



Press Release

Sibylle Bergemann Photographs

Exhibition opening: Saturday, 28 November 2015, 18:00

Exhibition on view: Sunday, 29 November 2015 – Sunday, 3 January 2016, 10:00-17:00 daily (closed Mondays and national holidays).

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Jaipur House, Sher Shah Road, Near Delhi High Court

This exhibition presents the oeuvre of one of the leading contemporary German photographers to international audiences.

The **National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA)** in collaboration with the **Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan** is delighted to present the exhibition in New Delhi. After two runs of the exhibition at the 'Akademie der Künste' in Berlin and the 'Museum für Photographie' in Braunschweig, the exhibition is touring internationally on behalf of the **Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)** .

The photographs of **Sibylle Bergemann** baffle because of the diversity of their subjects such as fashion, reportage, photographic essays, urban and rural landscapes as well as portraits. At first known as a fashion photographer, Sibylle Bergemann fast became noted for her photographic essays and her precise observations of hidden contexts.

Bergemann's work has to be seen within the social context of her time. Her pictures express a critical analysis of the reality during the times of the GDR. Bergemann understood photography not merely as a method of depiction but rather as a medium through which she can shed light on reality while constantly interpreting and commenting on the circumstances. Thus, the peculiar details of her photographs become symbols that reflect subtly stories and nuances of their time, that play with the longing of the observer, who appears to be drawn into a thoughtful mood filled with eerie, dreamlike states-of-being while looking at her photographs.

From the 1960s onwards, fashion and portrait photography that were partially commissioned by 'SIBYLLE' and 'Geo' magazines, were amongst the subjects that she reflected upon. Towards the end of the 1960s Bergemann began focusing on situational and scenic pictures in Berlin and later in cities such as New York, Paris, Tokyo, and São Paulo.

While Bergemann worked in the beginning almost exclusively with black and white photography she later also belonged to a group of photographers who use color as a constitutive element in the construction of a meaning, and not as an illustration device. She has also worked exhaustively with the Polaroid medium.

"It's the fringes of the world that interest me, not its centre. The noninterchangeable is my concern. When there is something in faces or landscapes that doesn't quite fit ..." Sibylle Bergemann.

Sibylle Bergemann

Born in Berlin in 1941, Sibylle Bergemann began her photographic training with Arno Fischer in 1966 and from 1967 onwards began her career as a freelance photographer. She was one of founding members of 'OSTKREUZ – Agentur der Fotografen' (Ostkreuz – Photographers' Agency), Berlin in 1990 and in 1994 became a member of the Akademie der Künste (Academy of Arts), Berlin. Sibylle Bergemann died in 2010 near Gransee, Germany.

About the National Gallery of Modern Art

The National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, was inaugurated on March 29th, 1954 by Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. The choice of Jaipur House, one of the premier edifices of Lutyens' Delhi, signified the envisaged high profile of the institution. The idea of a national art gallery was first conceived in 1949. It was nurtured carefully by Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru and Maulana Azad and an active art community.

The Gallery is the premier institution of its kind in India. It is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The gallery is a repository of the cultural ethos of the country and showcases the changing art forms through the passage of the last hundred and fifty years starting from about 1857 in the field of Visual and Plastic arts. Notwithstanding some gaps and some trivia, the NGMA collection today is undeniably the most significant collection of modern and contemporary art in the country today.

About Ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen)

ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) is committed to a peaceful and enriching coexistence of people and cultures worldwide. It promotes art and cultural exchange through exhibitions, dialogues and conference programs. As a competence centre for foreign cultural diplomacy, the ifa connects civil societies, cultural practices, art, media and science. It initiates, moderates and documents discussions on international cultural relations.

About Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's non-profit cultural institution established to promote knowledge of German language

abroad and foster international cultural cooperation. By drawing on its worldwide cultural and language based exchanges, the Goethe-Institut engenders a comprehensive picture of Germany by providing information on German culture, society and politics through its exchange of cultural initiatives and varied programming. The Goethe-Institut endeavors not only to promote wide-ranging cultural exchange but also engages in cultural dialogues rooted in local partnerships and collaborations. Through its programming, the Goethe-Institut strives to develop innovative concepts for a world made more human through mutual understanding, where cultural diversity is seen as an asset.

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