



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

Press Kit

RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES

The fourth international Triennial of photographic arts in  
Frankfurt/Rhine-Main

Frankfurt / 25 March 2021



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### RAY 2021 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

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Fotografieprojekte  
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## RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES

### The fourth international Triennial of photographic arts in Frankfurt/Rhine-Main

Images have always had a rhetorical function in the context of discourses, societies, opinions, identities and ultimately also world views. The fourth edition of the international Triennial **RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain** will be held from **3 June to 12 September, 2021**, and will focus on the theme of **IDEOLOGIES**. By using the critical potential of art, in particular artistic photography and other related media, reveals the impact of past and present ideologies.

For decades, institutions and collections in the Frankfurt/ Rhine-Main region have been home to a remarkable density and competence in the field of photography. After the first three successful editions RAY 2012, RAY 2015 and RAY 2018, this special quality and versatility is presented again in an exceptional constellation: over 22 artists, 15 partner institutions, 11 exhibition venues and 9 cities in the Rhine-Main region will join together to put this focus in the international spotlight. With exhibitions, a multitude of events and a three-day festival dedicated to the theme of IDEOLOGIES, the RAY Triennial offers a multifaceted exploration of photography.

How is ideology expressed in the past and in the present? What is hidden behind ideologies, how do they work and to what extent do they support power, manipulation, abuse, exclusion and exploitation, or even exercise these themselves? The RAY photography Triennial aims to discuss these questions with current and historical positions. However, one thing seems indisputable: as every ideology is always self-referential, it ultimately cannot do justice to our complex realities and future-oriented demands as a self-contained system of meaning and values.



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES Exhibitions

The thematic concept of **RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES** was developed collaboratively by seven curators: Anne-Marie Beckmann (Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation), Christina Leber (DZ BANK Kunstsammlung), Alexandra Lechner (Independent Curator), Celina Lunsford (Fotografie Forum Frankfurt), Susanne Pfeffer and Anna Sailer (MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST), as well as Matthias Wagner K (Museum Angewandte Kunst). The IDEOLOGIES Exhibitions with works and new productions of international artists will be on view at the following venues: Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation in The Cube (Eschborn), Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, DZ BANK Kunstsammlung, Museum Angewandte Kunst, MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST.

With works by the artists **Máté Bartha**, **Eddo Hartmann**, **Paula Markert** and **Salvatore Vitale**, the exhibition of the **Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation** in The Cube (Eschborn) is dedicated to various communities whose identity formation follows the principle of segregation and thus also that of exclusion.

With its focus on identities and ideologies, the exhibition at the **DZ BANK Kunstsammlung** offers an insight into the multimedia work of **Adrian Sauer**, whose works question fixed patterns of thought. In doing so, he uses a method that exposes ideological action and enables identity formation.

The impact of ideologies on one's identity and entire societies is questioned in the works of **Akinbode Akinbiyi**, **Johanna Diehl** and **Qiana Mestrich** in the exhibition at the **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt**.

The photographic and moving-image works by **Yagazie Emezi**, **Mohau Modisakeng** and **Yves Sambu** shown at the **Museum Angewandte Kunst** deal directly or indirectly with the historical abuses and the media image of "Africa".

With **Ja'Tovia Gary** and her work *The Giverny Suite*, the **MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST** shows how much not only pictures, but above all our gaze is ideologically shaped.



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### RAY 2021 Partner Projects

As part of RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain, the following six **RAY Partner Projects** will present specially curated exhibitions and expand the theme of IDEOLOGIES with multi-faceted perspectives: Historisches Museum Frankfurt, Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt, Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim, Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. im Stadtmuseum Hofheim, Museum Giersch der Goethe-Universität, Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden.

The exhibition **Schöne ordentliche Bilderwelt - Erziehung zum Wegsehen?** at the **Historisches Museum Frankfurt** takes a look at the manipulative structure of Nazi image reporting using the estate of the Frankfurt photographer **Otto Emmel**.

With the show **HILDE ROTH. A time travel through Darmstadt 1950 – 1990**, the **Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt** honours the work of the photographer and post-war reporter for the first time - in outdoor spaces at central locations around the city.

The **Kunststiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim** is showing **Lee Miller. Hautnah. Fotografien 1940 bis 1946**. The show focuses on the unique war photographs by Elizabeth "Lee" Miller, taken between 1944 and 1945.

Titled **Vorbilder**, photographers **Nicole Ahland** and **Sibylle Fendt** enter into a photographic dialogue with selected abstract and figurative photographs from the oeuvre of Marta Hoepffner for the **Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. im Stadtmuseum Hofheim**.

The **Museum Giersch der Goethe-Universität** explores two outstanding, today largely forgotten, female photographers of the Weimar Republic, **Nini** and **Carry Hess**. Original portrait, theatre, dance and nude photographs by the two Frankfurt sisters will be displayed as well as books or magazines in which their photos appeared.

The **Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden** presents **Eva & Franco Mattes / Human-in-the-loop**, whose installations examine the function and dissemination of photographs that we reveal on social networks every day and are displayed using invisible mechanisms.



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### RAY Festival

A three-day-long festival with lectures and talks will take place from 1 to 3 September as part of the RAY Triennial. The **RAY Festival** will invite international artists, curators and experts to bring together diverse perspectives on the topic of IDEOLOGIES. The RAY Festival will take place at the **Museum Angewandte Kunst**. More information will be announced in the RAY Newsletter and on the RAY website.

### RAY MASTER CLASS

In cooperation with the Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach, the Hochschule Darmstadt, the Kunsthochschule Mainz and the Hochschule für Bildende Künste Städtelschule, the **RAY MASTER CLASS** will be held for the second time as an intensive workshop, led by the RAY artist **Johanna Diehl**. The aim is to give national and international photography students the chance to explore their work under new eyes and to generate more attention among young visitors. The works of the RAY MASTER CLASS will be on display at the **Museum Angewandte Kunst** from 1 to 12 September with the start of the RAY Festival. Another exhibition is planned for 2022 at the **Kunststiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim**.

### RAY JUNIOR

To create awareness for IDEOLOGIES through youth participation, RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain will continue its successful format of RAY JUNIOR. Workshops will be held in cooperation with schools in Darmstadt, Frankfurt, Hanau, Offenbach, Mainz and Wiesbaden. The **RAY JUNIOR** photography workshops will be led by the photographers Thekla Ehling, Mirko Krizanovic, Wolfgang Zurborn and the art educators Jutta Stocksiefen and Lisa Weber. Once more, the patron of the RAY JUNIOR project will be the Frankfurt photographer **Barbara Klemm**.

### RAY PLUS

Titled **RAY PLUS**, further independent photography exhibitions that will be taking place in the Rhine-Main area during RAY 2021 will be highlighted by RAY. These include the exhibitions on **Peter Bialobrzeski - No Buddha in Suburbia** at Galerie—Peter—Sille, **BEYOND** by Alexandra Kohler and Esra Klein at Kleiner Mann mit dem Blitz and **Arhun Aksakal and Timon & Melchior Grau** at saasfee\*pavillon.



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### About RAY

The cooperative alliance RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain was established in 2010 on the initiative of the **Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain** to highlight and bundle the competence and diversity of photography in the Rhine-Main region. "This year's photo Triennial could not be more relevant with its thematic focus. While the pandemic rages, globalisation causes uncertainty and migration moves the world, ideologies that have their origins in manipulations and frustrations are increasingly emerging. Art has the potential to reflect these world views, challenge interpretations and take the audience along in the process. This is where RAY 2021 comes into play, creating a necessary and critical dialogue in these turbulent times. In its conception, the Triennial connects diverse project participants from Frankfurt RhineMain which is of great importance for the cultural networking of the region and increases the collective radiance of the Rhine-Main region as a hub for photography," says **Karin Wolff**, Managing Director of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain.

### Website RAY 2021

From the end of March 2021, the Triennial website [www.ray2021.de](http://www.ray2021.de) will provide an overview of all exhibition venues and content within the framework of the RAY 2021 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain. In addition, it will provide all the latest information on planned events and the entire festival programme. Thanks to the embedded livestreams, festival and exhibition visitors can also be present at many ongoing events while on the move.

### RAY 2021 Social Media and Newsletter

To make sure you don't miss anything from RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES, it's worth following RAY's social media channels on **Facebook, Instagram, Youtube** and **Twitter**.

[www.facebook.com/rayfotografieprojekte](http://www.facebook.com/rayfotografieprojekte)  
[www.instagram.com/rayfotografieprojekte](http://www.instagram.com/rayfotografieprojekte)  
[www.youtube.com/Fotografieprojekte](http://www.youtube.com/Fotografieprojekte)  
[www.twitter.com/rayfotoprojekte](http://www.twitter.com/rayfotoprojekte)

You can also subscribe to the **newsletter** at [www.ray2021.de](http://www.ray2021.de).



## Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain

### RAY 2021 Dates and Facts

#### **RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES – Exhibition Venues**

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation in The Cube (Eschborn) (5.06. – 19.09.2021), DZ BANK Kunstsammlung (27.05. – 11.09.2021), Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (3.06. – 12.09.2021), Museum Angewandte Kunst (3.06. – 12.09.2021) and MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST in the ZOLLAMT MMK (3.06. – 12.09.2021)

#### **RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES – Artists (Selection)**

Akinbode Akinbiyi (\*1946 UK/NG), Máté Bartha (\*1987 HU), Johanna Diehl (\*1977 DE), Yagazie Emezi (\*1989 NG), Ja'Tovia Gary (\*1984 US), Eddo Hartmann (\*1973 NL), Paula Markert (\*1982 GER), Qiana Mestrich (\*1977 US), Mohau Modasikeng (\*1986 ZA), Yves Sambu (\*1980 CD), Adrian Sauer (\*1976 GER), Salvatore Vitale (\*1986 IT)

#### **RAY 2021 PARTNER PROJECTS – Exhibition Venues**

Historisches Museum Frankfurt (2.06.2021 – 3.06.2022), Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt (29.05. – 3.10.2021), Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim (10.02. - 25.07.2021), Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. im Stadtmuseum Hofheim (6.06. – 1.08.2021), Museum Giersch der Goethe-Universität (22.08.2021 – 5.12.2021), Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden (28.05.2021 – 11.07.2021)

#### **Exhibition Period**

3 June to 12 September 2021

#### **Opening**

Wednesday, 26 May 2021, in three time slots, DZ BANK Kunstsammlung

#### **Program Press Conference**

Thursday, 25 March 2021, 11 am

#### **Opening**

Friday, 4 June 2021, 7 pm, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation in The Cube, Eschborn

#### **Opening Press Conference**

Wednesday, 2 June 2021, 11 am

#### **Festive Opening**

Wednesday, 2 June 2021, 7 pm, Museum Angewandte Kunst

#### **RAY Festival**

Wednesday, 1 to Friday, 3 September 2021, Museum Angewandte Kunst



Fotografieprojekte  
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## RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES Exhibitions Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

The Cube, Eschborn  
5 June – 19 September 2021  
Opening: 4 June 2021

Under the guiding theme of *Us and Them*, the exhibition is dedicated to various communities whose identity formation follows the principle of demarcation and thus also that of exclusion. The mechanisms employed to nurture a sense of belonging, strength and control range from the establishment of comprehensive security systems to the creation of myths and the evocation of enemy images to be fought against.

In his series *Kontakt*, Máté Bartha (\*1987 HU) portrays military summer camps in Hungary for children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 18. Camping out in the open air, they hike, sing together and receive military training with replica weapons. The programme, which demands strict discipline from its participants, sometimes includes punishments such as push-ups, and may also result in bruises. The camps are intended to instil camaraderie and patriotism in the girls and boys, as well as a sense of belonging to a strong community.

Working as a photographer in North Korea is almost impossible due to the censorship restrictions there. Despite these adversities, Eddo Hartmann (\*1973 NL) made four official visits to the capital Pyongyang. The images of his project *Setting the Stage* show a metropolis, charged with imposing symbolism and built in accordance with the socialist ideal. The city appears cold and deserted, but above all serves as a curious stage set for the self-created myth of the authoritarian regime.

The so-called National Socialist Underground (NSU) is responsible for the racially motivated killing of nine people in Germany between 2000 and 2007. It was not until 2013 that the trial against the right-wing extremist terrorist group began. At that time the photographer Paula Markert (\*1982 GER) started to work on her project *A Journey through Germany. The NSU series of murders*. In her work, she documents people and places associated with the group, thus creating multi-layered imagery of the inconceivable events and their processing by state institutions, the latter of which remains questionable to this day.

For most people, any mention of Switzerland conjures up images of a peaceful alpine idyll in the heart of Europe. However, in the publication *How to Secure a Country* by Salvatore Vitale (\*1986 IT), it reveals a different side of itself, that of a highly militarised state permeated by a far-reaching security system and safety-mindedness. In observations collected over many years, Vitale's visual research project details the way his adopted country deals with military border security, IT infrastructure and terrorism.

### **Exhibition Venue**

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation  
The Cube  
Mergenthalerallee 61  
65760 Eschborn

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## RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES Exhibitions Fotografie Forum Frankfurt

3 June – 12 September 2021  
Opening: 2 June 2021, 7 pm

The effect of ideologies on the identity of individuals and entire societies is explored by Akinbode Akinbiyi, Johanna Diehl and Qiana Mestrich in the exhibition at the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt.

Akinbode Akinbiyi (\*1946 UK/NI) observes the changing life in urban spaces as a wanderer with his camera – in Africa, in Berlin, where he has lived for decades and, new for RAY 2021, also in Frankfurt. In his series *Sea Never Dry*, *African Quarter* and *Lagos: All Roads*, the globally active artist directs his gaze to unspectacular street scenes – and in them to traces of past and present ideologies from religion, politics or economics. With their very own aesthetic, his works show quotidian activities in places that have outlived systems of oppression or live side by side with evolving ideologies. In March and April, Akinbode Akinbiyi will produce a work especially for RAY in Frankfurt, which will then be on view during the Triennial.

Johanna Diehl (\*1977 GER) focusses on places and objects that were part of complex political and social upheavals. In doing so she examines to what extent the original purposes are present and to what extent their absence still remains. In the work *Ein ruhiger Tag*, the artist transfers her grandmother's diaries into a conceptual work about the silence and the unsaid in the record of a family's life. In her works *The Imaginary Studios*, *Eurotopians* and *Cults of Performance*, Diehl presents the impact of ideologies on design and music, architecture and interiors in the second half of the 20th century.

With her latest work *Thrall*, Qiana Mestrich (\*1977 US), first-generation American and multi-disciplinary artist, participates in the political and cultural discussions on white supremacy and black consciousness. Mestrich stages photographs, some with her family, to interrogate racism and cultural ideologies of beauty. She uses materials such as hair, plants or chicken bones in unfamiliar constellations, challenging the viewer to see things different. The *Namesake* series, also on view, is a typological work based on photos of women also named Qiana that the artist found online while researching the origin of her own name.

### **Exhibition Venue**

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt  
Braubachstraße 30 - 32  
60311 Frankfurt am Main

### **Press Contact**

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RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES Exhibitions  
DZ BANK Kunstsammlung

27 May – 11 September 2021  
Opening: 26 May 2021, in three time slots

Adrian Sauer (\*1976, Berlin, GDR) asks questions without expecting answers and opens up the thought structures of those who engage with his work. Ultimately, he uses a method that unmasks ideological action and enables identity formation. The exhibition *Identities and Ideologies* at the DZ BANK Kunstsammlung offers a comprehensive view of the multimedia work of Timm Rautert's former master's student.

In addition to digital C-prints, digitally drawn images, and sculptural formulations, the exhibition also presents a photographic sound installation that delves into the philosophy of photography. For *Photographing Is* from 2019, the artist modified search results he received on Google in response to his entry *Photographing is*. To the result *photography is social and interactive*, for example, he adds other variations, such as *photography is antisocial and interactive*, *photography is social and passive*, *photography is antisocial and passive*. The artist reworked the results not only by adding different forms of negation to the sentences, but also by placing the sequence of *stanzas* in a new frame of reference. He then had the text recorded by the actress Charlotte Puder and her colleague Felix Preißler. By modifying the search results and recontextualizing the content, the listeners are enabled to question their own ideas.

The artist thus shows us that individual perception is more than a motif pictured on our retina. It is content, communication, impulse, awareness, questioning, cognition, and much more. With his approaches, Adrian Sauer questions our ideologies and enables us to redefine our identity again and again.

**Exhibition Venue**

DZ BANK Kunstsammlung  
Platz der Republik, 60325 Frankfurt  
Public Access:  
Friedrich-Ebert-Anlage / Cityhaus I  
Public car park „Westend“

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Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

## RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES Exhibitions Museum Angewandte Kunst

3 June – 12 September 2021  
Opening: 2 June 2021, 7 pm

Photography as a medium of imagery in particular is closely linked in its genesis to the imperial industrialisation of Western nation states and to the colonisation of the African continent in the 19th and early 20th century. The reverberation of photographs from this period is an expression of a permanent unconscious, but equally manipulatively employed conscious reproduction of myths and negativistic representations of this continent. For this reason, other perspectives, other art practices and other participants in the field of photography and related visual media are needed today.

The photographic and cinematic works shown at the Museum Angewandte Kunst, deal directly or indirectly with historical abuses and the media image of "Africa". Yagazie Emezi, Mohau Modisakeng and Yves Sambu present an exploration of gender, poverty, beauty, the body, identity and the consequences of racism for the individual and the community, all drawn from within African societies.

Yagazie Emezi (\* 1989 in Aba, Nigeria) challenges the image of beauty that globalisation and a mostly Western European media image define as the standard, with her photo series *The Beauties of West Point*. With *Consumption of the Black Model*, she questions and examines how bodies can be dramatised by photographers on the one hand and serve the Western gaze on the other.

In Mohau Modisakeng's (\* 1986 in Soweto, South Africa) films, large-format photographic prints, installations and performances, he deals with the consequences of racism for society, the community and the body, as well as the militarisation and deep divisions of South Africa during and after apartheid. Material, metaphor and the black body are the tools he uses to explore the impact of South Africa's violent history.

Yves Sambu's (\*1980 in Lukula, DR Congo) *Vanitas* project consists of a series of photographs dealing with "La Sape" and the Congolese "Sapeurs" (Dandies): colourful and luxurious men, mostly dressed in Western European luxury brands, strolling through the streets of Kinshasa. By having the subjects pose in cemeteries, Sambu creates an artificial pictorial space of being and appearing, far from the places of their actual appearance.

### **Exhibition Venue**

Museum Angewandte Kunst  
Schaumainkai 17  
60594 Frankfurt am Main

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RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES Exhibitions  
MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST

3 June – 8 August 2021  
Opening: 2 Juni 2021, 19 pm

To occupy the venues of art history and introduce new imagery is one of art's *raison d'être*. An image is always an expression of a specific perspective, way of thinking, and present. In her work *The Giverny Suite* (2019), Ja'Tovia Gary shows the extent to which not only images, but also how we see them, are subject to ideological influences. In the iconic landscapes of Claude Monet, Gary stages a collision between idyll and imperialism. Whereas in this total construction of nature, the black female body might appear to be protected from the usual exoticizing gaze, the *Négresse* character adapts a transgressive posture in the face of a continued asymmetrical balance of power. In interviews on the streets of Harlem the omnipresent vulnerability is beyond dispute, though the connections created between Black women and girls prove sincere and sustaining.

Images of self-empowerment—for example of Nina Simone during her concert in Montreux or of the Black Panther activist Fred Hampton—clash with film footage of Josephine Baker as a caged bird, shots of drone strikes carried out in Afghanistan under the tenure of Barack Obama with the film sequences Diamond Reynolds took with her cell phone following the fatal shooting of her partner Philando Castile during a police traffic stop in Minnesota. All these many images seem to merge in the question posed by Joseline Hernandez: “Can I live? Can I live? Can I fucking live?”

The exhibition at the ZOLLAMT MMK is the first institutional solo exhibition to feature the U.S. American artist Ja'Tovia Gary (b. 1984) in Europe.

**Exhibition Venue**

MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST  
ZOLLAMT MMK  
Domstraße 3  
60311 Frankfurt am Main

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Fotografieprojekte  
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## RAY 2021 Partner Projects Historisches Museum Frankfurt

Nice Neat Picture World – Learning to Look Away?  
2 June 2021 – 3 June 2022

With the estate of the photographer Otto Emmel (\*1888 DE-?), the project at the HMF will shed light on an epoch in the history of photography in Frankfurt distinguished by a massively manipulative structure: photojournalism under National Socialism.

The oeuvre of the photographer Otto Emmel (1888–?), who was at the height of his career in the Nazi period, will serve here as a case in point. The examples to be presented in the exhibition revolve around everyday life in the city, political and cultural events, celebrations and sports. The photos show human interaction between individuals, within and between groups in the urban space. How was the city's architecture used for the aesthetic formation of Nazi ideology? And what role did photographers play in the process?

The exhibition will examine photographic motifs offering insights into daily life under National Socialism from the various perspectives we, as viewers of the present, adopt in our perception of the visual media today: for example the political, psychological, social, emotional, and artistic perspectives. How did the images create and steer public discussion by way of their rhetorical function? How did they shape the depiction of everyday life and society in the Nazi system? How did they appeal to the individual viewer? And what did they leave out?

*Nice Neat Picture World* will also set the scene for the comprehensive special exhibition *Frankfurt and National Socialism – A City Plays Along* opening at the HMF on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### **Exhibition Venue**

Historisches Museum Frankfurt  
Saalhof 1  
60311 Frankfurt am Main

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Fotografieprojekte  
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## RAY 2021 Partner Projects Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt

HILDE ROTH. A time travel through Darmstadt 1950 – 1990  
29 May - 3 October 2021  
Opening: 29 May 2021, 6 pm

With *HILDE ROTH. A time travel through Darmstadt 1950 – 1990*, the Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt dedicates an exhibition to the photographer and post-war reporter for the first time. In the spring of 2020, Hilde Roth's photographic estate of more than 115,000 analog photographs was donated to TU Darmstadt for an exhibition.

"Never photograph something that doesn't interest you." This saying by the American photographer Lisette Model is especially true for Hilde Roth (\*1927 DE, †2019 DE), whose photographs are characterized by an alert and unpretentious gaze.

Her black-and-white photographs show people's everyday lives in naturalistic as well as humorous situations, in their leisure time or at work, also including many photographs from the fields of fashion and sports. Special events such as the visit of Konrad Adenauer or Hildegard Knef were also documented. The pictures tell the story of the eventful post-war period: from the spirit of optimism in the 1950s, the economic miracle, the Roaring 60s to the 1980s. "They are always close to people and show Roth's humane view of the world," says Julia Reichelt, curator of the exhibition.

Her photographs are a visual journey through time and represent a sense of life for an entire era in an exemplary way. The spectrum of her images is as diverse as life itself.

The Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt continues its successful exhibition series situated in the urban space. Following *HOME SWEET HOME* as part of the 11. Darmstadt Photography Days, the show *HILDE ROTH. A time travel through Darmstadt 1950 – 1990* now honors the work of the photographer and post-war reporter for the first time with displays placed in central places around the city.

### **Exhibition Venue**

Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt  
Hochschulstraße 1  
64289 Darmstadt

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**Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain**

**RAY 2021 Partner Projects**  
**Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim**

Lee Miller. Hautnah. Fotografien von 1940 bis 1946  
10 February - 25 July 2021

Elizabeth "Lee" Miller (\*1907 US – †1977 GB) is considered one of the most multifaceted artists of the 20th century. This American, who came to prominence as a model, photographer and Surrealist, produced impressive pictorial documents of the final phase in World War II when she accompanied the American troops to Germany. This show focuses on her unique war photographs from 1944 through 1945.

As a war correspondent for Vogue, Miller ventured into an area of photography which had previously been dominated by her male colleagues. With her reportage texts and her choice of photographic themes, Miller shook up her audiences and took a clear stance. She was the first female reporter to gain access to Paris in 1944 and she photographed her artist friends after the city's liberation. Her remarkable work would have been forgotten were it not for the fact that her son discovered it after her death. Some of the pictures she took in Hessen are being shown for the first time.

Miller reached Frankfurt am Main at the end of March 1945, only a few days after the American forces had occupied the devastated metropolis. Her photo of the statue of Lady Justice on the expanse of rubble on Römerberg was published shortly later, in June 1945, at the beginning of the Vogue article Nazi Harvest. She had yet to encounter the unimaginable suffering in the concentration camps. The iconic photograph Lee Miller in Hitler's Bathtub was taken in Munich on April 30, the day Hitler died, directly after her documentation on the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp.

The Surrealist in her, with her subjective, artistic way of looking at things, is still visible in her photographic work during the War, even though by then Miller had started to champion documentary journalism. Whether her work was documentary or staged, her principal aim was to provoke emotions. More than 75 years after the end of the War her war photographs are still of major importance. And if their primary function is to remind us about the brutality of World War II, they also evince Miller's commitment to warning us against future wars.

**Exhibition Venue**

Kunst- und Kulturstiftung  
Opelvillen Rüsselsheim  
Ludwig-Dörfler-Allee 9  
65428 Rüsselsheim am Main

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Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

## RAY 2021 Partner Projects

### Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V.

*VorBilder*. Ein fotografischer Dialog von Nicole Ahland und Sibylle Fendt mit Marta Hoepffner

6 June - 1 August 2021

Opening: 6 June 2021, 11.15 am

The exhibition *VorBilder. Ein fotografischer Dialog von Nicole Ahland und Sibylle Fendt mit Marta Hoepffner* shows photo series by two contemporary female photographers in conjunction with works by Marta Hoepffner (1912–2000). In her work, Marta Hoepffner was interested in a visual concretization of reality composed of light, space, and movement, a so called "poetry of rational consciousness".

*VorBilder* brings selected abstract and figurative photographs by Hoepffner into dialogue with current works by the Wiesbaden-based photo artist Nicole Ahland and the Berlin photographer Sibylle Fendt, who teaches at the Ostkreuzschule in Berlin. In the exhibition shown at the Stadtmuseum Hofheim, the three photographers cover 60 years of artistic photography.

In the end, only light. Space as a perceptual element forms the core of Nicole Ahland's artistic work. Her main focus is on places that tell a cultural story. Following Hoepffner's joy of experimentation while at the same time precisely planning her compositions, Ahland shows a multi-part series of works of light modulations describing space, in which photographic themes such as silhouette, reflection, refraction and absorption are found in great abstraction.

Portraits. Inspired by Marta Hoepffner, Sibylle Fendt's works are driven by respect and an appreciative attitude towards the portrayed protagonists. Fendt meets artists who have the courage to break through bourgeois paradigms, to question gender roles and express this through their character and their art. In her portraits, she wants to express the strength and power of these unique personalities.

Marta Hoepffner worked in a time marked by war and ideological conflict. A time that demanded a credible attitude, from female artists in particular. The exhibition *VorBilder* shifts these qualities into the present and questions the possibilities of the medium of photography from a female point of view. The exhibition is curated by the Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. in cooperation with the Stadtmuseum in Hofheim am Taunus. Marta Hoepffner lived and worked in Hofheim am Taunus from 1944 to 1970.

#### **Exhibition Venue**

Stadtmuseum Hofheim am Taunus  
Burgstraße 11  
65719 Hofheim

#### **Press Contact**

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[www.hoepffner-preis.de](http://www.hoepffner-preis.de)

[www.hofheim.de/stadtmuseum](http://www.hofheim.de/stadtmuseum)



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

RAY 2021 Partner Projects  
Museum Giersch der Goethe-Universität

The Photographers Nini and Carry Hess  
22 August – 5 December 2021  
Opening: 22 August 2021, 11 am

Nini (\*1884 DE – 1943?) and Carry Hess (\*1889 DE – 1957 CH)—two outstanding photographers of the Weimar Republik—are the focus of an exhibition to be presented by the Museum Giersch der Goethe-Universität. Today all but forgotten, the studio founded by the two sisters in Frankfurt's Börsenstrasse in 1913 was once one of the most prestigious in Germany. Celebrities such as Max Beckmann, Alfred Döblin, Paul Hindemith, Thomas and Katia Mann, and Mary Wigman all had their pictures taken by the two portrait-photograph specialists. Nini and Carry Hess were appreciated especially for their ability to counter fine-art photography's tendency towards stylization with a highly individualized, psychologically sensitive approach moderately adapted to the avant-gardist current of Neues Sehen, or New Vision.

The two sisters' contacts in Frankfurt's theatre milieu were decisive for their work: in production photos and role portraits, they documented the innovative events taking place on the city's stages. A major source of income was moreover the regular publication of their photographs in books, newspapers, and the illustrated magazines that shaped the visual culture of the Weimar Republic.

Featuring some 120 original photographs, the exhibition will be the first to offer nuanced insights into the life and work of the two women, whose biographies and careers were destroyed by the National Socialists on account of their Jewish descent. In addition to portrait and theatre photographs, the show will also present dance shots and nudes as well as representative examples of contemporary pictorial media.

This exhibition will shed light on an important but hitherto unexplored chapter in the cultural life of Frankfurt am Main and the contributions made by women to culture in the Weimar Republic and restore it to the collective memory. The results of the in-depth research underlying this project represent an enrichment to the history of German photography of the interwar period and document the significance of scholarship and research for our culture of remembrance.

The exhibition is being curated by Eckhardt Köhn and Susanne Wartenberg.

**Exhibition Venue**  
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der Goethe-Universität  
Schaumainkai 83  
60596 Frankfurt am Main

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Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

RAY 2021 Partnerprojekte  
Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden

Eva & Franco Mattes / Human-in-the-loop  
28 May – 11 July 2021  
Opening: Thursday, 27 May 2021, from 6 pm

Eva & Franco Mattes' (both \*1976 in Italy, live and work in New York) installations grapple with the effects of technology on our daily lives. They examine the function and distribution of photographs that we regularly reveal on social networks, and that constantly inundate us online. What we see affects how we form our worldview, and the images we view are increasingly controlled by invisible mechanisms.

On the basis that the Internet is not a free, utopian place, but a more and more centralized, corporatized and monitored system, the artists make visible the underlying infrastructure and the people who work it. With a good dose of black humor, they sensitize our perception to these dynamics. The starting point of the works is an intensive personal exchange with the people who work for large Internet companies. Based on these individual feedbacks, political and ethical questions surface in the Mattes' practice with regard to the handling of media images. Due to the ambiguous separation of private and public, Internet users do not only receive media, but also broadcast data with a vast reach that disseminates systems of social norms right up to the strengthening of ideologies. The first solo show by the artist duo in Germany combines new productions with works from the last five years.

Eva & Franco Mattes (\*1976 IT) have been working together since 1995. After solo exhibitions in Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Slovenia, the Netherlands, India, Canada and the USA as well as participation in group exhibitions around the world, solo shows will follow in 2021 in the Fotomuseum Winterthur and in the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden. They have participated in the Rencontres d'Arles (2018), the Yokohama Triennale (2017), the 20th Biennale of Sydney (2016), Manifesta 4 (2002) and the 49th Biennale di Venezia (2002). Works are among others in the permanent collections of SFMOMA in San Francisco, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and the X Museum in Beijing. The exhibition is made possible by the Cultural Office of the State Capital of Wiesbaden, the SV SparkassenVersicherung and the Nassauische Sparkasse.

**Exhibition Venue**

Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden  
Wilhelmstraße 15  
65185 Wiesbaden

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Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

## RAY 2021 PLUS

### **BEYOND**

Framed Gallery

7 – 13 June 2021

Der Kleine Mann mit dem Blitz

6 – 12 September 2021

With *BEYOND* Alexandra Kohler and Esra Klein are curating an exhibition with selected works by various artists to show how diverse the subject of ideologies can be understood and interpreted. In three phases various positions on social phenomena, such as racism, demarcation, environmental degradation or post-colonial legacy, are disclosed. The opening at Framed Gallery and the finale at Der Kleine Mann Mit Dem Blitz are setting the frame of the exhibition. In addition publicly visible works will be integrated into the urban landscape for the entire period of the Triennial and thus detached from the current art scene and made accessible to everyone. This project is part of *SKALE*, an independent platform for photography and art.

[www.artskale.de](http://www.artskale.de)

### **Peter Bialobrzeski**

#### **No Buddha in Suburbia**

Galerie—Peter—Sillem

28 May – 10 July 2021

Opening: Friday, 28 May 2021, 6 – 8.30 pm

Bombay's suburbs are among the largest and most densely populated urban areas on earth. In contrast to the western understanding of suburbia, one finds dystopian living conditions here. An uncontrolled mixture of half-ruined buildings, brand-new high-rises, slums, billboards and elevated streets characterize the cityscape. In his images, Peter Bialobrzeski condenses the intense and complex impressions of a city caught between local traditions and cultures and the uninhibited forces of globalization and neoliberalism into impressive tableaux. Peter Bialobrzeski is one of the defining German photographers of the last decades. Among other prizes, he won the World Press Award twice (2003 and 2010) and was awarded the Erich Salomon Prize of the German Society of Photography in 2012.

[www.galerie-peter-sillem.com](http://www.galerie-peter-sillem.com)



**Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain**

**Arhun Aksakal  
Timon & Melchior Grau**  
saasfee\*pavillon  
28 May – 4 July 2021  
Opening: 28 May 2021, 7 pm

In their collaborative exhibition at saasfee\*pavillon, Arhun Aksakal and Timon & Melchior Grau explore the origins and limits of the human condition between technology and nature. Their observations examine the fragile human perception, of space, time and the self, in relation to post- as well as transhumanist approaches. In the context of the spatially expansive installation, the immersive experience of the work becomes an examination of one's own existence. In his work, Arhun Aksakal (\*1995 in Offenbach, GER) deals with civilisational evolutionary processes as well as with the tension between architecture and nature. Timon and Melchior Grau (\*1990, 1991 in Hamburg, GER) question the interdependence of humans on designed structures in their work and expose subject/object-relationships.

[www.saasfeepavillon.de](http://www.saasfeepavillon.de)



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## RAY 2021 Team/Imprint

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Anne-Marie Beckmann (Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation), Christina Leber (DZ BANK Kunstsammlung), Alexandra Lechner (Freie Kuratorin), Celina Lunsford (Fotografie Forum Frankfurt), Susanne Pfeffer und Anna Sailer (MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST), Matthias Wagner K (Museum Angewandte Kunst)

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Bureau Mueller

### **Graphic Design**

Heine Lenz Zizka (Frankfurt/Berlin)

### **Intern**

Timon Farell Wagner



Fotografieprojekte  
Frankfurt/RheinMain

## RAY 2021 Information for Journalists/Service

### **Interviews**

Feel free to contact us to arrange interview appointments with the curators and artists of RAY 2021. Please send an email with your request to [presse@ray2021.de](mailto:presse@ray2021.de) or contact us via phone at: +49 (0)69 74 090 993.

### **Press Photos**

In our website's press section you will find images of selected artists available to download for free. Please note that the images may only be used for press coverage in connection with RAY 2021 and in compliance with the copyright.

[www.ray2021.de/presse](http://www.ray2021.de/presse)

### **Press Mailing List**

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