



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

## Press Release

Frankfurt / 30 November 2017

### RAY 2018 – The international photography triennial focuses on the theme EXTREME

The international photography triennial RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain returns between **24 May and 9 September 2018** to present outstanding contemporary photography and related media at over ten venues in Frankfurt and the region. For the first time, RAY will open with a festival kick-off. From **24 to 27 May** photography fans, international experts of the medium as well as artists are invited to Frankfurt to explore photography and topics surrounding the RAY 2018 theme EXTREME. With over fifteen partners and a variety of public events RAY 2018 once again offers a summer of intriguing photographic highlights.

#### RAY 2018 EXTREME

Through a multitude of correlating exhibitions organised under this RAY edition's theme of **EXTREME** the selected artists reflect upon social transformation, concepts of identity, and aesthetic tendencies in the twenty-first century. Here, RAY 2018 focuses on constellations that explore marginal fields. The success of the extreme has always been inextricably tied to photography. What makes the extreme especially virulent 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 more attention is received. 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. However, 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.

**RAY 2018 EXTREME** presents exhibitions of the Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie hosted at the Kunstforum of TU Darmstadt; Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation in The Cube (Eschborn); Fotografie Forum Frankfurt; Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main; and MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main.

The curatorial concept of **RAY 2018 EXTREME** was again 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).



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### RAY 2018 PARTNER PROJECTS and RAY PLUS

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.

Next to RAY EXTREME, RAY PLUS informs about independent photography exhibitions taking place in the Rhine/Main region during RAY 2018. This includes the group exhibition “Partial Truth. Aspects of the Documentary within Photography” at the MMK 2 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst (24.03.–9.09.2018), the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2018 at the MMK 3 of the MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst (22.6.–09.09.2018), and the monographic exhibition of the photographer Ursula Schulz-Dornburg at the Städel Museum (04.07.–16.09.2018).

### RAY 2018 Festival Kick-off and accompanying programme

For the first time, RAY 2018 launches with an abundant **four-day festival programme** in which the invited artists, renowned academics and experts of different fields jointly investigate the topic EXTREME in talks, keynotes, and workshops in order to generate sustainable impulses for art practitioners, cultural institutions, and the general public. The Kick-off 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 medium photography and aspects of the triennial theme enabling participation on several levels.

Moreover, RAY 2018 is organising the premiere of a **Master Class workshop** 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 Städtelschule**. The results will be 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 workshop 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.

### 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.



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### RAY 2018 Dates and Facts

#### **RAY 2018 EXTREME – Exhibitions**

Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie at Kunstforum TU Darmstadt; Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation in The Cube (Eschborn); Fotografie Forum Frankfurt; Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main and MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main

#### **RAY 2018 PARTNER PROJECTS – Exhibitions**

DZ BANK Kunstsammlung, ART FOYER; Frankfurter Kunstverein; Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim; Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. im Stadtmuseum Hofheim and Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden u. a.

#### **RAY 2018 Artist List (Selection)**

Mathieu Asselin (\*1973 FR), Krista Caballero (\*1976 US) and Frank Ekeberg (\*1970 NO), Antoine D'Agata (\*1961 FR), Cao Fei (\*1978 CN), Göran Gnaudschun (\*1971 DE) and Anne Heinlein (\*1977 DE), Felicity Hammond (\*1988 GB), Lois Hechenblaikner (\*1958 AT), Sze Tsung Nicolás Leong (\*1970 CN/US), Martin Liebscher (\*1964 DE), Paula Luttringer (\*1955 AR), Pradip Malde (\*1957 TZ/US), Gideon Mendel (\*1959 ZA/GB), Boris Mikhailov (\*1938 UA), Arno Rafael Minkkinen (\*1945 FI), Richard Mosse (\*1981 IE), Paulo Nazareth (\*1977 BR), Gregor Sailer (\*1980 CH), Kathrin Sonntag (\*1981 DE), Guy Tillim (\*1962 ZA), Ami Vitale (\*1971 US) and many more

#### **RAY 2018 Programme Press Conference**

Thursday, 8 February 2018, 11 am

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

Wednesday, 23 May 2018, 11 am

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

Wednesday, 23 May 2018, 7 pm

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

Thursday, 24 May to Sunday, 27 May 2018

#### **RAY 2018 Triennial Duration**

24 May to 9 September 2018

#### **Festival Kick-off Pass**

25 Euro

After the festival kick-off, the usual entry prices for each participating museum apply. For Frankfurt RAY 2018 recommends the 2-day Museumsuferticket (Single adult 18 Euro, Family ticket 28 Euro, Reduced 10 Euro).



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**RAY Press Newsletter**

If you wish to receive press information in the future, please send an e-mail with your contact information to the following address: [presse@ray2018.de](mailto:presse@ray2018.de)

**RAY Press Images**

Press images are available for download here: [www.ray2018.de/presse](http://www.ray2018.de/presse)

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