



## **Vienna's new centre of contemporary photography**

**Ostlicht. Galerie für Fotografie**

**Press conference** to mark the opening of OstLicht. Galerie für Fotografie and preview of the opening exhibition "Nacht / Night"

**Friday, 1st June 2012, 10 am**

The new Galerie OstLicht will open on 4th June with a big party on the premises of the former Anker bread factory, Vienna's latest, dynamically evolving cultural centre.

The 800 m<sup>2</sup> loft offers 400 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space for group and solo exhibitions of contemporary photo art, featuring both national and international positions. One particular emphasis of the exhibition programme will be on direct cooperation with both young and established artists working with the medium of photography in a conceptual and technical way.

Featuring a publicly accessible library, a bookshop and a bar, OstLicht also intends to function as a meeting place and centre for everyone with an interest in photography.

The specialist library of Galerie OstLicht comprises a collection of more than 20,000 books and magazines on the art, technology, history and theory of photography, dating from the end of the 19th century to the present day. It has developed from the collection of Peter Coeln, owner of Galerie OstLicht and the photo museum WestLicht. The library will be added to regularly through the acquisition of antiquarian books and material related to the gallery exhibitions.

The opening of OstLicht means that another art institution will be established at the still new cultural centre in the former Anker bread factory, where Ernst Hilger's Brotkunsthalle, a branch of Lichterloh, artists' studios, and a Caritas workshop are located already.

Architect Gregor Eichinger designed the rooms of OstLicht, taking the historical industrial architecture into consideration.

OstLicht is a new project by Peter Coeln, who has been successfully running the photo museum WestLicht for ten years now; it shows high-quality international photo exhibitions alongside a permanent exhibition of historical cameras, and also hosts auctions of photographica which are well-known beyond the borders of Austria.

## Opening of the exhibition “Nacht“

5th June – 29th September 2012

The world after darkness has fallen, the reverse side of day, life between sunset and dawn – the night. At this time, different rules to those of the daytime often apply. It is the scene of dreams, loneliness, sleep, sexuality, the uncanny, of celebration and silence...

The transition from day to night, the twilight hour, causes contrasts to diminish, our eyes become uncertain, our ability to see is restricted by the darkness. Our focus is directed at things which prefer to remain hidden from the light of day.

The opening exhibition of the Galerie OstLicht shows works by artists who investigate the extensive topic of “Night” in a wide range of ways. Many of the works by a total of 18 artists have been created especially for this first exhibition at OstLicht.

Gregor Sailer has constructed himself a camera obscura, with which he documents night-time urban space and its abstract light phenomena by means of “controlled chance”. Tina Lechner works with solarisation, a tricky darkroom process that plays with the relations of bright and dark contrasts and results in painterly, associative black and white photographs. In his photograms – a photographic process that functions without a camera –, Hans Kupelwieser imitates a starlit sky and solar eclipses with the help of everyday objects. Andreas Duscha explores the twilight hours, that magical phase between sunrise or sunset and the night, and attempts to capture the essence of this atmospheric phenomenon. Tina Ribarits attracts us, in her installation-like work, into an uncanny, mysterious garden using large-format photographs; it appears to bloom somewhere between Victorian poetry and Hollywood suspense. In her several-part work, Roberta Lima plumbs the various stages of consciousness. Borjana Ventzislavova shows the shabby, empty rooms of sex clubs and brothels in Vienna, using her installation to highlight trade in women, violence, and the fate of female sex workers. Katrina Daschner's work uses the image of torn mattresses to thematise sexual abuse and incest. In her series Anita Witek constructs abstract picture levels that change step by step and make space for the darker sides. In his photographs Jules Spinatsch reveals a unique insight into the events around international economic summits like the World Economic Forum in Davos and New York, and the G8 Summit in Genoa. Nives Widauer captures the magic of night in a poetic, almost impressionist way in her analogue, unprocessed moon-shadow photographs. In his photo series “Disco / The Dark Curtain, St. Petersburg” Reiner Riedler recounts the wild nightlife during the “white nights” when the sun sets only briefly. Michael Höpfner is drawn to geographically and socially peripheral areas, places of seclusion, isolation and the inhospitable, where he spends lonely nights in a tent. Tatiana Lecomte's works make it possible for us to sense romantic discovery and loss in the infinite expanse of the sky, while Christian Eisenberger illuminates a visual echo of the moon. Tomas Eller conveys the infinite uncertainty of the night in his collage. In images of New York at night Linn Schröder searches for the world of memory, dreams and nightmare. Inge Krause captures the fleeting aspect, the transience of fireworks on Polaroids, together with that something that endures beyond everything: the moon at night.

The works assembled for the opening exhibition of OstLicht, “Night”, also reflects the gallery's programmatic orientation: the aim is to invite both outstanding Austrian positions and international artists, who will be given the opportunity to work in Vienna in the context of a new “Photographer in Residence” programme.

## **Opening party**

Monday, 4th June 2012, 6 pm

The new Galerie OstLicht in the premises of the former Anker bread factory will be opened with a big public party on 4th June 2012.

### **Speakers at the opening:**

Dr. Claudia Schmied, Federal Minister for Education, Art and Culture  
Peter Coeln, Museum WestLicht and Galerie OstLicht  
Verena Kaspar-Eisert, director Galerie OstLicht  
Presentation: Barbara Rett

### **Music:**

Musikarbeiterkapelle, Novo Toque  
Peter Kruder, DJ Mozza!, Wayne Harber

Drinks and snacks and late-night special

Galerie OstLicht is located close to Vienna's new main station (under construction), and can be reached on public transport using the underground line U1 or tram route 6.

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Gallery opening times: Wed-Sat, 12 noon – 6 pm  
Library opening times: Wed-Fri, 12 noon – 6 pm

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