

Biennale

Press release

20 March 2023, Mannheim/Ludwigshafen/Heidelberg, Germany

**"BUGA 23 becomes experimental field for sustainable photography."
April 14 to October 8, 2023**

The *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* is collaborating with the German national garden show 2023 ("Bundesgartenschau"/short: "BUGA") in Mannheim, Germany, starting in April. Artists Carolin Lange and Dico Kruijsse are creating a large-scale installation of cyanotypes under the title *Under the same Sun / Unter derselben Sonne* on the façades of two former barracks buildings located in the BUGA 23 entrance area on Spinelli grounds. Discovered in 1842, cyanotype is a printing process that produces deep blue images and is considered one of the few relatively environmentally harmless methods of analogue photography. Along with the *Reallabor für erneuerbare Fotografie* ('Living Lab for Renewable Photography'), the Biennale and Kalamari Klub invite BUGA 23 visitors to explore the relationship of photography and ecology through a series of workshops, guided tours, and a roundtable discussion.

UPDATE: We will inform you about the development of the Biennale after the 2024 edition in a separate press release in the coming days.

+++++ The upcoming *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* will take place from March 9 to May 19, 2024. The *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* is supported by the three cities of Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg, with BASF SE as premium sponsor, as well as numerous other supporters. +++++

Fabian Burstein, Team Leader Culture | Events at BUGA 23: "*Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie is one of the best-known festivals in Europe in its field as well as representing the crucial networking idea of the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region. In this respect, the collaboration within the framework of the Reallabor für erneuerbare Fotografie is emblematic of BUGA 23's strategy of achieving supraregional impact with local partners. The fact that the project partners have been so intensively involved with our central issues is, of course, an absolute stroke of luck. In this way, BUGA 23 also will be an experimental field for sustainable photography. Visitors can participate directly in this thanks to a spectacular installation and a variety of workshops.*"

Nicolas Reinhart and Christoph Wieland, curators of the *Reallabor für erneuerbare Fotografie*: "*In recent years, we have become increasingly aware that photography, in all its fascinating forms and manifestations, can be highly resource-intensive. Whether it is through the extraction and exploitation of natural resources needed for light-sensitive materials or complex technologies, or for the storing and distributing images on end devices, in networks, and on server farms. A discussion and a critical approach to these photographic vestiges on our planet has fortunately received much-needed attention in recent months and has sparked a discussion. With the Reallabor für erneuerbare Fotografie, we wanted to contribute – not so much limited to a debate, but with a new format that proposes and tests concrete action.*"

Which materials and processes are appropriate to use in analogue photography in a resource-efficient and climate-friendly way? Starting point for the collaboration project of the Biennale and Kalamari Klub with BUGA 23 is the cyanotype process. Only sunlight, water and iron salts are needed to create these distinctive deep-blue photographic images.

für aktuelle Fotografie

Biennale

A central element of the *Reallabor* is the artistic work of Carolin Lange and Dico Kruijsse, created site-specifically with the help of the cyanotype process on the grounds of BUGA and its surrounding area. In the context of this project, the work of the two artists will be used to demonstrate and discuss alternatives for artistic and curatorial practice to operate productively and progressively in times of climate change. The *Reallabor* is meant to be an experimental field, a meeting place and a platform for outreach at the BUGA.

Carolin Lange and Dico Kruijsse, artists: "We use cyanotyping to take light recordings of buildings and nature. The conditions under which we expose our work, for example the weather, 'inscribe themselves' and ultimately determine the image, which can only be influenced by us within certain limits. We thus put the image-making process out of our hands to a large extent. Our work is not about photographically documenting a place, but about creating sometimes more, sometimes less abstract images that try to capture a feeling, a mood of the respective place. For BUGA 23, we are planning about 100 cyanotypes in the windows of the barracks buildings (of 1.05 x 1.75m each) as well as four cyanotypes on the façades of about 3.5 x 7.5m. Two of the large cyanotypes will be produced in the production workshops together with the participants."

In public workshops (for registration see below) from April to July, visitors can become active themselves, learn the basics of the cyanotype technique and help shape the artistic work together with Carolin Lange and Dico Kruijsse. A roundtable discussion and guided tours (monthly from April to October) additionally offer the opportunity to learn more about the artists' work as well to learn about the relationships between photography, ecology, and sustainability from different perspectives. All events take place within the context of BUGA 23 in Mannheim on the Spinelli grounds.

Please visit the Biennale's website to find out more about the dates, details and registration instructions for the educational programme of the *Reallabor für erneuerbare Fotografie*.

Reallabor für erneuerbare Fotografie is a collaboration project between the *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* and Kalamari Klub and is funded by the 'Innovationsfonds Kunst des Ministeriums für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst Baden-Württemberg'.

BUGA 23 takes place from April 14 to October 8, 2023. More information available online at www.buga23.de.

Since 2017, the *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* has been addressing the most diverse aspects of sustainability. In 2022, this topic became the focus of the Biennale's outreach programme: In collaboration with Heinrich Böll Foundations Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate as well as the Institute for European Art History at Heidelberg University, the eight-part event series *Photography and Sustainability* attracted a lot of attention.

For more information and press images, visit <https://biennalefotografie.de/en/biennial/press>

Press contact

Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie
Hendrik v. Boxberg / Press & Public Relations, T.: +49 (0)177-7379207
presse@biennalefotografie.de
www.biennalefotografie.de

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Reallabor für erneuerbare Fotografie

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