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Media Release Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

„Watched IV“- Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and C/O Berlin to host series of talks

Panel discussion about „Big Data“ with Heiko Maas, Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection on 1 December 2016 in Berlin

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation and C/O Berlin will host a new panel discussion of the „Watched!“ series on the topic of surveillance art & photography. The event entitled “Big Data” will take place on 1 December 2016. Heiko Maas, Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, Sophie Mütsel, sociologist specialising in „media & networks“ and the artist and author James Bridle will discuss the benefits and risks of our transparent lives in times of digital exploitability of data. The event will be moderated by the chief correspondent of Deutsche Welle and TV presenter Melinda Crane. Every second month artists, scientist, photographers, lawyers, politicians and journalists are discussing and holding talks under the name “Watched!” at C/O Berlin in Amerika Haus, Berlin.

The data that we generate daily through our behavior has become a precious resource. Around the world, new data is collected, analysed and evaluated for scientific, economic or political purposes without us having any influence over it. We've arrived in digital Big Data and are forced to do a daily balancing act between protecting our privacy on the one hand and on the other the self-understanding of the freedom to which the Internet, social media and networks belong. Who do we communicate with? Which friends should we still know? Where's the next vacation destination? How healthy are we and how do we move through the city? Do we offer this information voluntarily by using the preferences laid out for us in WhatsApp, Facebook, booking sites, step counters or GPS-based navigation devices? Behind attractively designed interfaces, a massive market hides in an as of yet mostly legally ambiguous and continuously growing space.

Surveillance has long been a major issue in society. Sociologists, psychologists, lawyers, politicians and artists address the different forms of surveillance and their effects on individuals and entire groups. They don't merely concentrate on issues of privacy and the potential threat to individuals through governmental and private surveillance, but rather critically and playfully deal with the various forms of daily surveillance as constitutive part of our social lives. Given this universal development, the question arises: What effect does this have on us? How are these developments

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reflected in artistic works? And how can contemporary art and media theory contribute to a better understanding of our modern surveillance society?

With the series Watched! – Surveillance Art & Photography C/O Berlin and the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation address the different forms of surveillance and their effects and present different commentaries and reactions from the perspective of contemporary art and media experts.

Notes to the editors:

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Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

The Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation is a Frankfurt-based non-profit organisation. The foundation activities focus on collecting, exhibiting and promoting contemporary photography. Deutsche Börse began to build up its collection of contemporary photography in 1999. Expanding the Art Collection Deutsche Börse which comprises today more than 1,600 works by over 100 international artists is one of the key aims of the foundation. The collection and a changing exhibition programme are open to the public. Together with The Photographers' Gallery in London, the foundation awards the renowned Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize each year. 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.

For more information please visit www.deutscheboersephtographyfoundation.org.