

PRESS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2016

Photoszene-Festival 2016

**featuring *Innere Sicherheit / The State I Am In*
by Katja Stuke & Oliver Sieber**



The release of the third edition of L.Fritz on 19 August – traditionally on photography's birthday – also marks the launch of the Photoszene Festival 2016 (main events week from 16-25 September). The festival will feature a crucial innovation: its curated component. Under the title *Innere Sicherheit / The State I Am In* the invited curators, Katja Stuke and Oliver Sieber, have devised a programme of exhibitions and events that will discuss both the place of the individual in society and wider socio-political contexts.

Registration opens on 1 March!

As in previous years, participants who are planning a photography exhibition during the August/September 2016 period can register via the Photoszene website: www.photoszene.de. Feel free to take up the theme *Innere Sicherheit / The State I Am In*, but it is not a criterion for admission, though – as ever, Photoszene Köln welcomes all participating exhibitors and looks forward to a rich and lively dialogue concerning photography!

Focus: *Innere Sicherheit / The State I Am In* by Katja Stuke & Oliver Sieber

The theme is currently of great relevance, not only in Cologne. The curators Katja Stuke and Oliver Sieber investigate it at its grassroots and thus reflect on the basic principles of social cohabitation: What does a person need in order to feel safe? What gives one a feeling of security? In this manner, an approach is taken to the state we are in that is considerably more fundamental and richly faceted than that currently taken by urban policy.

Separation into a private and a public sphere is associated with the Liberalism of the 18th and 19th century and the notion of the fundamental protection of individual freedom and autonomy against impermissible interventions by the state or by society. The private sphere is meant to create a space of retreat, and one's own four walls are meant to provide a refuge into which we invite only selected persons. Not only concepts of the private, but also behaviours associated therewith, have been changing for some time. There are varying appraisals concerning what is worth protecting or what can be shared with the public. We are continuously able to have a part in the private life of others, to view pictures of it. On smartphones, our own photos blend with photos belonging to friends and strangers; we view them on the same interface, nothing distinguishes our own memories from those of others.

Photographs shape our everyday life. They are an important component of personal life, of leisure time, and still serve as an information source in addition. Photographs supply information on the political, economic, cultural and social situation, and are independent artistic works whose design and aesthetic merit attract attention. "The State I Am In" as the theme-giving focus of Photoszene 2016 gathers together different photographic positions with reference to different aspects: Sociopolitical issues are to play just as big a role in the selection of photographic positions as the private aspects of "The State I am In".

The participating artists are (among others) Günter Karl Bose (D), Beate Geissler und Oliver Sann (D), Stephen Gill (GB), Allan Gretzki (D), Francesco Jodice (I), Jason Lazarus (USA), Nils Petter Løfstedt (S), Max Regenber (D), Petra Stavast (NL), Ruydai Takano (J), Jan Dirk van de Burg (NL), Luisa Whitton (GB), Huang Xiang (China).

The curated exhibitions on the thematic complex *Innere Sicherheit / The State I Am In* will be opened on the weekend of September 16 and 17 and on show at the following institutions:

Exhibition partners

- * Kunsträume der Michael-Horbach-Stiftung (Opening Sep 17)
- * Tiefgarage Ebertplatz (Opening Sep 16)
- * Bruch & Dallas (Opening Sep 16)
- * Gold + Beton (Opening Sep 16)
- * Labor (Opening Sep 16)
- * Kirche Sankt Gertrud (Opening Sep 16)

Supporting programme partners

This year once again, Photoszene Köln is working with strong partners who will be taking part in the comprehensive supporting programme:

- * **Photographische Sammlung / SK Stiftung Kultur:** Portfolio Review Sichtbar
- * **Filmforum im Museum Ludwig:** Filmprogramm Innere Sicherheit / The State I Am In
- * **MAKK:** Fotobuch-Quartett+ and Page Impressions
- * **King Georg:** Talks&Music&Drinks
- * **Kunsthau Rhenania:** The Cologne Art Book Fair mit Release L.Fritz No. 3

The Reference Library!

Curators Katja Stuke and Oliver Sieber have already set up a comprehensive virtual reference library on the website www.photoszene.de, which provides an introduction to the complex subject area by means of further reading, film tips, and selected photographic positions. The reference library will be added to over time.

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