

An exhibition as part of the European Month of Photography

1980. In Berlin. Photographs by Heiko Sievers

Opening Thursday, 18.10.2018, 7 pm, Introduction by Thomas Weski



Heiko Sievers' photographs of West-Berlin in the early 1980s testify to three things: people on the go, a specific city atmosphere, and the photographer's state of mind. It's about life in Berlin during the time of the Wall, in a city where things were different than in the rest of Germany, both East and West.

Sievers never found out what made the people he photographed happy or sad. He saw, or better still, found and "took" what corresponded to his sense of life in Berlin at the time and drew his attention as an image. Therefore the photographs are neither portraiture nor documentation. They do not tell the stories of the people photographed, but in fact those of the artist. Yet they capture fragments of everyday life in Berlin in those years and give a great sense of the spirit of the time.

The work gradually developed out of initially fleeting impressions, only becoming a full-blown project after Sievers was accepted into in the by now legendary Werkstatt für Photographie (Workshop for Photography) run by Michael Schmidt in Berlin-Kreuzberg. Sievers found himself in Schmidt's images and those of his fellow students: Berlin exclusively in shades of grey – no colour whatsoever, and very little future. Today he says: "That was a long time ago. My feelings in and about Berlin have changed since 1989. The city and the people of the 1980s are history."

Heiko Sievers, born and raised in Berlin, studied social sciences at the Free University Berlin and at the same time at Michael Schmidt's Werkstatt für Photographie. Since 1988 he has worked for the Goethe-Institut, among other things serving as director of the institutes in Bangalore, Lisbon and Cairo. Since 2010 he has been the regional director of the Goethe-Institut New Delhi and South Asia.

The book "1980. IN BERLIN" is available from Peperoni Books.

EM
OP EUROPEAN MONTH
OF PHOTOGRAPHY
BERLIN



HAUS am KLEISTPARK | PROJEKTRAUM, Grunewaldstr. 6–7, 10823 Berlin
Exhibition: 19.10. – 9.12.2018, Tuesday to Sunday 11–18h
Admission free, www.hausamkleistpark.de

Information: Galerieleiterin Barbara Esch Marowski, 030/90277-6964, esch-marowski@ba-ts.berlin.de.

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