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PRESS RELEASE Fotofestival Lenzburg

The Fotofestival 2021 will once again bring the world of photography to Lenzburg for an entire month and expand its horizons with new exhibition venues, international partnerships and world-famous authors. Pictures are something like the Esperanto of our time. In a certain way, we speak the same language with photos, we all have the same access. This year, the Fotofestival Lenzburg will be a cultural event with the planned exhibitions of outstanding photographic positions and projects as well as the continuing events, workshops and expert discussions.

As we all know only too well and have witnessed ourselves, there have been enormous changes and unprecedented challenges in all areas of life since the beginning of 2020 and well into 2021: Everything that we hold dear, that we take for granted, that gives us support, or gives us a sense of security, has been challenged and compromised. Our sources of happiness, well-being, income, knowledge, recreation and confidence have become problem areas. Our daily needs and normal habits have put us at risk. And yet nothing seems more human than wanting to look after our families, friends and our own well-being, even if that means staying at one place, limiting our mobility and personal freedoms, and restricting access to life's many small pleasures.

All this, without a clear perspective and orientation that gives us a sense of confidence in the finite nature of this condition. However, absence of certain things shows us what is essential for us. These are the sources of our humanity and the resources of our daily life. Of the material as well as the immaterial. With a regained awareness of who we are and what we want, we can begin anew. The origin of a better future is always in the now. And photography is the perfect medium to contemplate this moment, to reflect on the past and project it onto what is to come.

Our currently broadened horizon offers us an enormous range of topics. It triggers hope, longing, imagination and anticipation. For the next two editions, the Fotofestival Lenzburg will explore the theme of resources and develop an artistic approach that seeks to capture the spirit of this moment. The fourth edition of the festival puts a special focus on women photographers and their works. It is about the aspects of being a woman and their formative impact on the world we live in.

Once again, the festival aims to draw the attention of everyone - experts and the public - to a topic that touches everyone on a different level. At the same time, renowned photographers and emerging talents are invited to share their visions. The Fotofestival Lenzburg is in close cooperation with numerous institutions and aims to give photography as much space as possible.

Main exhibition: Mary Ellen Mark *"The Lives of Women"*

The main exhibition of this year's festival, curated by the internationally renowned Anne Morin, is called *"The Lives of Women"* and shows pictures by the American photographer Mary Ellen Mark. It is being shown in Switzerland for the first time in 20 years - at the Stapferhaus, which was recently awarded the European Museum Prize. A passionate witness, Mark's work was to delve deeply into the lives of others through photography and film to capture their humanity and share it with a wider public, giving her subjects a weighty and often effective voice. *"The Lives of Women"* brings together many of these works from the last half-century and shows a touching diversity of women and their fates. This exhibition is organized together with our partners Stapferhaus and diChroma Photography. At the Stapferhaus, it is shown until 28 November.

SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS Open Air

The big novelty at the Fotofestival Lenzburg 2021 is the open-air exhibition of the award-winning pictures of the renowned SONY World Photography Awards, which is now being held for the 15th time in a row by Sony and the World Photography Organization. The awards offer both established and emerging artists first-class opportunities to present their work. In addition, the Outstanding Contribution to Photography Awards recognize the world's most influential artists working in the medium. Previous winners include Martin Parr, William Eggleston, Nadav Kander and Graziela Iturbide.

Especially in the difficult year 2021, it is an honour for the Fotofestival Lenzburg not only to take part in this international award ceremony and to experience the immense diversity of photographic positions, but also to contribute as host to offering the outstanding photographers a platform here in Switzerland.

Elinor Carucci "GETTING CLOSER, BECOMING MOTHER: ABOUT INTIMACY AND FAMILY"

After the birth of her twins, Elinor Carucci got to know herself and the world in a different way. Motherhood had revealed the best and the worst in her: Joy, wonder and happiness coexisted with anger, exhaustion, fear as well as sadness for the woman she would never be again.

The photographs taken during this time show an attempt to portray the complexity of motherhood as honestly as possible. The works created and shown encompass all sides of the artist's relationship with her children as well as with herself. The exhibition is organized together with our partners Stadtmuseum Aarau and the Italian photo festival Cortona on the Move and curated by Arianna Rinaldo.

Caroline Minjolle "RENDEZ-VOUS"

French photographer Caroline Minjolle, who lives in Switzerland, has photographed her two sons during a regular rendez-vous since 1995. The private happiness shimmers through in every shot. The routine recurrence created the ideal creative space, similar to the rituals of our everyday life, which are then filled with life anew every day. The result of 25 years of ritualised rendez-vous is now collected in a photo book of the same name and can be seen in excerpts during the Lenzburg Photo Festival. The exhibition, which takes place at the Stadtmuseum, is curated by Daniel Blochwitz, the new curator of the Fotofestival Lenzburg.

Workshops

- Workshop Curation, Part 1: A challenging conversation with Arianna Rinaldo, Director "Cortona on The Move"
SO 5 SEPTEMBER, 9.30 - 12.30, Stadtmuseum Aarau
- Children's Photowalk in Aarau with Donovan Wyrsh, Photographer
SO 5 SEPTEMBER, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., Aarau City Museum
- Sehen mit dem dritten Auge: Intuitive Zugänge zur Dokumentarfotografie with Djamila Grossman, photographer
SA 11 SEPTEMBER, 9.30 - 16.30, Stapferhaus
- Workshop - Alles Banane, Creative Still Life with Adrian Cortis and Jojakim Sonderegger, artist duo
SA 18 SEPTEMBER, 9.30 - 16.30, Stapferhaus
- Workshop Curation, Part 2: "Show Off: Vom Projekt zur Ausstellung" with Daniel Blochwitz, Curator FFL
SO 19 SEPTEMBER, 9.30 - 12.30, Stadtmuseum Aarau
- Workshop "A Personal Distance", documentary photography (in English) with Davide Monteleone, photographer

SA 2 OCTOBER, 13.30 - 16.30, Stapferhaus

- Children's Photowalk in Lenzburg with Donovan Wyrsh, Photographer
SA 2 OCTOBER, 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m., Burghaldenpark
- Workshop Show Archives: "Das Archiv in der Kunst: Von der Faszination bis zur Strategie" with Naomi Tereza Salmon, photographer and lecturer
SO 3 OCTOBER, 9.30 - 12.30, Stadtmuseum Aarau

Accompanying events

Photo Book Corners In order to celebrate the culture of the photo book, the Lenzburg Photo Festival will set up cosy photo book corners at various locations in the town, inviting visitors to browse, get to know each other and delve deeper. Every year after the festival, the books are donated to the town library, where the book collection of the photo festival is available. It is available to all those who enjoy reading throughout the year.

Kultkabine

Last year, one of the programme items was to be found in the Kultkabine on Kronenplatz. There, Lenzburg residents could send the winning subject of the photo competition as a postcard to the whole world. The campaign will be repeated in 2021 - that's why the city platform "We Love Lenzburg" and the Fotofestival Lenzburg are looking for the most beautiful Lenzburg picture for a new postcard.

Preview day for the press

We cordially invite all interested journalists to our preview day on **3 September 2021**:

Programme, 3 September 2021 Lenzburg Castle:
14.00 - 16.00 Welcome event and press conference

Museum Stapferhaus:
from 18.00: Arrival of the guests
at 6.30 pm: Speech
approx. 7.00 p.m. Apéro and preview of Mary Ellen Mark: "The Lives of Women"

We look forward to receiving your registration by 25 August 2021 to:

opening@fotofestivallenzburg.ch. When registering, please let us know which programme item you would like to take part in and with how many people we may note you.

The complete agenda can be found at:
www.fotofestivallenzburg.ch/agenda/

Further information and pictures:

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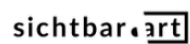
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