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## Media Release Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

### Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and C/O Berlin to start event series „Watched!“

Lectures about Surveillance Art & Photography as of April in Berlin

C/O Berlin and the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation will be launching the new event series Watched! on the topic of Surveillance Art & Photography in April 2016. Every two months, lectures and discussions with artists, scholars, photographers, legal experts, journalists, and politicians will be held at the Amerika Haus in Berlin.

Video cameras in banks, department stores, and public spaces; algorithm-driven advertising and persistent cookies on the Internet; government data collection and private private cloud data storage—permanent surveillance and data sharing have become a fact of life in the modern world. Surveillance has become a major issue of public concern in recent years. Sociologists, psychologists, legal experts, politicians, and artists are examining diverse forms of surveillance and their effects on both the individual and entire groups. They are addressing questions of the private sphere and the potential threats of government and private surveillance to the individual, and are engaging critically and creatively with various forms of everyday surveillance as a constitutive part of social life. These sweeping developments raise the question: How is surveillance affecting us? And how does it influence artistic production? And how can contemporary art and media theory contribute to a better understanding of our modern surveillance society?

With the event series “Watched!”, C/O Berlin and the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation seek to address this important question by presenting different commentaries and reactions from contemporary art and from media experts. They will discuss aspects of surveillance in seven thematic blocks: Privacy vs. Street Photography, The Changing Gaze—From Observation to Surveillance, Taboo: Child Photography, The Public Self, Big Data, Safe/Unsafe, and Surveillance Systems.

Announcements of the individual events, participants, and dates will be published in the weeks to come. The series will serve as the thematic prelude to an exhibition project of the same name that C/O Berlin will be presenting together with the Museum for Photography Berlin from February to May 2017.

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**About Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation**

“Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation”, a Frankfurt-based non-profit foundation, promotes contemporary photography. The foundation activities focus on collection, exhibition and promotion. For instance, one of the key aims of the foundation is to expand the Art Collection Deutsche Börse. Deutsche Börse began to build up its collection of contemporary photography in 1999. Art Collection Deutsche Börse now comprises more than 1,600 works by over 100 international artists. The collection and a changing exhibition programme are open to the public. The Photography Prize is a key project of the foundation. It is awarded in cooperation with the Photographers' Gallery London and will be presented under the name Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize for the first time on 2 June 2016. Other focal points include promoting new talent, supporting exhibition projects of international museums and institutions, and the expansion of platforms for academic discussion about the medium.

**Notes to Editors:**

**Media contact:**

Leticia Adam, Phone: +49 (0)69 211 11500  
Leticia.adam@deutsche-boerse.com

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**C/O Berlin Foundation:**

Mirko Nowak, Tel. +49 30 28 44 41 60  
nowak@co-berlin.org

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