

RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES

AKINBODE AKINBIYI | JOHANNA DIEHL | QIANA MESTRICH

Exhibition duration: **June 3 – September 12, 2021**

Exhibition venue: **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt**

Important note: For **visiting the exhibition** a **registration** is necessary at contact@fffrankfurt.org

Frankfurt am Main, 02.06.2021 – Working together as a curatorial team to highlight the outstanding potential of artistic photography is the principle of the Triennial **RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain**. The fourth edition of RAY from 03.06.–12.09.2021 will be dedicated to the theme of **IDEOLOGIES**, with exhibitions, events and a RAY festival. As one of the five central exhibition venues of **RAY 2021**, the **FOTOGRAFIE FORUM FRANKFURT** (FFF) shows works by **Akinbode Akinbiyi, Johanna Diehl** and **Qiana Mestrich**. Under the motto »After IDEOLOGIES« all three photo artists directly or indirectly explore ideologies that have influenced their own biography and the identity of entire societies.

Akinbode Akinbiyi (*1946, UK/NI) observes the changing life in urban spaces as a wanderer with his camera – in Africa and also in Berlin, where he has lived for decades. In his series *Sea Never Dry, African Quarter* and *Lagos: All Roads*, the globally active artist directs his gaze to unspectacular street scenes – and within them, the traces of past and present ideologies from religion, politics or economics. With their unique aesthetic, his works show quotidian activities in places that have outlived systems of oppression or live side by side with evolving ideologies. Akinbode Akinbiyi was commissioned by RAY to create work in Frankfurt during March and April of 2021, which will be premiered in the RAY exhibition at the FFF.

Johanna Diehl (*1977, DE) focusses on places and objects that were part of complex political and social upheavals. In doing so she examines to what extent the original purposes are present and to what extent their absence still remains. In the work *Ein ruhiger Tag*, the artist transfers her grandmother's diaries into a conceptual work about the silence and the unsaid in the record of a family's life. In her works *The Imaginary Studios, Eurotopians* and *Cults of Performance*, Diehl presents the impact of ideologies on design and music, architecture and interiors in the second half of the 20th century.

With her latest work *Thrall*, **Qiana Mestrich** (*1977, US), first-generation American and multi-disciplinary artist, participates in the political and cultural discussions on white supremacy and black consciousness. Mestrich stages photographs, some with her family, to interrogate racism and cultural ideologies of beauty. She uses materials such as hair, plants or chicken bones in unfamiliar constellations, challenging the viewer to see things different. The *Namesake* series, also on view, is a typological work based on photos of women also named Qiana that the artist found online while researching the origin of her own name.

On the occasion of **RAY 2021** the FFF premieres Qiana Mestrich's work in Germany.

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Press information and **press images** for Download also at: www.ray2021.de

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RAY 2021 Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain is a cooperation of the institutions Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation, DZ BANK Kunstsammlung, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, Museum Angewandte Kunst, MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST, Historisches Museum Frankfurt, Kunstforum der TU Darmstadt, Kunst- und Kulturstiftung Opelvillen Rüsselsheim, Marta Hoepffner-Gesellschaft für Fotografie e.V. im Stadtmuseum Hofheim, Museum Giersch der Goethe-Universität and Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden. The Triennial RAY Fotografieprojekte Frankfurt/RheinMain was founded in 2010 on the initiative of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain to bundle and highlight the outstanding potential of artistic photography in the Frankfurt/RhineMain region. **RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIEN RAY 2021 IDEOLOGIES** is co-curated by Anne-Marie Beckmann (Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation), Christina Leber (DZ BANK Kunstsammlung), Alexandra Lechner (Freelance Curator), Celina Lunsford (FOTOGRAFIE FORUM FRANKFURT), Susanne Pfeffer and Anna Sailer (MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST) as well as Matthias Wagner K (Museum Angewandte Kunst).

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

