

Press Release

Frankfurt / Main, 22.05.2018

RAY 2018: EXTREME. BODIES

24 May to 9 September 2018

Opening: 23 May 2018, 7pm (at the MMK 3)

The international triennial RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain will present works by outstanding exponents of contemporary photography at more than ten venues in Frankfurt and the surrounding region. Under the heading "Extreme", RAY 2018 will reflect on societal transformation, concepts of identity and aesthetic trends in the twenty-first century. Given our exposure to an unfiltered deluge of digital images, what, if anything, still counts as extreme? And in the face of globalization and multiethnicity, how do things stand regarding acceptance of the supposedly exceptional?

EXTREME: BODIES at the Museum Angewandte Kunst will turn the spotlight on representations of the body and of identity. The artists address the topics of gender, drug abuse, lives lived on the margins and poverty, as well as the overpowering presence or disappearance of one's own body. Their works filter out the general visual background noise, leaving only the extreme: they show what is different, bizarre, excessive, what refuses to fit the norm, but also what is beautiful, fleeting, vulnerable, fragile – in a kind of photography that places the focus on the borderline case.

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 (b. 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 (b. 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 (b. 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 (b. 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 (b. 1963 NL/FR) and Vinoodh Matadin (b. 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 (b. 1945 FI/US) surreal self-portraits that are not digitally

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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 Minkkinen nearly disappears within his work, Martin Liebscher (b. 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.

The concept underlying the 2018 triennial was developed jointly by curators from the participating institutions and photography collections: 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).

Artists to be featured at the Museum Angewandte Kunst: Antoine d’Agata (b. 1961, FR), Jamie Brunskill (b. 1982, UK), Martin Liebscher (b. 1964, DE), Inez van Lamsweerde (b. 1963, NL), Vinoodh Matadin (b. 1963 NL), Boris Mikhailov (b. 1938, UA), Arno Rafael Minkkinen (b. 1945, FI) and Carolin Saage (b. 1988, DE)

Further information can be found at ray2018.de

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Director

Matthias Wagner K

Curator

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)

Location

Museum Angewandte Kunst
Schaumainkai 17
60594 Frankfurt am Main

Information

T +49 69 212 31286
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www.museumangewandtekunst.de

Opening hours

Tue, Thu-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, Wed 10 am – 8 pm

Admission

12 EUR, reduced 6 EUR

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