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SUZANNE LOVELL, INC.

OUR NEWSLETTERS ARE SELF-PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE FINE ART INTEGRATION INTO OUR INTERIOR ENVIRONMENTS

ARTS & CULTURE NEWSLETTER

A New Objectivity: The Düsseldorf School of Photography



The **Düsseldorf School of Photography** is linked to a group of students at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf in the mid-1970's who studied under the influential photographers **Bernd and Hilla Becher** (Bernd, German, 1931-2007; Hilla, German, b. 1934), who today are among the most famous and towering figures in the field of photography. Most notable are **Andreas Gursky** (German, b. 1955), **Thomas Struth** (German, b. 1954), **Candida Höfer** (German, b. 1944), and **Thomas Ruff** (German, b. 1958), who retain the documentary approach of their teachers while applying new technical possibilities with a contemporary vision.

The **Bechers** practiced a conceptual approach to photography aligned with Minimalism and Conceptual Art, asserting it as a legitimate art form in the modern art sphere. The Bechers' work specifically harkened back to pre-war German photographers Karl Blossfeldt, Albert Renger-Patzsch and August Sander, whose work was designated as the "New Objectivity (Neue Sachlichkeit)". A rebirth of this impersonal, documentary style of photography began as a collaborative project by the Bechers in 1959, in which they recorded single types of industrial features such as water towers, steel mills and mines, exploring site-specificity as a variable when comparing forms.

Andreas Gursky, Chicago, Board of Trade II, 1999
Chromogenic print on paper
Image: tate.org



Bernd and Hilla Becher
Water Tower, ARRAS, PAS-DE-CALAIS, 1979
Image: artnet.com

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...the Düsseldorf School



Thomas Struth
Museo del Prado 7, Madrid, 2005
Chromogenic print
Cat. 9461
Image: thomasstruth32.com

Andreas Gursky developed a body of work out of this tradition by specializing in large-scale photography of the modern world. His photographs are mostly shot with a bird's eye view so that the subjects often appear to have been consumed by their massive environment. The detail in Gursky's work is ever-clear, even though some pieces are 6 ft. by 10 ft...they are dispassionate and dizzying all at once.

Thomas Struth was initially trained as a ceramicist who first studied as a painter under Gerhard Richter before moving to photography. Struth is best known for his "Museum Photographs", featuring audiences viewing Western Art at some of the world's most famous museums such as Musée du Louvre, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Pantheon in Rome.

“Spaces may or may not invite the image—if they do, they mostly do it with their spatial layers of time... It is then the image that takes the place of the space; the image in its own right.”

-Candida Höfer

Candida Höfer's photographs reveal what has been called a "psychology of social architecture". She is known for recording empty public and institutional structures such as libraries, museums, universities and theaters. She does not use a flash, relying instead on the natural light as she encounters the space.

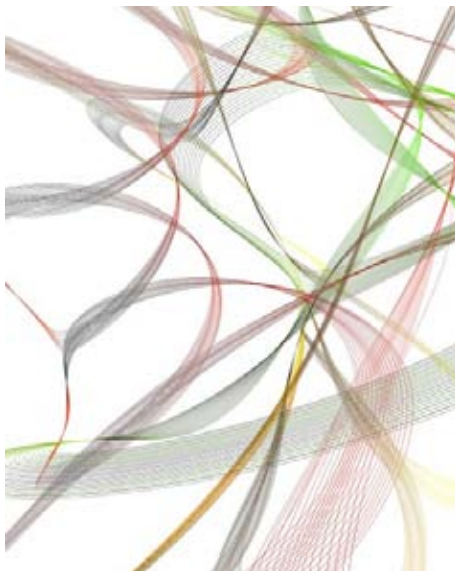


Candida Höfer
Biblioteca Geral da Universidade de Coimbra, IV, 2006
C-Print
Image: mfa.org



Andreas Gursky, *diptych 99 cent store II*, 2001
Detail
Image: artblart.com

Thomas Ruff, *cycles 3078*, 2009
Image: artobserved.com



Thomas Ruff, *cassini 31*, 2009
Image: artobserved.com



Thomas Ruff, *r.phg.s.03*, 2012,
Image: davidzwirner.com



Thomas Ruff, *ma.r.s.06*, 2010
Image: davidzwirner.com

Thomas Ruff began his work photographing exterior landscapes, transitioning to stark German interiors of the 1950's-1970's, and on to capturing friends of the vibrant Düsseldorf art scene. Ruff's photographs are produced with a mastery of digital manipulation and updates to antiquated darkroom techniques. Ruff has recently been producing large-scale photograms in a 3-D digital studio, where he captures abstract shapes that are formed randomly with varying degrees of transparency and illumination.

be inspired...Berlin

MUST SEE

Holocaust Memorial (Brandenburger Gate): American architect Peter Eisenman's unique memorial is worth visiting. 2,711 stone slabs of varying sizes undulate in a random pattern. The gray slabs are free of markings so that the visitors can experience the "loss and disorientation" felt by the Jewish Holocaust victims.



MUST SEE

Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart (Invalidenstrasse 50-51): This is Berlin's premier Museum of Contemporary Art housed inside one of the city's first terminal stations of the rail system in Germany (which opened in 1846). Its permanent collection features major figures and movements since 1960. Despite the enormous exhibition space it is not actually possible to show the entire collection at once - instead the collection's objects are displayed in rotating thematic exhibitions.

WHERE TO STAY

Rocco Forte Hotel De Rome

(Behrenstrasse 37): Tucked away on a quiet yet central location in the heart of Berlin, revel in the old banking house turned boutique hotel.

WHERE TO EAT

VAU (Hunter Street 54/55): The premises of this Michelin-starred restaurant are as amazing as the food. Master architect Merinhard von Gerkan collaborated with interior designer Peter Schmidt and the artwork displayed is by the multi-prize winning artist Oliver Jordan.

WHERE TO SHOP

Andreas Murkudis (Potsdamer Str. 81E): High-end clothing (such as Céline and Dries Van Noten) and beautiful accessories are presented in a minimalist style resembling a museum display.

WHERE TO SPLURGE

Galerie Nordenhake (Lindenstrasse 34): "Sister" gallery to the Nordenhake originally opened in Stockholm in 1973, this location has substantial exhibition space to feature a wide range of contemporary artists.

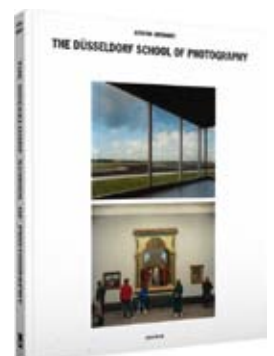


Book...

The Düsseldorf School of Photography By Stefan Gronert ©2010

This comprehensive survey showcases the history and influence of The Düsseldorf School of Photography from the 1970's through today. The author, Stefan Gronert, is a noted expert on German art and photography based in Bonn. He presents scholarly text with artist biographies and extensive imagery dedicated to each artist that makes this book a must for serious photography collectors and enthusiasts.

Image: aperture.org



“I am never interested in the individual, but in the human species and its environment.”

-Andreas Gursky