

# Schengen

## A photographic work by Ruth Stoltenberg

Schengen is a small winemaking village in Luxembourg which shares a border with Germany and with France. It is here that the agreement to eliminate the inner-European border checks of the Schengen Area was signed. And yet today this symbolic place of international understanding as well as the successful co-existence of different cultures and nationalities has, in the truest sense of the word, run up against its borders.

Photographer Ruth Stoltenberg grew up in this border triangle and was interested in exploring just what influence the opening of the borders has had after all this time on the various cultures and lifestyles of the people in those three countries. Referring to the Schengen model she asks: Is national identity visible? Or does the region, shaped by the cultivation of wine and by farming, have its own unique, transnational character?

Ruth Stoltenberg focuses on the small things of everyday life in the three neighbouring communities of Schengen in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Perl in Germany and Apach in France. She gets up close to the objects in front of her camera, while allowing the tiniest of details to speak from within her, on photographs strictly arranged in form. As to the question of where the images were taken, the photographer deliberately remains silent – it is only in the respective index that the place names are revealed.

In his review of the project on kulturradio Frank Dietschreit said: “These photos tell us that what we do not need is more isolation and new borders but those people arriving here and helping us to deal with aging and with population decline; and furthermore, that we need to constantly develop and reinvent Europe – as both a wonderful idea and a wonderful place to live.”

Ruth Stoltenberg (\*1962) received her photographic training at the Neue Schule für Fotografie in Berlin as well as at the Lichtblick School in Cologne, after previously working as a television editor. She quickly developed her own artistic signature and successfully completed numerous long-term projects. The artist’s work primarily focuses on, and sees her intensively engaging with, places that have been shaped, abandoned or left in a state of upheaval by history. Her works can be found in a number of prominent collections and have been exhibited, recognised and published nationally as well as internationally.

The work *Schengen* has received national as well as international prizes and was published as a book of the same name in October 2018 by Kehrer Verlag.

Framework Programme Sun., 3.2.2019, 4pm

Talk by Wolfgang Zurborn: *The photographic work of Ruth Stoltenberg*



**24.1. – 17.3.2019**

**GALERIE im TEMPELHOF MUSEUM, Alt-Mariendorf 43, 12107 Berlin**

**Mon through Thurs 10am – 6pm, Fri 10am – 2pm, Sun 11am – 3pm**

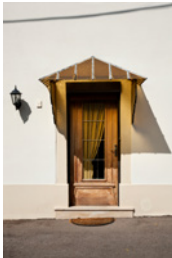
**Free admission, [www.hausamkleistpark.de](http://www.hausamkleistpark.de), [www.ruthstoltenberg.de](http://www.ruthstoltenberg.de)**

Information: Gallery Director Barbara Esch Marowski, 030/90277-6964, [esch-marowski@ba-ts.berlin.de](mailto:esch-marowski@ba-ts.berlin.de)

An exhibition of the Department of Art, Culture, Museums Tempelhof-Schöneberg

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© Ruth Stoltenberg  
*Apach in France, 2015*



© Ruth Stoltenberg  
*Bad Mondorf in Luxembourg, 2015*



© Ruth Stoltenberg  
*Ritzing in France, 2015*



© Ruth Stoltenberg  
*Kirsch-Lés-Sierck in France, 2015*



© Ruth Stoltenberg  
*Manderen in France, 2015*



© Ruth Stoltenberg  
*Schengen-Remerschen in Luxembourg, 2015*



© Ruth Stoltenberg  
*Perl-Wochem in Germany, 2015*



© Ruth Stoltenberg  
*Perl-Borg in Germany, 2015*



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