



Freelens Gallery shows: Hamburg Portfolio Review - Photographic Positions 2023

Opening: Thursday, 14 September 7 to 9 pm

Exhibition duration: 15 September to 18 October 2023

Participating photographers: Lys Arango Toby Binder Ingmar Björn Nolting Chinky Shukla Mitar Simikić Patrick Slesiona Brais Lorenzo Bartosz Ludwinski Chiara Wettmann

We are pleased to announce FREELENS Gallery as a new partner of the Hamburg Portfolio Review this year. In the first exhibition of this cooperation, nine photographers have been selected to take a position on contemporary situations confronting countries, cultures or individuals. They are often personal insights that show the ongoing consequences or preparations for war. Series from Ukraine, Armenia and Lebanon show, through different narratives, the individual circumstances or forced adaptation processes to which the respective populations are exposed.

Bartosz Ludwinski's title of his series is YA OKAY and refers to the emotional state of the Ukrainian Misha. Presumably, he can be seen as exemplary for a part of the Ukrainian population that lives between fear and shock, but develops a resilience in everyday life to protect itself and survive the ongoing terror.

In his photo essay *Maybe tomorrow there will be war again*, Patrick Slesiona documents the mood in Armenia after the recent escalation last autumn. Despite the threat of war and destruction, Slesiona notes an impressive resilience among the residents of the Armenian resort town of Jermuk, who are determined to stay put despite the collapse of the local economy. Chinky Shukla's portrait series *When Buddha stopped smiling* shows the devastating consequences of the nuclear tests 20 years ago in Pokhran, India. It is not only the severe physical illnesses triggered by nuclear radiation, but also the trauma of a population having been exposed to this political decision.

Violence, war and terror force people to flee their countries in the hope of leading a new, better life in the respective country of migration. In her series *Stateless*, Chiara Wettmann portrays people in Lebanon who are either refugees from Iraq or Syria or who, due to their family situation, do not (or no longer) have any identity documents and are thus considered stateless. These people are not granted basic rights or legal protection. In his long-term project about young people in Duisburg, Toby Binder addresses the complex problems of social injustice within families with a migration background. The young people, who often neither know their parents' home country nor feel accepted in Germany, find their identification and belonging by using the numbers 053 - the postcode of DuisburgHochfeld.

"It's the only place they really feel they belong. These are the O53kids." The teenager Mila no longer wants to be seen as an outsider. In the series of the same name, Mitar Simikić accompanies the daughter of a family from BosniaHerzegovina who wants to break out of the family tradition of collecting and reselling rubbish and lead a different life.

It is the challenges and the handling of the climate and energy crisis that call us to action on a political and personal level.

Ingmar Björn Nolting's series Eviction shows the occupation and eviction of the hamlet of Lützerath earlier this year. In addition to the media struggle over the questioned necessity of having to mine the coal under Lützerath - it is the real one that Nolting makes visual for us through the different methods of the occupation of the climate activists* and the intervention by the police. At the same time, the San Nicolás coal mine in Asturias, Spain, is scheduled to close this year. Lys Arango returns to the place of her grandparents and in her series The river ran black not only accompanies the last miners, but also shows the resulting economic and social decline of the region. Experts assume that long hot dry periods are consequences of the climate crisis and that we will continue to encounter these extreme events in the future. In 2022, 300,000 hectares of land in Spain will have fallen victim to forest fires. In his series Burned Land, Brais Lorenzo documents the tireless and almost hopeless struggle of the fire brigade, but also of the inhabitants of the affected regions.

Curated by: Nina Röder

In cooperation with: FREELENS Foundation Germany e.V.

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Address:
FREELENS Gallery
Alter Steinweg 15
20459 Hamburg

Opening hours:
Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact person:
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Further information on the Hamburg Portfolio Review event:

www.hamburgportfolioreview.de

Further information about the Freelens Gallery:

<https://freelens.com/galerie/>