



2024

>> FESTIVAL FOR --

ROTLICHT

-- ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY <<

VIENNA
15. - 24.11.2024

ROTLICHT. FESTIVAL FOR ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY

ROTLICHT is an international festival for analog photography, which will take place for the fourth time in 2024 in Vienna. It has become a creative fixture for artistic analog photography in Central Europe. The concept of the *ROTLICHT* festival is to create an international stage for contemporary analog photography. In doing so, we want to promote the local art scene, strengthen international relationships in the field of analog photography, and impart knowledge.

Our festival contributes significantly to cultural diversity and global intercultural exchange. Thanks to the close collaboration with numerous international partner festivals – *ROTLICHT* (co-founder of the Analog Photo Festival Network (APFN)) – and the annual Open Call, a festival highlight, we succeed in establishing Vienna as a hub for an international community of photographers.

The *ROTLICHT* festival puts the spotlight on Vienna, a city known as the vibrant centre of creativity. Its historical significance, dynamic contrasts and inspiring spaces have always served as a backdrop for artistic creation. This tradition continues and attracts both young as well as renowned photographic artists from all over the world. The festival is not only enriched by the international guests coming to Vienna, but also contributes significantly to the global community of analog photography. This is demonstrated by new projects of our artists as well as by the thousands of postings on creative social media channels that deal with the *ROTLICHT* festival.

Another important aspect of the *ROTLICHT* festival is the networking and presentation of the local art scene. Cooperations with Viennese galleries and off-spaces are an integral part of our concept. Through workshops, talks, photo-walks and many other side events, the attendees have the opportunity to do more than just consume art, but also get creative themselves.

ROTLICHT FESTIVAL 2024

This year's motto is »Outsiders«. In a highly complex world, which is characterized by many crises and conflicts, it is more important than ever to give a voice to minorities and non-conformist people. Their stories, perspectives and their artistic expressions should be a main focus of this year's ROTLICHT festival.

The 10-day long *ROTLICHT* festival (this year from November 15th-24th), brings together photo galleries in Vienna, as well as clubs, organizations, initiatives and off spaces. The festival headquarters and the main location, just like in 2022 and in 2023, is the Atelierhaus of the Academy of Fine Arts (also known as Semperdepot). Just like every year, the 20 winners of the Open Call will be selected by an international jury of experts and presented in the »Säulenhalle«. The main exhibition in the »Prospekthof« will be dedicated to the internationally renowned photographer Roger Ballen.



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ROTLICHT FESTIVAL REVIEW 2023

The *ROTLICHT* festival 2023 welcomed an estimated 5,200 visitors from Austria and abroad. A total of 460 artists from 44 countries participated in the Open Call. The winners of the Open Call and the exhibitions of all partner locations were presented in the festival catalog. 500 copies of the catalogue were made. They dealt with the most diverse artistic and technical aspects of analog photography in the form of essays.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Analog photography is experiencing a renaissance, which is reflected in increased interest and higher prices for equipment. Due to a lack of interconnection in the scene, the *ROTLICHT* festival 2022 initiated a partnership together with 14 other festivals. These festivals support each other, share Open Calls and offer winners exhibition opportunities at partner festivals. The network, now known as the Analog Photography Festival Network (APFN), strengthens the creative art metropolis in Europe and is home to members of different countries. *ROTLICHT* also cooperates with PHOTO DAYS in Croatia and OFF Festival in Slovakia.



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EXHIBITIONS

TALKS



© Isabella Joech / 2023



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WORKSHOPS

TALKS

The ROTLICHT festival places great focus on exchange and cooperation. Within this framework, dialog is promoted through lively discussions with analog photography experts from Austria and abroad. Last year, the organizers managed to attract over 20 speakers from different countries for presentations. These presentations held during the festival were met with great responses. Due to this past success, once again special attention will be paid to the qualified transfer of knowledge into the theory and practice of analog photography.

WORKSHOPS

In previous editions of the ROTLICHT festival, we offered a variety of workshops covering both practical and theoretical elements of analog photography. It is important for us to provide unique educational resources in Vienna for beginners, advanced photographers and professionals in the form of workshops. The workshop leaders are experienced photographers with didactic competencies and in-depth specialist knowledge. Also in 2024, we plan on offering workshops for a wide range of topics, including:

- Basics of analog photography
- Development of black and white negatives
- Colour Development using the C41 process
- Analog image enlargement and experimental techniques in the darkroom
- Large format photography
- Collodion wet plate process
- Albumin printing
- Carbon printing from wet plate negatives
- Cyanotype on glass, cotton and wood
- Independent camera repair and cleaning
- Pinhole camera photography
- Salt printing
- Interaction of language and text with photography

PHOTØ WALKS

In 2024, the *ROTLICHT* festival is also planning to offer its visitors various photo walks in numerous districts in Vienna. These walks will be led by two people: a city guide and an expert of analog photography, who will support the participants with their knowledge in German and English. Participants have the option of purchasing film or borrowing cameras but can also bring their own. The handling of the equipment will be explained during the photo walk. The event is designed in such way that participants have the opportunity of developing their own film in a darkroom after the photo walk. The aim of this is to explore the creative aspects of analog photography while at the same time discovering the many facets of Vienna.



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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

»» *The events held as part of the ROTLICHT festival in Vienna were a good and important addition to the diverse photo scene in Austria. The networking of the creative potential from different areas of contemporary auteur photography led to a synergy effect that in this form, has not been seen for years. Especially since there has also been a revival (similar to that of music carriers) of analog recording techniques. These are, in contrast to the digital ones, not threatened by data loss. In this respect, it is to be hoped that these events will continue to be promoted in order for them to be an impulse and enrichment for Austrian auteur photography.«*

BRANKO LENART, Photographer

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