



Berlin, January 23, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

what stands between us– Photography as a Medium for Chronicling

The main festival exhibition of EMOP Berlin – European Month of Photography 2025 addresses social conflicts and creates space for dialogue

From March 1 to 31, 2025, visitors can experience the 11th edition of the EMOP Berlin – European Month of Photography with around 100 exhibitions. The main festival exhibition of Germany's largest biannual photo festival is located in the festival centre at the Akademie der Künste at their Hanseatenweg site. It takes up the festival's leitmotiv, *what stands between us*, and explores photography as a medium of chronicling.

The main festival exhibition, which opens already on 27 February, presents projects by around 20 international artists who train their camera on various contemporary conflicts. Nationalistic tendencies, for example, or conspiracy narratives, disaffection with the state, right-wing violence, tougher asylum policies, and the increasing closing of Europe's external borders are the predominant topics. The title of the exhibition, *what stands between us*, alludes to the trigger points contained in these topics. At the same time, it addresses a vis-a-vis and proposes dialogue. What connects all these artists is that they want to use their medium to tell stories, and focus their cameras on 'micro stories' of individual experiences and personal histories. With these chronicles, the artists point to broader contexts and political issues that are hidden behind their narratives. The photographs (and also filmic material) serve as traces of events that are often textually framed and contextualized – be that in notes, reports, interviews or literary formats, but also in digital production formats like 3D video works and virtual simulations. Rather than loudly demanding, claiming or pronouncing – as has become customary in social media – the exhibition disrupts these dynamics by establishing a critical distance to its medium.



Instead of making claims, it questions in small narrative pieces “what stands between us” – and explores, for example, the link between origin and educational opportunities, the ongoing marginalization of people with a migration background, experiences in the time immediately after German unification, or the radicalization of parts of society. Since an analysis of our current societal constitution always also includes an interrogation of one’s own history, the exhibition brings together works both by contemporary artists and materials from the Akademie der Künste’s archives, for example from the archives of John Heartfield and Walter Benjamin. The exhibition is curated by **Maren Lübbke-Tidow**, artistic director, EMOP Berlin 2025 at Kulturprojekte Berlin.

With works by Ilit Azoulay, Yevgenia Belorusets, Cana Bilir-Meier, Hannah Darabi & Benoît Grimbert, Fungi (aka Phuong Tran Minh), Bérangère Fromont, Beate Gütschow, Raisan Hameed, John Heartfield, Leon Kahane, Susanne Keichel, Simon Lehner, Boris Mikhailov, Pinar Öğrenci, Helga Paris, Einar Schleef, Maya Schweizer, Wenke Seemann, Christine Würmell, Tobias Zielony and a text by Walter Benjamin.

EMOP Berlin’s partner exhibition, *Ein Dorf 1950–2022. Ute Mahler, Werner Mahler und Ludwig Schirmer* curated by **Marit Lena Herrmann**, opens at the same time at the Akademie der Künste. It shows a photographic long-term project about the Thuringian village Berka, showing the changes of the village and the community over 70 years.

The exhibitions *what stands between us* and *Ein Dorf 1950–2022. Ute Mahler, Werner Mahler und Ludwig Schirmer* will be open beyond the festival until 4 May 2025.

Main festival exhibition of the EMOP Berlin

what stands between us: Photography as a Medium of Chronicling

28 FEB–4 MAY 2025

EMOP Berlin c/o Akademie der Künste

Hanseatenweg 10

10557 Berlin

Opening

27 FEB 2025 7pm



Opening hours

Closed on Mondays

Tue–Fri 2–7 pm

Sat–Sun, public holidays 11am–7 pm

Special opening hours during the EMOP Opening Days

27 FEB 2025 from 7 pm

28 FEB 2025 2–10 pm

29 FEB 2025 11 am–8 pm

1 MAR 2025 11 am–7 pm

Admission

10.00 € (combined ticket for *what stands between us: Photography as a Medium for Chronicling* and *Ein Dorf 1950–2020. Ute Mahler, Werner Mahler und Ludwig Schirmer*. Free admission for everybody up to 18 years old, and on Tuesdays.

Reduced admission 7.00 €

Free admission during the EMOP Opening Days.

The complete programme is available on our website emop-berlin.eu

Images can be found in the [press area](#).

Press conference

Journalists are invited to our press conference in the festival centre of EMOP Berlin at Akademie der Künste on Hanseatenweg, on the day before the official opening. On **February 26, 2025 at 10 am**, the festival programme and the main festival exhibition, as well as the partner exhibition *Ein Dorf 1950–2022. Ute Mahler, Werner Mahler und Ludwig Schirmer* will be presented; journalists can visit the exhibition from 9 am on that day. There will be opportunities for speaking to the organizers, curators, and select artists. Afterwards, various partner sites can be visited on a bus tour.



Please register by 21 February 2025 by sending a mail to n.henze@kulturprojekte.berlin. A more detailed invitation will follow shortly.

A list of all participants is attached.
Follow EMOP Berlin on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Press contact:

Nancy Henze

EMOP Berlin / Kulturprojekte Berlin

T +49 30 24749 - 864

n.henze@kulturprojekte.berlin

EMOP Berlin – European Month of Photography is a festival of photography, organized by Kulturprojekte Berlin in cooperation with numerous institutions in the city. It is funded by the Berlin Senate Administration for Culture and Social Cohesion and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

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PRESSEKONTAKT

EMOP Berlin —
European Month of Photography

Nancy Henze
Kulturprojekte Berlin

T +49 30 247 49 -864
n.henze@kulturprojekte.berlin

