

ROTLICHT. FESTIVAL 2024 **15.-24.NOVEMBER, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

The »ROTLICHT. Festival for analog photography« is an internationally oriented photography festival, which is taking place in Vienna this year for the fourth time.

From the 15th to the 24th of November 2024, the festival will bring together the international photography scene in the capital city. It has now developed into a creative focal point for artistic analog photography in Central Europe. With a diverse program ranging from the main exhibition in the Atelierhaus of the Academy of Fine Arts (formerly Semperdepot) to numerous other exhibitions, workshops, talks, photo walks and evening concerts and parties, the festival offers a platform for creative exchange and artistic discoveries.

The *ROTLICHT* festival is a meeting point for people of all ages and background who want to experience and celebrate the creative possibilities of analog photographic art. From amateurs and hobby photographers to art-loving visitors and professional photographers - the festival is aimed at a diverse target group.

THIS YEAR'S MOTTO AND EXHIBITION IS »OUTSIDERS«

At the centre of the festival is the main exhibition in the Atelierhaus of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, which will present the 20 winners of this year's international open call. The theme of the open call is also »Outsiders«.

With »Outsiders«, *ROTLICHT* cordially invites artists and photographers to explore this theme as closely or as broadly as they wish: "Outsiders" can be a proud self-description (for example: punk culture, which sees itself as a micro-society in contrast to the established and dominant framework), it can be a pejorative



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term to relegate undesirables to the margins of society (while being appropriated by marginalised people to empower themselves). Or it can convey a sense of ambivalence in terms of belonging to a place, a group of people, a family etc.

We hope that these strands of reflection can provide creative channels for artists to present their contributions to *ROTLICHT* Festival 2024, whether the approach to »Outsiders« is personal or intended for artistic exploration.

With a special exhibition every year at the centre of the festival, we want to focus on a special artist's work related to our annual motto, also known as the »*ROTLICHT* Festival-Selection« This year, we are delighted to be exhibiting the internationally renowned work of South African-based photographer Roger Ballen. Ballen was born to a New York gallery owner who was friends with Henri Cartier-Bresson, Marc Riboud and other Magnum photographers. Ballen has been taking photographs since the age of fourteen. He has lived in South Africa since the 1970s. Major exhibitions in New York, Brussels, Munich, Hamburg and Paris – to name but a few – have shown his work, which mainly deals with the tops of the outcasts of society. *ROTLICHT* is looking forward to bringing his work closer to the festival audience.

ROTLICHT 2024 will once again be complemented by numerous other exhibitions in over 30 galleries, off-spaces and other locations

throughout the city. The programme will be enriched through various artistic interpretations and positions by solo artists as well as groups and collectives. There will be exhibition openings on every day of the festival.

INTERNATIONAL CREATIVE EXCHANGE

The *ROTLICHT* festival promotes international creative exchange. The participation of photographers and visitors from all over the world creates a global network that makes it possible to experience analog photography in all its diversity and liveliness during the festival period in Vienna. The *ROTLICHT* festival collaborates with numerous international partner festivals, which support and visit each other.

WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

The *ROTLICHT* festival places great focus on education and exchange. In a series of workshops, participants can deepen their photographic skills and learn new techniques- from developing black and white film in the darkroom to rare development techniques such as wet plate collodion or albumin-printing. In exciting talks, experts and artists share their experiences and insights into the world of analog photography and encourage discussion and reflection.

EVENING EVENTS

A festival would not be complete without its parties, concerts and other evening events. Here, visitors have the opportunity to gather, exchange experiences and celebrate together in a relaxed atmosphere. Music, art and photography merge here.

TESTIMONIALS

»» *Vienna is not only a cosmopolitan city, Vienna is above all a city of culture. I am therefore all the more delighted that the ROTLICHT festival for analog photography is taking place in our city. With a program consisting of exhibitions and over 60 artists, this festival brings us closer to photography in all its facets.*

But not only that: the festival has set itself the goal of putting the educational aspect of it in the centre of attention. With workshops and numerous presentations by international experts, the festival makes an important educational contribution to the Viennese community. The festival thus becomes an international hub for exhibitions, knowledge transfer and dialog about contemporary analog photography. I would like to congratulate dearly for this great project, and I invite all Viennese to come and paint themselves a picture about analog photography in all its different dimensions.«

CHRISTOPH WIEDERKEHR
Deputy Mayor and City Councillor
for Education of the City of Vienna

»» *Photography is one of the most influential media of our time, an omnipresent medium, so to speak. Photography and audiovisual media therefore have a decisive influence on our perception. The new ROTLICHT festival is dedicated to a very special form of photography - the analog, its origins and its further development. Especially in the digital age, analog photography is characterised by the process of deceleration and by a haptic experience that has become rare. The artists concentrate on every single moment and every single image due to the limitation of the number of possible images in a roll of film.*

In the upcoming festival days, the medium of analog photography is to be repositioned and thus not only shines in the red light of the darkroom. I wish all visitors an exciting festival with lots of new insights and all the best to the entire team!«

VERONICA KAUP-HASLER
Executive City Councillor for Culture and Science

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