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Media Release Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

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“Work & Leisure” – a special exhibition by Art Collection Deutsche Börse from 12 May to 8 September 2017

Press preview on Thursday, 11 May 2017 at 11 a.m. in
The Cube, Mergenthaleralle 61, Eschborn

Under the title “Work & Leisure”, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation explores the two worlds that shape day-to-day human life the most: leisure and work. The exhibition, with over 100 works by 26 international artists in Art Collection Deutsche Börse, can be viewed from 12 May to 8 September 2017 at the two exhibition spaces in Deutsche Börse's headquarters, The Cube, in Eschborn.

“Work & Leisure” examines aspects of identity and the freedom of the individual in daily life – across different eras, regions and cultures. This is also reflected in the range of the exhibits. The exhibition presents works by young artists such as Lucas Foglia and Olivia Arthur, works by renowned contemporary representatives of the medium, such as Andreas Gursky, Sebastião Salgado and Candida Höfer and works by photography icons of the mid-20th century, such as Paul Almasy, Werner Bischof and Heinrich Riebesehl.

“This selection of groups of work from the Art Collection offers a multifaceted artistic insight into the places where we spend a large part of our lifetime, which in turn makes them highly relevant, to society as a whole,” said Anne-Marie Beckmann, Director of the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation.

The exhibition was curated by Anne-Marie Beckmann, Sebastian Knoll and Annekathrin Müller.

Under the heading “**Work**”, the photographs exhibited cover a broad range of different spaces and environments, in which people work under very diverse conditions. **Sebastião Salgado** (born 1944, in Aimorés, Brazil) shows, for example, Brazilian day labourers in his series about the Serra Pelada gold mine. Salgado's portrayal captures their dignity in the face of hard and inhuman working conditions. The Brazilian travelled the world for six years and published a monograph, “Workers: Archaeology of the Industrial Age”, dedicated to the workers and offering an insight into a time that seems long forgotten in our North European present. **Inge Rambow** (born 1940, Marienburg, Germany) creates space for ambivalent feelings with her landscape portraits of opencast mining areas in the former East Germany. Rambow photographed



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deserted lignite mines in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg shortly after the opening of the border between East and West Germany. Beautiful chains of hills, soft dune-scapes and stretches of water, whose shape and colour either blend with the surrounding geology or contrast sharply with it are only recognisable as industrial relics at second glance. They reveal themselves as lakes in toxic colours; rusted wrecks are only discernible on closer inspection. The landscape is shaped by visible traces, witnessing the immense amount of work.

These clear traces of physical work contrast with **Andreas Gursky's** (born 1955, Leipzig, Germany) large-format photographs of trading floors of international stock exchanges. The dynamism and turmoil evident in the complex chaos of the Chicago Board of Trade, intensified by digital image processing, is characteristic of Gursky's way of working. These pictures were among the first works collected by Art Collection Deutsche Börse since 1999. The atmospheric reading rooms in libraries by **Candida Höfer**, (born 1944, Eberswalde, Germany) are emblematic of intellectual work. In her visual language, Höfer concentrates on the aesthetic autonomy of abstract structures. The function of the rooms and their history are in the foreground here. People themselves – as creators and users of these rooms – are not present in Höfer's photographs.

Set against these workplace images, the exhibition on the second floor under the motto of “Leisure” features portrayals of leisure activities and diversion, pointing out the places where and the rituals in which recreation is sought. These sometimes appear bizarre in the works of Martin Parr (born 1952, Epsom, Surrey, England). In one of the first colour photograph series, he portrays the spirited life of English working-class families during the holidays. The photographs from the series “The Last Resort” were taken between 1983 and 1986 in New Brighton, England. Parr portrays British society and the places where it spends its leisure time in his very direct and unpretentious visual language. **Jürgen Nefzger**, (born 1968, Fürth, Germany) also draws a special image of modern urban life in France with his series “Hexagons”. His photographs from the 1990s concentrate on recording artificial-seeming blocks of flats, suburban centres and tourist zones to strips of shops.

The works by **Lucas Foglia** (born 1983 in Huntington, New York, USA) show where the search for leisure in the vastness of nature can lead. His project “Frontcountry”, which he created over a period of several years, revolves around life on the edge of civilisation, in places facing major upheavals, where time appears to stand still. The landscapes appear impressive and boundlessly wide, and visualise a certain feeling of freedom. The British photographer **Simon Roberts** (born 1974 in London, England) spent a year (2004-05) getting acquainted with modern Russia. In unknown regions far away from major conurbations, Roberts' portraits concentrate on the people living there. The exhibition shows them during their free time, dancing, bathing and picnicking. **Mitch Epstein** (born 1952 in Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA), was one of the pioneers of American colour photography. He, in contrast, shows the “American way” of spending leisure time. His works come from the “Recreation” series, one of his first major projects from the 1970s and 1980s.

List of artists:

Paul Almasy, Olivia Arthur, Werner Bischof, Joachim Brohm, Bruce Davidson, Slawomir Elsner, Mitch Epstein, Lucas Foglia, David Goldblatt, Andreas Gursky, Evelyn Hofer, Candida Höfer, Matthias Klose, Mirko Krizanovic, Martin Liebscher, Vivian Maier, Jürgen Nefzger, Martin Parr, Inge Rambow, Heinrich Riebesehl, Simon Roberts, Sebastião Salgado, Karl Hugo Schmölz, Alec Soth, Thomas Steinert, Joel Sternfeld.

Notes to Editors:

The exhibition will open on Thursday, 11 May 2017 at 6 p.m. A press preview will also take place on 11 May 2017 at 11 a.m. Please register with leticia.adam@deutsche-boerse.com.

In the attachment, you will find an overview of the press pictures. We are happy to send you the images in print quality on request.

Information for visitors:

The exhibition can be viewed free of charge. Prior booking is required.

Dates for the tours: 17 May, 2 June, 13 June, 29 June, 14 July, 25 July, 9 August, 21 August, all at 6 p.m.

Further dates for groups are possible by arrangement.

Place: The Cube, Mergenthaler Allee 61, 65760 Eschborn

You can sign up for the public tours on:

<https://www.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org/en/events.php>

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About 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 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.deutscheboersephotographyfoundation.org.

About the Art Collection Deutsche Börse

The Art Collection Deutsche Börse is among the most important collections of international contemporary photography, comprising approximately 1,700 works by more than 120 international artists. Established in 1999 and dedicated to a variety of central themes of contemporary photography from the middle of the 20th century, it has seen continuous growth. The subjects of the collection range from landscape imagery, portraits, still lifes and interiors to street photography. The inclusion of extensive work groups of documentary and reportage photography in the collection serves to show that the production of museum-quality work does not happen for the art market or museum walls alone. What all works have in common, however, is that they convey the artists' exploration and contemplations of the "conditio humana", the conditions of human existence and of people's ways of adapting to their environment.