Laís Pontes questions how public perception influences the perception of self by creating imaginary characters together with facebook users and bringing them to fictitious life. Isabelle Wenzel uses the self in her artistic works physically: she stages herself as a sculpture in a room.

The only thing that “Selfie” by Aneta Grzeszykowska has in common with a cell phone selfie is the name. She created a portrait of herself comprised of many different individual components, then mixed physicality, sensuality and autoeroticism with black humor. Precisely formed body parts are combined and staged as if in a scientific collection and photographed. Through the use of pigskin, these body parts appear on closer examination to be remarkably realistic. This seems disturbing and fascinating at the same time.

Laís Pontes follows an entirely different approach. She questions the aspect of the creation of identity and utilizes social media to do so. She photographed herself for “Born nowhere” in different roles and uploaded these images to a Facebook page for an open discussion. Every portrait online was given a background composed of the collected comments by other Facebook users. On that basis, four characters in “Born Now Here” were further developed by entrusting selected Facebook members with these characters as alter egos.

The works by Isabelle Wenzel are completely rooted in the real world. Her photographs are the result of an acrobatic performance in front of the camera. She positions herself in unusual, seemingly impossible positions in strange, yet unspectacular places. In the image, created with a self-timer, her body becomes a sculpture in the room, her own personality recedes into the background and her face remains hidden. She especially created new images for the exhibition in Darmstadt for the “Field Studies”, that will be shown for the first time.

The RAY 2018 exhibition EXTREME. SELF is a cooperation between the Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie and the Kunstforum of the TU Darmstadt.

#### Exhibition venue

Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt  
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## RAY 2018 – EXTREME EXHIBITIONS Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

### EXTREME.TERRITORIES

25 May — 28 September 2018

Opening: 24 May 2018, 6:30pm

The EXTREME.TERRITORIES exhibition shows regions whose residents are exposed to exceptional conditions as a result of political and economic developments. The focus lies on the traces and shifts that mark the landscape, bearing witness to uprooting, separation and alienation. They arise as a consequence of political conflicts and upheavals but also through the negative side of rapid economic growth. The works by the six selected artists reflect this in diverse and impressive ways. The project *Wüstungen* (Devastations) by Anne Heinlein (\*1977 DE) and Göran Gnaudschun (\*1971 DE) shows photographs and archive material from border areas that were razed to the ground in the former East Germany. The banishment of long-term residents associated with the former is also the subject of the *History Images* series by Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong (\*1970 MX/GB/US), addressing the radical architectural changes resulting from the economic upswing that have transformed the urban landscape in Chinese cities.

In *Hello Camel*, Christoph Bangert (\*1978 DE) explores the extreme life circumstances caused by war. He shows how soldiers stationed in war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan strive for a bit of normality in the exclusion zones created for them there. Gregor Sailer (\*1980 AT) travelled to extremely different regions around the world to show how bizarre these and other settlements hermetically sealed off from the outside world appear or even are simulated in his two series *Potemkin Village* and *Closed Cities*.

And Guy Tillim's (\*1962 ZA) *Avenue Patrice Lumumba* series paints a touchingly poetic portrait of sometimes seemingly morbid post-colonial buildings in African cities. The shown monuments contain both visions of political liberation and reflections of failure.

#### Exhibition venue

The Cube  
Mergenthalerallee 61  
65760 Eschborn

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The exhibition is free of charge. Prior booking is required.

[www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org](http://www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org)



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## RAY 2018 — EXTREME EXHIBITIONS Fotografie Forum Frankfurt

EXTREME. ENVIRONMENTS

24 May — 9 September 2018

Opening: 23 May 2018, 7pm

For RAY 2018 contemporary photo-based artists who are working on the forefront of environmental awareness are brought together at the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt. Nearly half a century after the exhibition curated by William Jenkins *New Topographics: The Man-Altered Landscape* was shown in Rochester, New York, the photo-activists, story tellers and artists today are concerned with obvious and hidden aspects of man's impact on the environment. EXTREME. ENVIRONMENTS addresses drastic environmental developments concerning global warming, extinction and industrial or political fraudulence.

In his long-term project *Drowning World*, South African born photographer Gideon Mendel has crossed the world portraying those whose lives have been devastated through massive floods; Lois Hechenblaikner's behind-the-scenes photographs and short films reveal how *Glacier Pathology* and *Alpine Entertainment* effect winter sport tourism. Three very different artistic approaches deal with the effects of when governments or corporations hide damages that evolve to epic proportions: Mathieu Asselin's award-winning book and installation project deals with the multinational agrochemical and biotechnology corporation Monsanto, Pradip Malde's *The Third Heaven*, a homage to the resilience of Haiti, and Paula Luttringer's *Entrevero* — a series of double exposures of a forgotten disaster in Argentina resurfacing through draught.

National Geographic photographer Ami Vitale or artist duo Frank Ekeberg & Krista Caballero take viewers to real and staged habitats of animals threatened with extinction. A highlight of EXTREME. ENVIRONMENTS will be the interactive stations created about the Frankfurt Rhine/Main bird populations by Ekeberg and Caballero for their global series *Birding the Future*.

### Exhibition venue

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt  
Braubachstr. 30–32  
60311 Frankfurt am Main

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## RAY 2018 — EXTREME EXHIBITIONS

### Museum Angewandte Kunst

#### EXTREME. BODIES

24 May – 9 September 2018

Opening: 23 May 2018, 7pm

In the Museum Angewandte Kunst the exhibition EXTREME. BODIES sheds light on representations of body and identity. Here, photography serves as the testimony of the body. The extreme finds its expression in photography – whether in the attitude of the photographer or the perception of habitats beyond the confines of normative standards set by society. For example, Carolin Saage (\*1988 DE) who for years has portrayed Transgender individuals worldwide, beyond or within the photographer's own environment, looks at and past the self-chosen staging while exposing herself to extreme emotions. In contrast, Antoine d'Agata (\*1961 FR), whose photography is a reassurance of his own identity within his immediate experience in nights full of alcohol, drugs, violence and sex. D'Agata states: "It is not our view of the world that counts, but our most intimate experiences within it."

Likewise, Boris Mikhailov (\*1938 UA/DE) flirts with the borders of normality with his series *Case History* (1997–1998), in his Ukrainian hometown Charkow, he documents the castaways of the post-socialist society while focusing on the body as a means of expression, through portraits of the people. This presence of a person is absent in Jamie Brunskill's (\*1983 GB) films. The bodies and heads within his films are left distorted and appear like living sculptures or like carnal substrate of non-recognisable individuals. On the opposite side are the body images of the pioneers of digital photography, Inez van Lamsweerde (\*1963 NL/FR) and Vinoodh Matadin (\*1963 NL). With their image manipulations of the 1990s they not only revolutionised fashion photography, but also delivered an imagination of designing a body.

Arno Rafael Minkinen's (\*1945 FI/US) surreal self-portraits that are not digitally manipulated only show parts of his body. He understands his work as "the most honest attempt to create an accordance between myself and nature." While Minkinen nearly disappears within his work, Martin Liebscher (\*1964 DE) clones himself a hundred-fold in one image. In his "family" pictures, Liebscher poses in different gestures and stances at notorious places. The single images are later merged together on the computer. This creates images that lead the notion of identity into the absurd.

#### Exhibition venue

Museum Angewandte Kunst  
Schaumainkai 17  
60594 Frankfurt am Main

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## RAY 2018 — EXTREME EXHIBITIONS

MMK 1 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main

### EXTREME. NOMADS

24 May — 9 September 2018

Opening: 23 May 2018, 7pm

With the works of Cao Fei, Richard Mosse and Paulo Nazareth, the exhibition **EXTREME. NOMADS** focuses on different aspects of contemporary forms of nomadic existence and addresses the dissolution of boundaries in politics, economy, society, and culture. The artists from three continents are not only investigating the individual, social and political extremes that are a result of globalisation, but also their own artistic strategies move across and alongside these boundaries.

In her works, Cao Fei (\*1978 CN) processes the profound social changes that occurred in her homeland China as a result of rapid economic growth and globalisation. Inspired by the US-American zombie films, the artist presents her work *Haze and Fog*. This is a fictional portrayal of a service-based society that is suffering from a loss of identity and transforms one of the newly built residential areas on the threshold of Beijing into a hoard of restless zombies.

Richard Mosse's (\*1980 IE/US) works are a cross between artistic production and journalistic reportage. His most recent works *Heat Maps* and *Incoming* are a direct response to the humanitarian crisis, that resulted from the latest waves of refugees in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. With the help of a video camera developed for military purposes that can measure thermal radiation over a distance of 30 kilometres, Mosse condenses two of the most dangerous and most frequented refugee routes in the world into a mesmerizing, reflective film about the situation of these people.

Paulo Nazareth (\*1977 BR) declared walking as the starting point of his artistic approach. Taking his heritage as a Brazilian with Indigenous and African roots as a theme, he crosses entire countries and continents on foot. Nazareth's works tell a tale of his encounters and many experiences from his travels; of communication and resistance, of colonial history and the presence of globalism. They weave a web between individuals, communities, and countries beyond their national borders.

#### Exhibition venue

MMK 1, Domstraße 10  
60311 Frankfurt am Main

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## RAY 2018 — PARTNER PROJECTS

### DZ BANK Kunstsammlung

#### DECIPHERING NUMBERS IN ART

24 May — 20 October 2018

Opening: 23 May 2018, 7pm

The 25th anniversary of the DZ BANK Art Collection is an opportunity to devote the anniversary exhibition to one theme that visualises the interconnectedness of art and the banking system: “numbers”.

Numbers not only play a large role in our working lives, but they are also phenomena that effect every area of our lives. Even the abstract specializations can't hide the fact that the first units of measurement — forearm and foot, counting by using our ten fingers — are derived from the human body. They have always shared a common origin of economy and art. At least since the Renaissance, numbers have gained influence in the visual arts. The development of a central perspective, the golden ratio, the teachings of symmetry and proportion have changed our perception of the world. Numbers are popular today. More than ever our private lives are evaluated with the help of numbers and summarized in algorithms. What can be translated into numerical values, suggests measurability, evaluation of success, ability to forecast the future. Numbers are a proof of fact. But the figures we are using require a fundamental interpretation, and this usually gets lost during these processes. The presumed safety of numbers gives us a good feeling of being in charge. Photographs are also attributed with the ability to capture the unfiltered reality and document the facts. But even here caution is recommended.

In the exhibition, artworks will be presented that take a conscious look at mathematics and geometry, at units of measurement and measuring, and codes as symbols.

The DZ BANK Art Collection was founded in 1993 and is the corporate collection of the DZ BANK AG (Deutsche Zentrale Genossenschaftsbank). The focus is on contemporary art in a dialog with the medium of photography.

Curated by Dr. Christina Leber, Director DZ BANK Kunstsammlung

#### Exhibition venue

ART FOYER, DZ BANK Kunstsammlung  
Platz der Republik  
60325 Frankfurt am Main

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## **RAY 2018 — PARTNER PROJECTS** **Frankfurter Kunstverein**

FOAM TALENT — The New Generation of Photography

24 May — 26 August 2018

Opening: 23 May 2018, 7pm

The Frankfurter Kunstverein presents the exhibition FOAM TALENT in cooperation with the Foam Museum Amsterdam. The exhibition shows 20 different standpoints of international young artists under the age of 35. They experiment with the medium of photography, expanding its boundaries by using new techniques and content-related approaches.

The artists distinguish themselves through various styles and strategies ranging from the activist approach, to using ironic references, critique of their own medium and social investigations of the role of photography in public spaces. The selection reflects the trendsetting standpoints of photography and acts as a barometer for a medium that is constantly changing and redefining itself in an age of digital culture. The exhibition presents a unique overview of contemporary trends and tendencies and offers experts and photography fans a standard for future developments within the medium of photography.

### **Exhibition venue**

Frankfurter Kunstverein  
Steinernes Haus am Römerberg  
Markt 44, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

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## **RAY 2018 — PARTNER PROJECTS**

### **Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim**

Pure Passion — Amateur Photographs of the artists Peter Dammann, Eugen Gerbert, Axel Herrmann und Vasilii Lefter

2 May — 29 July 2018

Opening: 29 April 2018, 11am

Four previously unknown amateur photographers will be introduced for the first time. They each worked on their own, over decades, producing countless negatives, slides and prints according to a certain photographic concept.

The late Axel Herrmann (1946–2010) for example, left behind a considerable amount of unpublished photographs that he took without any commercial purpose in the 1960s and 70s. In his profession as a pilot, he travelled the world with his stewardess wife and documented his experiences of remote destinations, before mass tourism was developed.

A love story can also be found in the photo archive of the late Eugen Gerbert (1923–1995) who photographed his wife Gerti (1931–2017) from the 1960s. Besides the obligatory family photos taken after work, Gerbert took numerous photos of Gerti. From their marriage to the death of the German rail employee, he photographed her in hand-sewn summer dresses, in lingerie or completely naked, on the beach, in the forest, in the car or at home.

A camera also accompanied the life of the engineer, Peter Dammann (\*1937), who mostly photographed his family in the 1960s and 70s. He took thousands of photos of his wife, his children, his parents and different relatives when they got together for family celebrations, birthdays or funerals.

The photographs from Vasilii Lefter (1943–1982) were also not exhibited during his lifetime. His photographic work was stored, undiscovered for over 25 years in boxes on the balcony of his daughter, the artist Tatiana Fiodorova. During the time of the Soviet Union, Lefter, who worked for the Ministry of Housing, travelled to Moldovan villages to photograph farmers in the rural community.

**Exhibition venue**  
Opelvillen Rüsselsheim  
Ludwig-Dörfler-Allee 9  
65428 Rüsselsheim

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**Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain**

## **RAY 2018 — PARTNER PROJECTS**

**Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V.  
at Stadtmuseum Hofheim**

**Holy Smoke**

Stefanie Schroeder / Christian A. Werner

From 26 May, 2018

Opening: 25 May 2018, 8pm

The artists, Stefanie Schroeder and Christian A. Werner will develop an exhibition especially for the Stadtmuseum Hofheim am Taunus on the theme of poverty. The current increase of social differences stirs up fear that reaches far into the core of our society and makes poverty a personally conceivable reality. Even within the art world, poverty is an ever-present topic - it is associated with the image of a freelance artist, it is a superficial cliché, an economic reality and an artistic subject all at the same time.

Based on intensive research, Stefanie Schroeder and Christian A. Werner are planning an artistic, documented exhibition that will transcend the boundaries of classical photography. To intensify their artistic statement, they will use various media in addition to photography, such as installation, objects and videos. In doing so, they will consistently follow one intended narrative.

Christian A. Werner (\*1980 DE), studied at the Hochschule Hannover. He worked as a documentary photographer and photojournalist and has received the Marta Hoepffner Preis für Fotografie 2011.

Stefanie Schroeder (\*1981 DE), studied at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig. She won the Zonta Special Award for a photographer 2011 at the Stadtmuseum Hofheim, as well as, the Gute Aussichten – Junge Deutsche Fotografie 2014–15, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, the Stipendium Gute Aussichten Grant in the NRW Forum Düsseldorf

The Marta Hoepffner Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. is very pleased that both artists agreed to the intensive collaboration, and that they will present their mutual project in Hofheim.

Curated by Ralf Dingeldein and Herbert Fischer

### **Exhibition venue**

Stadtmuseum Hofheim am Taunus  
Burgstraße 11  
65719 Hofheim am Taunus

### **Press contact**

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[www.hoepffner-preis.de](http://www.hoepffner-preis.de) / [www.hofheim.de/kultur/Stadtmuseum](http://www.hofheim.de/kultur/Stadtmuseum)



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

## RAY 2018 — PARTNER PROJECTS Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden

H x B x T

Felicity Hammond / Julian Irlinger / Bianca Pedrina / Kathrin Sonntag

25 May — 8 July 2018

Opening: 24 May 2018, 6pm

The international group show is dedicated to the expansion of photography towards sculptural, performative and installative work. The partly exclusive new productions create new three-dimensional spaces in the exhibition rooms based on two-dimensional prints. Thus, space is both the location and likewise the content of the artworks.

These works play with mimicry and deceptive moments as well as with surfaces and reflections, and question their own medium in the age of post-photography at the same time.

Physical visits of the spaces contrast with their conveyed presentation; real experience meets simulation. The exhibition also questions whether the fundamental difference between three-dimensional space and its two-dimensional simulation is still significant in today's digital age. Has the permanent digital "entering" of foreign, sometimes faraway places become normal by now? The fundamentally altered perception of spaces allows the two extremes of space and surface to merge.

Although the spaces depicted are locatable, they are for their part uprooted — a parallel to the influence of globality and the internet on the present. By combining references to outlying locations and newly produced works with a reference to the specific location of the exhibition space, the choice of works moves between the poles "in situ" and "ex situ," "regional" and "international". Foreign rooms migrate into the Kunstverein. The known fuses with the "strange" and extremely different.

Curated by Janine Drewes

### Exhibition venue

Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden,  
Wilhelmstr. 15, 65185 Wiesbaden

### Press contact

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Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

## RAY 2018 — PLUS

Image Profile.

Aspects of the Documentary in the Photographic Collection of the MMK

MMK 2 of MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst

23 March — 9 September 2018

Whether on a smartphone, in the newspaper or on a computer - every day we experience our world through a flood of photographs. Many of the artists represented in the MMK Collection have explored media images and reinterpreted them in their works. They reflect on political topics that have been disseminated through images in the press, deconstruct the authenticity of press photographs, or create images for topics that previously defied illustration. In the exhibition Image Profile, the MMK will examine how the media shapes our ability to perceive images. The presentation of works from the collection at the MMK 2 will feature a spectrum of contemporary modes of expression ranging from socio-political photojournalism to forms of subjective, conceptual or staged photography.

[www.mmk-frankfurt.de](http://www.mmk-frankfurt.de)

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2018

MMK 3 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst

22 June — 9 September 2018

As part of the RAY 2018 photo triennial, the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst shows works of the four artists shortlisted for the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2018: Mathieu Asselin (\*1973 FR/US), Rafal Milach (\*1978 PL), Batia Suter (\*1967 CH/NL) and Luke Willis Thompson (\*1988 NZ/GB).

[www.mmk-frankfurt.de](http://www.mmk-frankfurt.de) / [www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org](http://www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org)

Ursula Schulz-Dornburg

Städel Museum

4 July — 16 September 2018

Ursula Schulz-Dornburg (\*1938 DE) has centred on border landscapes, places of transit, and relics of outmoded cultures since the early 1970s. Her photographs confront us with cult and cultural sites in Europe, Asia, and the Near East and, above all, with the visible and invisible boundaries between these continents and regions. Assembling fourteen series, the exhibition offers a first institutional overall survey of Ursula Schulz-Dornburg's artistic development and the photographer's creative range over the past forty years.

[www.staedelmuseum.de](http://www.staedelmuseum.de)



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

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## **RAY 2018 – Team/Imprint**

### **RAY Curatorial Team**

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

### **RAY Team**

#### **Organising Institution**

Fotografieprojekte gGmbH Braubachstr. 30-32 60311 Frankfurt am Main

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Sabine Schirdewahn

#### **Press and Public Relations**

Annie Buenker

#### **Assistant Press and Public Relations**

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#### **Communications Advisor**

Bureau Müller

#### **Exhibition Coordination / Sponsoring**

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#### **Sponsoring**

Laura Gerlach

#### **Editor Print and Online**

Andrea Horvay

#### **Graphic Design**

Heine Lenz Zizka (Frankfurt/Berlin)

#### **Interns**

Marion Dubberke  
Gustav Klaphake



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

## **RAY 2018 – Information for Journalists / Service**

### **Interviews**

We are at your service for arranging interviews with curators and artists of RAY 2018 as well as other inquiries. Please send an email with your inquiry to [presse@ray2018.de](mailto:presse@ray2018.de) or contact us by telephone at +49 (0)69 74 090 993.

### **Press Image**

You will find photo material of selected artists as a complimentary download. Please note that this material may only be used in the context of press coverage referring to RAY 2018 and under compliance to the copyright listed.

[www.ray2018.de/presse](http://www.ray2018.de/presse)

### **Press Mailing List**

In order to receive press information in the future, please send an email with your contact information to the following address: [presse@ray2018.de](mailto:presse@ray2018.de)

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