

Berlin, 16 February 2017

## PRESS RELEASE

### Museum für Fotografie

Jebensstraße 2, 10623 Berlin

Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat + Sun 11 am – 7 pm, Thu 11 am – 8 pm

### C/O Berlin

Amerika Haus, Hardenbergstraße 22–24, 10623 Berlin

Mon – Sun 11 am – 8 pm

**Starting in February 2017, the Museum für Fotografie and C/O Berlin will present for the first time three exhibitions with coordinated content featuring both current and historical artistic positions on the subject of surveillance.**

C/O Berlin

### **Watched! Surveillance, Art & Photography**

18 February – 23 April 2017

C/O Berlin will be presenting the exhibition *Watched! Surveillance Art & Photography* as part of a project launched by the Hasselblad Foundation on surveillance, art, and photography in Europe since the turn of the millennium.

Contemporary surveillance is not limited to visual monitoring. Yet to understand how surveillance works, it is necessary to address the photographic aspect. Today, our entire existence is being photographed and visualized to an unprecedented degree, raising new questions about voluntary and involuntary visibility as well as photohistorical issues of observing and being observed. The exhibition examines the complexities of modern surveillance with a focus on photography and visual media.

The works in the exhibition deal with themes ranging from technologies used by government and regulatory agencies to everyday surveillance practices that have become integral parts of our lives, especially in social media. The question is: How can contemporary art and media theory contribute to a better understanding of our modern surveillance society?

Works by around 20 international artists including Hito Steyerl, Julian Röder, Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin, James Bridle, Paolo Cirio, Hasan Elahi, Jill Magid, Trevor Paglen, and Ai Wei Wei present different commentaries on and reactions to this question.

Museum für Fotografie

### **Watching You, Watching Me.**

#### **A Photographic Response to Surveillance**

17 February – 2 July 2017

An exhibition by the Kunstbibliothek – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations – New York

What right do governments, corporations, and individuals have to collect and retain information on our daily communication? What tools—both today and in the past—have been used to monitor our activities? What are the immediate and far-reaching effects?

Photographs may only be taken as part of the media coverage for the current exhibition/event. If you take photographs for any other purpose, it is your responsibility to establish beforehand any issues relating to copyright and terms of use. You are also responsible for obtaining permission for any additional usage rights (e.g. copyright for images of artworks, rights of personality, and so forth).

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The exhibition, organized by the Open Society Foundations and curated by Stuart Alexander, Susan Meiselas and Yukiko Yamagata, provides a satellite-to-street view of the ways in which surveillance culture blurs the boundaries between the private and public realm. In tackling the inherent difficulty of visualizing something that is meant to be both omnipresent and covert—seemingly everywhere and nowhere at the same time—the artists raise important and provocative questions about the role of privacy in preserving our basic freedoms and rights.

The artists of the exhibition: Mari Bastashevski & Privacy International, Edu Bayer, Josh Begley, Paolo Cirio, Hasan Elahi, Andrew Hammerand, Mishka Henner, Simon Menner, Julian Röder and Tomas van Houtryve.

Museum für Fotografie

**The Field has Eyes. Images of the Surveillance Gaze**

17 February – 2 July 2017

An exhibition by the Kunstbibliothek – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin  
Surveillance is not only a contemporary theme, but also a historical phenomenon. The exhibition *The Field has Eyes. Images of the Surveillance Gaze* turns to history and addresses the particular sense of unease that surveillance has always caused, whether it was religiously or politically motivated. The title of the exhibition is based on an anonymous woodcut from 1546. This image sends a warning message from the distant past, 'Beware, you are seen and heard!'

The exhibition brings together 75 prints, books, medals, photographs and examples of optical apparatus, coming from the collections of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin as well as from other libraries, archives and private collections, to present a visual and cultural history of the controlling gaze from the 16th to the 20th century.

**Photography Unites:**

**Three Institutions, Two Sites, One Collaboration**

Since C/O Berlin's relocation to Charlottenburg in autumn 2014, three internationally renowned institutions for photography are now situated near Bahnhof Zoo: C/O Berlin on Hardenbergstraße, the Helmut Newton Stiftung and the Photography collection of the Kunstbibliothek at Museum für Fotografie on Jebensstraße. This close proximity of three photography institutions is unique throughout the world. In addition to this first coordinated exhibition project, the collaboration of the three institutions has been visible since June 2016 in different offers for visitors.

**Joint Curator Tours**

The curators from C/O Berlin, the Kunstbibliothek's Photography Collection and the Helmut Newton Stiftung are offering joint tours through the collections each first Thursday of the month. They will present a selection of new and related photographs from the different exhibitions, pushing a general dialogue on the images.

**Discounted Entry**

Visitors who would like to see the exhibitions at C/O Berlin and the Museum für Fotografie on the same day will receive a discount of 2 euros off (general admission) and 1 euro off (discounted admission) at the institution visited second.

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**Extended opening hours at the Museum für Fotografie**

The Museum für Fotografie is extending its opening hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 7 pm, as well as on Thursday from 11 am to 8 pm. C/O Berlin is open daily from 11 am to 8 pm.

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