

COUNTRY IN THE SUN

A RESEARCH TRIP THROUGH THE POST-WALL YOUTH OF EAST BERLIN

In her new book *Land in Sonne* (Land in Sun) the photographer Christine Fenzl portrays young people in the areas of Berlin that belonged to East Germany before unification, which have been subjected to profound changes in recent years. Her series takes a look at the generation of “Wendekinder” (children of German reunification).

Berlin, October 22, 2019 – In her new book *Land in Sonne* the Berlin-based photographer Christine Fenzl (*1967 in Munich) portrays young people from the Berlin neighborhoods of Hellersdorf, Marzahn, Lichtenberg, and Hohenschönhausen, who were born during and after reunification. For their parents the Berlin Wall was simply a part of life, but in their world, it is barely imaginable.

In her sensitive photos Fenzl tracks the protagonists’ stories and expectations, while at the same time maintaining the perspective of the distant, yet interested observer. The pictures show people up close, undisguised, in the right light and in familiar moments. The places undergoing change, especially where the old Soviet-style block apartments reveal the past, also present youth as a state of transition, as well.

Fenzl herself experienced the extensive changes that occurred in Berlin after the fall of the Wall. She moved there in 1992 and became an assistant to Nan Goldin. At first she lived in the western half of the city, then in the so-called Mitte, or central Berlin, which had been part of East Germany. There, renewal, upheaval, and challenges were felt daily. Particularly in the places where renovations have already been completed, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recall the Wall’s exact pathway.

“I fear that the images of this time will disappear. Driven by the ongoing change but nonetheless still noticeable division of the city, it is important to me to give a face to the generation of the ‘Wendekinder’. With my photographs, I want to capture the young women and men who were born into this special time, and who are therefore a part of the writing of this particular history,” says Fenzl. Also featuring texts by the photographer Nan Goldin and the filmmaker Dani Levy, this newly released volume is devoted to the generation of transition thirty years after reunification.

In addition, Hatje Cantz publishes a limited edition of twenty copies with an original print.



CHRISTINE FENZL LAND IN SONNE

Texts by Dani Levy, Nan Goldin, Christine Fenzl

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Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION HATJE CANTZ as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

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