

# Biennale

## Press release

25 April 2022, Mannheim/Ludwigshafen/Heidelberg, Germany

**Start of the event series *Photography and Sustainability* of the *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* 2022 on 4 May 2022**

The *Photography and Sustainability* event series of the ongoing *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* will comprise eight events from 4 to 19 May 2022. The new series provides insights from artistic, photo-editorial, scientific and activist perspectives on issues of ecological and social sustainability in photography and visual culture. Talks, a lecture and a workshop will address topics such as sustainability in artistic photography and exhibition practice, the often high consumption of resources in fashion and advertising photography, images of the climate crisis, or the role of photography in making human interventions in the earth's ecosystems visible. A cleanup in collaboration with the Surfrider Foundation Baden/Pfalz around the Kunsthalle Mannheim is also part of the programme.

The event series *Photography and Sustainability* is a collaboration between the Heinrich Böll Foundation Baden-Württemberg, the Heinrich Böll Foundation Rhineland-Palatinate, the Institute for European Art History at Heidelberg University and the *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie*.

### **Sabine Schirra, Chair of the Board of the Biennale:**

*"Without sustainable development, our future is unthinkable. Numerous perspectives on this are also made visible by the 35 artistic positions selected by Iris Sicking for the Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie 2022. With the event series "Photography and Sustainability" in the programme accompanying the Biennale, we would like to set diverse impulses for further thinking and acting in an interdisciplinary dialogue with participating artists, curator Iris Sicking and experts such as image editors and art scholars. We are very happy and grateful for the synergy effects and the multi perspective created by the collaboration with the Heinrich Böll Foundations Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate as well as the Institute for European Art History at the University of Heidelberg in the conception of this series."*

The new series *Photography and Sustainability* is part of the extensive programme accompanying the Biennale, with guided tours, participative formats, the *Long Night of Photography* on 13 May 2022, the *Campus Days* as a special offer for students, and the *Artists Weekend* from 13 to 15 May, to which numerous Biennale artists are expected.

In the digital programme, virtual exhibition tours are still accessible, the 15-part podcast *Biennale to go* is available, and with the web application *Biennale in a Book* ([book.biennalefotografie.de](http://book.biennalefotografie.de)), users can become curators themselves at any time and create their own exhibitions in the form of an e-book.

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# Biennale

All events of the series *Photography and Sustainability* at a glance:

**Wed 4.5., 2-5 pm**

**Use of images in the media** / Workshop

Images and especially photographs are powerful communication media for politically and socially relevant issues. The workshop with Miriam Zlobinski (photo editor/visual historian) deals with the potentials and challenges of using photographs in photo editing. Among other things, practical knowledge about image research, analysis and selection will be imparted and visiotypes –stereotypical image use – will be critically reflected. The format is aimed at all those who deal critically with images and their use in their professional activities

**Location:** Kunsthalle Mannheim (Auditorium)

**Costs:** 50 Euro / 25 Euro reduced (incl. drinks and snack)

**Registration** via the event calendar of the Heinrich Böll Foundation Baden-Württemberg: [calendar.boell.de/de/event/bild](https://calendar.boell.de/de/event/bild), **max. 15 participants**

The workshop will be held **in German**.

**Wed 4.5., 6-7:30 pm**

**Images of the climate crisis** / Talk

Photographs and moving images of extreme weather situations, drought, forest fires or melting glaciers, for example, generate visual narratives of climate change. In a discussion with Miriam Zlobinski (photo editor/visual historian), Volker Angres (author, presenter, head of the environment editorial department at ZDF) and Henner Flohr (head of the image editorial department at FAZ), the work of image editors in the context of the climate crisis will be reflected on, among other things, as a form of science communication and against the background of aspects of image and media ethics. The talk will be moderated by Prof. Dr.

Henry Keazor (Chair of Modern and Contemporary Art History/ZEGK – Institute for European Art History at the Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg).

**Location:** Kunsthalle Mannheim (Auditorium)

**Limited number of participants**

**Free tickets** via the webshop of Kunsthalle Mannheim: [shop.kuma.art](https://shop.kuma.art)

This talk will be held **in German**.

**Mon 9.5., 2-3:30 pm**

**Sustainability in artistic photography and exhibition practice** / Online Talk

In their works, photographers Silvy Crespo and Małgorzata Stankiewicz address anthropogenic influences on nature and the environment. In her work, Crespo makes visible, among other things, the environmental destruction associated with lithium mining in Portugal. Stankiewicz deals with the man-made increase in blue-green algae blooms in the Baltic Sea, which has far-reaching consequences for the ecosystems there. In conversation with Iris Sikking, curator of the Biennale 2022, the artists will also discuss possibilities, visions and challenges of sustainable photography and exhibition practices.

**Location:** online via Zoom

**Free of charge with registration** at [www.biennalefotografie.de/en/edition/photography-and-sustainability](https://www.biennalefotografie.de/en/edition/photography-and-sustainability)

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# Biennale

**Mon 9.5., 7:30-9 pm**

**Sustainability in applied photography / Online Talk**

Behind the production of fashion and advertising photography is a high consumption of resources. In 2020, Italian Vogue, under its then editor-in-chief Emanuele Farneti, dispensed with photoshoots altogether for one issue and thus made a statement for sustainability: the fashion was presented by means of illustrations instead. Photographer Simon Veith specialises in sustainable working methods and a visual language that can be used for as long as possible. The talk with Farneti and Veith will focus on aspects of such sustainable image productions in the field of applied photography. The talk will be moderated by Prof. Dr. Henry Keazor (Chair of Modern and Contemporary Art History/ZEGK – Institute for European Art History at the Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg).

**Location:** online via Zoom

**Free of charge with registration** at [www.biennalefotografie.de/en/edition/photography-and-sustainability](http://www.biennalefotografie.de/en/edition/photography-and-sustainability)

**Wed 11.5., 4-5:30 pm**

**Cleanup / Event**

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**Wed 11.5., 6-7:30 pm**

**Waste Identity – Bola Bola Living / Talk**

In collaboration with the Kulturstadt of the City of Mannheim and Surfrider Foundation Baden/Pfalz

With his project *Waste Identity - Bola Bola Living*, the Nigerian artist Aàdesokan, in whose hometown Lagos up to 10,000 tons of waste arrive daily at the country's largest landfill, wants to inform about the waste problem as a global crisis and question our throwaway society. Together with the Surfrider Foundation Baden/Pfalz and artist Aàdesokan, the Biennale organises a cleanup around the Kunsthalle Mannheim, because everyone can do something. The subsequent artist talk with Aàdesokan will provide in-depth insights into the problem of waste in the context of his work complex *Waste Identity - Bola Bola Living* and in exchange with the Surfriders – from multiple perspectives, locally and globally.

**Meeting point Cleanup:** in front of the main entrance of Kunsthalle Mannheim (Friedrichsplatz 4)

**No registration** necessary

**Talk:** Kunsthalle Mannheim (Auditorium)

**Limited number of participants**

**Free tickets** via the webshop of Kunsthalle Mannheim: [shop.kuma.art](http://shop.kuma.art)

The events will be held **in English and in German**.

Cleanup and talk can be visited independently of each other.

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**Tue 17.5., 7-8 pm**

**Protest Images & Image Protests** / Online Talk

The Archive of Public Protests (APP) collects and distributes photographs of protest movements in Poland, which have increased since 2015 with the rise of the PiS party. In the form of an online image archive as well as via Instagram, the 15-member collective campaigns for the visibility of, for example, women's strikes and protests against climate change. As strike newspapers, they bring the visual material back into the ongoing protests. In a discussion with photographers Karolina Gembara (APP) and Rafał Milach (APP) as well as Katarzyna Pabijanek (Head of the Democracy and Human Rights Programme of the Heinrich Böll Foundation/Warsaw), the topics will include visual activism and the relevance and potential of images for socially sustainable change.

**Location:** online via Zoom

**Free of charge with registration** at [www.biennalefotografie.de/en/edition/photography-and-sustainability](http://www.biennalefotografie.de/en/edition/photography-and-sustainability)

**Thu 19.5., 6-7:15 pm**

**Making the Anthropocene visible** / Lecture

Mankind has intervened so significantly in the earth's (climate) system and its cycles that it has become a geological factor. It is not only in the geosciences and natural sciences that there has long been talked of a new earth age, the Anthropocene. In the art sciences, too, the earth Age shaped by humans is strongly reflected. The lecture by Prof. Dr. Timo Skrandies (Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf) explores the role of photography – especially documentary photography – and visual cultures in the interweaving of nature, ethics and knowledge.

**Location:** Heidelberger Kunstverein (open until 8pm)

**Free of charge** (plus admission: Pay What You Want)

The lecture will be held **in German**.

## **About the Biennale 2022**

Under the title *From Where I Stand*, the third *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* in Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg (Germany) will focus on photographic positions between art, journalism and activism until 22 May 2022. The artists selected by the Dutch curator Iris Sikking are primarily concerned with the interventions of man and technology in nature and their social consequences. With their works, the around 40 international artists, collectives and photographers take a stand on global crises. The Biennale includes six exhibitions in six venues in Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg as well as installations at the main stations in Mannheim and Heidelberg.

## **Participating institutions**

Heidelberger Kunstverein, Kunsthalle Mannheim, Kunstverein Ludwigshafen, PORT25 – Raum für Gegenwartskunst (Mannheim), Wilhelm-Hack-Museum (Ludwigshafen), ZEPHYR – Raum für Fotografie in den Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen (Mannheim)

**Further information** and **current image material** for the Biennale can be downloaded from the press section at [www.biennalefotografie.de](http://www.biennalefotografie.de)

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Kooperationspartner



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The *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie 2022* is supported by the three cities of Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg, with BASF SE as premium sponsor and many other supporters.

Premiumsponsor



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