

MICHAEL KERSTGENS OUT OF CONTROL

Exhibition duration: **March 8, 2025 – May 11, 2025**

Opening: **Friday, March 7, 2025, 7.00 pm**

Press Tour: **Friday, March 7, 2025, 12.00 noon**

Exhibition venue: **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt**

Frankfurt am Main, February 6, 2025 – Euphoria on the dance floor, turmoil in the factories, ever-changing landscapes – from March 8 to May 11, 2025, the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) will present the first comprehensive exhibition of the work of the German documentary photographer Michael Kerstgens (b. 1960) in **Michael Kerstgens. Out of Control**. The exhibition provides a deep insight into his work spanning more than forty years, featuring long-term socio-political photo essays in black-and-white and colour. With great sensitivity, Kerstgens's photographs document the transformation of living environments – from industrially impacted communities to consumer and leisure societies.

Born in Wales and raised in Mülheim an der Ruhr, Michael Kerstgens studied Communication Design and Photography at the Folkwang University of the Arts (GHS) in Essen. He became known for his series »The Enemy Within« about the British miners' strike of 1984–85. During this time, he lived with a striking family – a formative experience that had a lasting influence on his photographic perspective.

His works, often influenced by his own biography, are dedicated to the transformation of places and people and reflect social upheaval: in 1987, Kerstgens documented the steelworkers' strike in Duisburg-Rheinhausen, and in 1990 he captured the changes in the Thuringian town of Mühlhausen during the period before German reunification. In the colour photographs of "1986. Back to the Present," he addressed the consumer and leisure society of the 1980s.

The broad spectrum of his work also includes his most recent industrial and coastal landscapes, as well as impressive portraits from the music and art scenes. Among the personalities portrayed by Michael Kerstgens are Helge Schneider, Joachim Król, Udo Kier and Christoph Schlingensief.

Michael Kerstgens has published numerous books, including »Neues Leben. Russen – Juden – Deutsche« (2012, Kehrer Verlag), »The Enemy Within. Miners' Strike 1984/1985« (2014, Dewi Lewis Publishing), »The Final Winter« (2018, Peperoni Books) and »1986: Zurück in die Gegenwart – Back to the Present« (2021, Hartmann Books). He has received many awards for his photographic work, including the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences Science Award in the category 'Outreach' (2018) and the Imke Folkerts Prize for Fine Arts, East Frisia (2004)

As a freelance photographer, he worked internationally for editorial offices and companies before turning to teaching. After his first teaching positions in East Frisia and Dessau, he has been Professor for Photography at the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences since 2007.

Curated by Celina Lunsford in collaboration with Michael Kerstgens, the exhibition **Michael Kerstgens. Out of Control** presents around 100 works. The exhibition will be complemented by projections, numerous publications by the photographer and various programming events.

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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

FRI, March 7, 7 pm **OPENING** »MICHAEL KERSTGENS. OUT OF CONTROL« at the **FFF**,
Braubachstrasse 30-32, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

SAT, March 8., 3 pm **GALLERY TALK** with **MICHAEL KERSTGENS** and **CELINA LUNSFORD** (FFF)

FRI, April 4, 3 pm **DIALOGUE** »GB 84« **JOACHIM KRÓL** and **MICHAEL KERSTGENS**. The actor
Joachim Król will read from David Peace's novel and Michael Kerstgens will present his
photographs of the British miners' strike of 1984–85.

WED, April 23, 6 pm **LECTURE** »PHOTOGRAPHY OF PARTICIPATION« with MICHAEL KERSTGENS

TUE, March 25, April 22, May 6, 3 pm **CURATOR'S TOURS** with CELINA LUNSFORD or ANDREA
HORVAY (FFF)

PUBLIC GUIDED TOURS at **FFF** every Wednesday, 5 pm

OPENING HOURS Tue–Sun 11 am – 6 pm, Mon closed

ADMISSION regular 7 Euro, reduced 4 Euro

MORE EVENTS at the **FFF ACADEMY**

WED, February 19, 6 pm **LECTURE** with ANDREA DIEFENBACH

SAT, March 15, 6.30–10 pm **WORKSHOP** EYES ON FRANKFURT – INTO THE NIGHT
with MARKUS SEIBEL

SAT/SUN, March 29/30, 10 am – 5 pm **WORKSHOP** FOTOBOOK DESIGN – THEORY AND
PRACTICE, FROM CONCEPT TO PUBLICATION with VICTOR BALKO

For **PRESS IMAGES** please write to presse@fff Frankfurt.org

The exhibition is supported by



FOTOGRAFIE FORUM FRANKFURT

The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) is one of the leading centres of photography in Europe. As an exhibition space, institution and event forum the FFF deals with all aspects of photography. Since its founding in 1984 it has presented at about 270 exhibitions with historic and contemporary artists. Additionally, the programme of the FFF ACADEMY comprises of regular workshops, talks and discussions with internationally renowned photographers, artists and experts. Further information available at www.fff Frankfurt.org

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt is supported by Förderkreis Fotografie Forum Frankfurt e.V., Stadt Frankfurt am Main, FUJIFILM Electronic Imaging Europe and Hauck, Aufhäuser, Lampe

