

JAROMÍR FUNKE

AVANT-GARDE PHOTOGRAPHER

Exhibition Duration: **January 27 – April 29, 2018**

Opening: **Friday, January 26, 2018, 7pm**

Press preview: **Friday, January 26, 2018, 10 am**

Frankfurt/Main, January 26, 2018 – Jaromír Funke radically pushed the boundaries of modern photography, especially with his experiments with light and shadow. The Czech photographer (1896–1945) counts as one of the most important representatives of international Avant-garde photography. Ahead of his time, he sourced impulses from Cubism, New Objectivity, Abstract Art and Surrealism in a palpable manner. The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt presents an extensive solo show of this visionary for the first time in Germany. On display are 70 photographs from Funke's Avant-garde phase in the 1920s and 1930s.

Jaromír Funke initially studied medicine, law and philosophy after receiving his high school degree in 1915 before he turned to photography after World War I. From 1923 he created his first modern works: minimalistic compositions with plates and glass bottles, still lifes with glass objects, light bulbs and star fish. Funke repeatedly experimented with mirroring, transparencies and reflections – scrutinising the perception of the viewer. In his series “Abstract Photo” (1927–29) Funke no longer worked directly with objects but solely with their shadows. At the same time, he contributed to the development of photography theory, e.g. as author and lecturer in Prague.

Jaromír Funke's works are part of many renowned collections, including J. Paul Getty Museum (Los Angeles), Museum of Modern Art (New York) and Centre Pompidou (Paris). With this exhibition his relevance in the field of Avant-garde photography can now be experienced by a wider audience. The exhibition **JAROMÍR FUNKE. AVANT-GARDE PHOTOGRAPHER** at the FFF (27.01.–29.04.2018) was developed in collaboration with Funke's daughter Miloslava Rupešová, Leica Gallery Prague and Vladimír Birgus, curator and Funke biographer. The exhibition is accompanied by a new publication.

At the same time the second exhibition **OPAVA SCHOOL. CLOSE-UP** presents contemporary tendencies of a young generation: experimental images from photographers at the renowned Institute of Creative Photography at the Silesian University Opava, Czech Republic. This exhibition is curated by Vladimír Birgus and Celina Lunsford, Artistic Director, Fotografie Forum Frankfurt.

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt is supported by the City of Frankfurt, Olympus Deutschland GmbH, and Sparda Bank Hessen eG.
Project Partners: Leica Gallery Prague, Institute of Creative Photography, Silesian University in Opava, Czech Centrum Berlin

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 more than 250 exhibitions with historic and contemporary artists. Additionally, the program of the FFF comprises of regular workshops, talks and discussions with internationally renowned photographers, artists and experts. Further information available at www.fff Frankfurt.org