

FOTODOKS

ME:WE

Oct 11-15, 2017

Lothringer13 Halle, Munich

The theme of Fotodoks 2017 asks for the relation between the individual, the "I" and the collective, the "We", and thus describes a connectedness and solidarity, as a small but essential difference in opposition to a delimitation and separation of a "You". Good relationships are based on a balance between a demarcation from our environment and its inclusion.

Virtual communities are now an integral part of life. Society gets information from social media, news are generated by users, the individual has a new maturity to form political and social realities. This virtual ubiquity is increasingly replacing a lively, multi-layered confrontation with a counterpart. A "like" as participation replaces a common experience and comprehension and is finally unsatisfactory.

The democratizing possibility of user-generated content includes participation as well as the risk of simplification. By communicating complex content in well-marketable and easily consumable rations, one can hardly grasp the great context. An extensive reportage often gives way to a sudden "portage", a "post" as a comment on one's own condition.

Fotodoks wants to discuss with the partner country USA in a dialogical debate what reaction increasing egocentrism and nationalism challenges from a society and a culture.

Contemporary documentary photography deals with questions of attributions and identity, not only with the background of political developments, as a "Brexit" and an "America First". Also on an economic, philosophical, religious, social and cultural level, communities are increasingly an issue.

With ME:WE as this year's theme, Fotodoks chooses a poem of one of the most important figures of recent American history: "Give us a poem!" Muhammad Ali was asked at the end of his speech at a Harvard graduation ceremony in 1975, where he talked about standing up for one's ideals. "Me We" was his shortest possible answer, which can be seen as a statement of solidarity at the height of the Black Power civil rights movement, but as a spoken statement it allows many interpretations to this day.

What is the role of documentary photography at a time when photography seems ubiquitous, but the narrative potential of the medium is only superficially used? How do contemporary photographers site themselves between personally motivated work, current creative and content tendencies and economic conventions? How is the relationship of photographers in collectives, how do they deal with authorship in the medialized society?

Fotodoks - Festival for Contemporary Documentary Photography wants to strengthen an awareness of visual strategies and image policies, and devote itself to this controversy with around 18 photographic projects from the German-speaking region and the partner country USA.

Festival für aktuelle Dokumentarfotografie