

PRESS RELEASE



MARTIN PARR **EARLY WORKS**

Exhibition duration: **September 13, 2024 – January 5, 2025**

Opening: **Thursday, September 12, 2024, 7 pm**

Press tour: **Thursday, September 12, 2024, 11 am**

Exhibition venue: **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt**

Frankfurt am Main, September 12th, 2024 – With the exhibition **MARTIN PARR. EARLY WORKS** on view from September 13, 2024 to January 5, 2025 the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) shows another highlight in its 40th anniversary year. As an observer of life, the ironic and socially critical eye of MAGNUM photographer Martin Parr has become an integral part of the history of photography. This exhibition of rarely seen black and white images made by the British photographer between 1970 and 1985 is on view for the first time in Germany.

Bird clubs in Surrey, pilgrimages to see the Pope in Ireland, holiday resorts, sports and village banquets are only a few of the places and social activities which first grasped Martin Parr's attention. In a special selection of fifty-eight black and white images, this show focuses on the subtleties of the unnoticed episodes found in the everyday: be it in communities draped in local traditions, street life and in the unforgettable fluctuating island weather, Parr makes us always look twice, to cherish the funny sides of life.

Included are some of Parr's encompassing views such as The Mayor of Todmorden's inaugural Banquette, from 1977, where hungry guests squeeze shoulder to shoulder, not to miss the best dish; or two devout Catholics anxiously awaiting a glimpse of Pope John Paul II, Dublin, 1979 a-top their kitchen ladder; as well as the animal protagonists, such as a cow posed like a day-tripper on the hillside of Glastonbury Tor.

MARTIN PARR. EARLY WORKS was curated by Celina Lunsford in close collaboration with the photographer and the Martin Parr Foundation.

Simultaneously, the Leica Galerie Frankfurt is showing with **MARTIN PARR IN COLOUR** (14.09.2024 – 05.01.2025), a selection of photographs in colour made by the British documentary photographer.

Known for his bold colours and everyday scenes, Parr's famous classics are included such as the image of a woman with her face obscured by an English flag, and the view of a postcard of a crowded beach with a price tag. Equally iconic is the image of the swan looking directly into the camera, as if posing for the photograph.

Martin Parr's colour photographs also show excerpts from everyday life in an exaggerated and sometimes absurd way. At first glance, nostalgia or romanticism seem to be at the forefront, but his works have a questioning character. As documentations of society, they contribute to its reflection, revealing the complexity and absurdity of modern life in a comical and critical way.

Together, these two exhibitions provide a complementary overview of the wide range of Martin Parr's work. Exaggeration and hyperbole – his key elements – run like a thread through his early and late photographs, encouraging the viewer to reflect on social and cultural issues and to enjoy more than just the aesthetic aspects of photography.

Martin Parr (*1952 in Epsom, Surrey, GB) is a British photographer known for his perceptive and often ironic documentation of everyday life. Parr studied photography at Manchester Polytechnic and began his career in the 1970s. His work is characterised by its humorous depiction of social

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issues. Initially working in black and white, he switched to colour photography in the mid-1980s. He has been a member of the renowned MAGNUM photo agency since 1994. Parr has published numerous books and his work is exhibited and collected worldwide. In addition to his work as a photographer, he is active as a curator and a collector. The Martin Parr Foundation was established in 2014 and is based in Bristol since 2017.

The publication "Early Works" by the Martin Parr Foundation in collaboration with RRB Photobooks, is available at the FFF for purchase.

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

THU, Sept 12, 7 pm **OPENING** »MARTIN PARR. EARLY WORKS« at **FFF**, Braubachstraße 30–32, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

FRI, Sept 13, 7 pm **OPENING** »MARTIN PARR IN COLOUR« at **Leica Galerie Frankfurt**, Großer Hirschgraben 15, 60311 Frankfurt am Main

SAT, Sept 14, 3 pm **MARTIN PARR in conversation** with CELINA LUNSFORD (FFF) and SONJA KRUCHEN (Leica Galerie) at **FFF** [in English]

TUE, Sept 24, Oct 29, Nov 26, 3 pm **CURATOR'S TOURS** at **FFF** with CELINA LUNSFORD & ANDREA HORVAY
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

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

The exhibition is a cooperation with

MARTIN PARR FOUNDATION
PAINTWORKS BRISTOL BS4



GALERIE
Frankfurt

MORE EVENTS at FFF

September 13, 2024 to January 5, 2025 exhibition **PASSIONATELY – FFF MEMBERS SHOW**

SAT, Sept 14, 8 pm **FFF MEMBERS PARTY** – with family and friends

SAT, Sept 21, 6:30–10 pm **WORKSHOP EYES ON Frankfurt – INTO THE NIGHT** with MARKUS SEIBEL

THU, Sept 26, 5 pm **TALK & BOOK PRESENTATION PETER LOEWY »TO THE ARTISTS«** with photographer Peter Loewy in conversation with independent curator Dorothee Strauss

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 300 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

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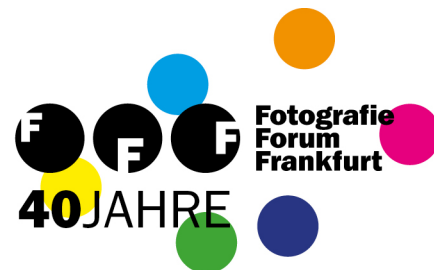
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Surrey Bird Club, Surrey, England, 1972

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Glastonbury Tor, Somerset, England, 1975

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Elland, West Yorkshire, England, 1978

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



O'Connell Bridge, Dublin, Ireland, 1981

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Tom Greenwood, Hangingroyd Road, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, England, 1975

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Osmond Fan, Manchester, England, 1973

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Rugby League Club ground, West Yorkshire, England, 1977

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Steep Lane Baptist Chapel buffet lunch, Sowerby, Calderdale, West Yorkshire, England, 1977

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Mayor of Todmorden's inaugural banquet, Todmorden, West Yorkshire, England, 1977

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Stonehenge, Wiltshire, England, 1976

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Wedding at Crimsworth Dean Methodist Chapel, Hebden Bridge, Calderdale, West Yorkshire, England, 1977

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



St Peter's Walks, Bolton, Greater Manchester, England, 1979

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



Lynotts Bar, Manorhamilton, County Leitrim, Ireland, 1983

© Martin Parr / Magnum Photos



St Paul's School, Darjeeling, India, 1984

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