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PRESS RELEASE

Museum für Fotografie

Jebensstraße 2, 10623 Berlin-Charlottenburg

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

FOTOGRAFIE. Wolfgang Schulz and the Photo Scene around 1980

16 July – 11 October 2020

An exhibition of the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg and the Kunstbibliothek – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

The German magazine of international photo art “FOTOGRAFIE. Zeitschrift internationaler Fotokunst“ and its publisher Wolfgang Schulz form the focus of the exhibition Fotografie: Wolfgang Schulz and the Photography Scene around 1980. Ca. 240 Works by Wolfgang Schulz and other photographers will be shown in the Museum für Fotografie (Museum for Photography), illuminating an important period of drastic change in the history of West German photography.

In the years around 1980 photography gained a new status in the art world. New approaches to photography were explored; museums began to show interest in the medium; the first photo galleries opened; photography had its first major appearance at documenta in 1977; and photo magazines were launched. The starting point for the current exhibition on this exciting, transformative period is the photo magazine “FOTOGRAFIE. Zeitschrift internationaler Fotokunst“ (subsequently “Fotografie: Kultur jetzt“), produced in forty issues between 1977 and 1985 under the editorship of Wolfgang Schulz.

The periodical quickly developed into a much-noticed, often controversial, national scene magazine: an extremely lively forum for a burgeoning new movement that was still largely unaffected by art commerce. Wolfgang Schulz sought to elude established norms, pursuing very diverse styles and subject matter both in his role as editor and as a photographer who created an exceptional body of work. The journal now seems to have been almost completely forgotten. Yet the achievements of the editor and the contributing authors and photographers deserve a closer look. The mix of images and text they created is an important source for exploring a photo scene around 1980 that worked hard to establish photography as an art form in its own right.

The project is a first attempt to rediscover an important aspect of the history of photography in West Germany. The exhibition is divided into four sections. It pays tribute to Wolfgang Schulz’s photographic work around 1980, shows images by various photographers whose work influenced the late 1970s and early to mid 1980s, presents all forty issues of the magazine Fotografie in a serial layout forming an impressive visual panorama, and offers an oral history forum using video interviews of contemporary eyewitnesses.

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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Wolfgang Schulz was not only the editor of this magazine, but also a remarkable photographer. He tried to evade fixed norms and pursued different styles and subjects. In his pictures of Ireland, for example, he followed the narrative tradition of pictorial features, but he also created a strictly documentary typology of barns and their manifestations. With a series on undergrowth, he turned to the unspectacular. Schulz portrayed as well his circle of friends and the photo scene that went in and out of his home. The exhibition shows for the first time ever the photographic works of Wolfgang Schulz from around 1980.

A broad selection of works by the photographers represented in the magazine from the collection of the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg and from numerous other lenders will also be presented. Their works are representative for the various concepts and artistic approaches and bring the photographic scene of the time in excerpts to life. The photographs are by Hans Christian Adam, Gosbert Adler, Dieter Appelt, Heiner Blum, Joachim Brohm, Dörte Eißfeldt, Verena von Gagern, André Gelpke, Dagmar Hartig, Andreas Horlitz, Hans-Martin Küsters, Reinhard Matz, Angela Neuke, Heinrich Riebesehl, Wilhelm Schürmann, Holger Stumpf, Ulrich Tillmann/Wolfgang Vollmer, Petra Wittmar and Miron Zownir.

The exhibition is curated by Reinhard Matz, Steffen Siegel and Bernd Stiegler in cooperation with Esther Ruelfs from the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe in Hamburg. It has been enlarged for the Berlin venue in collaboration with Ludger Derenthal from the Kunstbibliothek.

A **catalogue** has been published by Spector Books, Leipzig: 240 pages, ISBN: 9783959052825, retail price: 28 €.

Due to increased **health and safety procedures** please note that there are special admission and hygiene regulations in our museums until further notice. The visit is only possible with a time slot ticket, which can be booked online in advance: www.smb.museum/tickets

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