



RENÉ BURRI

DOPPELLEBEN (A DOUBLE LIFE)

17.01. - 15.03.2014

Press conference on Thursday, January 16, 2014, 5 pm

In the presence of René Burri

Exhibition opening on Thursday, January 16, 2014, 7 pm

Laudatio: Hand-Michael Koetzle, curator and publicist, Munich

Che Guevara smoking a cigar, Pablo Picasso in the bullring, Alberto Giacometti in his studio or Le Corbusier while designing - René Burri helped shape the history of photography in the 20th century with his photographs and reportages. In addition, Burri belongs to the protagonists of a color photography with artistic aspirations. After working as a photographer for five decades René Burri can look back on a rich body of work in color which this exhibition now examines and acclaims as an independent contribution to "New Color Photography".

With the exhibition RENÉ BURRI. DOPPELLEBEN, OstLicht presents a largely unknown area of this great Swiss photographer's creative oeuvre. In contrast to his black and white photographs, Burri does not attempt to make pointed statements with his color photography. Instead they reflect an interplay of shapes and colors, often opening up confusing, enigmatic views and vistas. He dares to create bold details and perspectives, playing with reflections, sharpness and blur. Nevertheless, he sets color in these works, which have developed over the last decades through his travels around the world, not only from a purely formal interest. Always, though usually very subtle, a social, political, historical message resonates, which often only becomes apparent at a second glance.

Alongside these color photographs, which are being shown for the first time in Austria, famous black and white icons can be found in the exhibition. Supplemented with additional photographs and photo essays, it is impressive to see how he approached themes, subjects and the people he portrayed. As a tribute to his 80th birthday, the exhibition retraces two main lines of a remarkable photographer life – or as René Burri puts it himself:

"As a photographer I have led a double life – one in black and white and one in color."

An exhibition of the Museum für Gestaltung Zürich.

Selected photographs on display by René Burri can be purchased in the gallery OstLicht.



René Burri was born in Zurich in 1933 and spent his early years studying colour, composition and design at the renowned School of Arts and Crafts in Zurich. It was during his military service that Burri first used a Leica camera. Shortly after, he also developed an interest in film, and between 1953-1955 he worked as a documentary filmmaker. Burri's life changed forever when the well-known photographer Werner Bischoff introduced him to the prestigious photography agency Magnum Photos. After joining Magnum in 1959, his first reportage appeared in Life magazine and he subsequently worked for more major news magazines including Look, Bunte, Stern, Geo, Paris Match, Schweizer Illustrierte and Du. Burri's diverse body of work ranges from reportages in the Middle East and Maoist China, to personal photo-essays on the Germans and NASA. He is also known for his portraits of cultural figures such as Pablo Picasso, Alberto Giacometti, Jean Tinguely, Yves Klein and Le Corbusier. Burri received the Dr. Erich Salomon Prize from the German Society of Photography in 1998 in recognition of his lifetime achievement as photojournalist. In 2013 he was awarded the Leica Hall of Fame Award for his life's work. Burri currently lives in Paris, France.

Publication

René Burri - Impossible Reminiscences

Phaidon Verlag, 240 pages with 172 illustrations and an essay by Hans-Michael Koetzle, 92,60 Euro

The catalogue and more books by René Burri are available for sale in the gallery OstLicht or in our online bookshop: <http://shop.westlicht.co.at>.

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Opening Hours

Gallery Wed-Sat 12-6 pm
Library Wed-Fri 12-6 pm
Closed on public holidays

Directions

OstLicht Gallery can be reached by public transport: take the U1 to Reumannplatz or the U3 to Enkplatz or the Tram Line 6 to the stop Absberggasse.

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