



Fundación PROA
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Urban Spaces: Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff, Thomas Struth

From May 30th until the end of July, Fundación Proa presents in its exhibition halls *Urban Spaces: Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff, Thomas Struth*.

Curated by Ludovico Pratesi, researcher and specialist in photography, the show will analyze the evolution on the concept of the city in contemporary culture through the ideas and images produced by the members of the so called Düsseldorf School of Photography, composed by five of its most distinguished artists: Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff and Thomas Struth.

The exhibition is composed by 45 works produced from the early eighties until recent times. It is designed to take the visitor first through the artists early works - those produced during their formative years at the Düsseldorf School - and continuing with their most recent body of work, in which an individual selection from each artist will emphasize their stylistic differences and personal characteristics.

The works selected by Fundación Proa is the result of the continuous dialogue between the artists and the curator and depicts the different interpretations and relation each artist has with the urban space. This is the first time Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff and Thomas Struth are joined in an exhibition under a common theme – the city – yet with various interpretations.

The exhibition will present works, such as *May Day IV*, by Andreas Gursky, or Candida Höfer's Buenos Aires series. Also, less known works that exemplify the artists formation under the wing of Bernd Becher, photography teacher at the Dusseldorf School of Photography, can be appreciated. The body of work was conformed in collaboration with the artists, museums, art institutions, and private collectors.

The influence of the artists on the global artistic context is due to the overhaul their works produced on the tradition of the concept and language of photography, not only through the scale of the images in their monumental format, but also through the conceptual treatment they present. Each piece recreates a unique and defined universe that concentrates in the interrelation that exists between man and his surroundings together with all its anthropological and sociocultural implications.

During the 1980s, their teachers Bernd and Hilla Becher, conveyed the city theme as an important artistic reference. Subsequently each one of them developed a unique and personal style, following the drastic changes caused by the rapid globalization of urban cultures. Their images depicting different sites around the world, combine the local details with the usual feelings and experiences of contemporary societies. The Dusseldorf School became a reference within the art and photography scene.

Our exhibition is sponsored by Tenaris and Organización Techint, and counts with the collaboration from Italian Embassy in Argentina.

Exhibition Catalogue

The exhibition catalogue, conformed by approximately 200 pages, including large prints of the photographs exhibited and referential images, will be a bilingual publication, becoming one of the first Spanish catalogues for the joint group.

Each artist will count with a special section that will include an unpublished interview and a small biography. The critical essays by curator Ludovico Pratesi, and acclaimed art critics such as Armin Zweite,

Pablo Perulli, and Valeria González, give clear evidence not only of the contradictions and problematics of the contemporary city, but also of the history behind the Düsseldorf School of Photography, and the artists' influence on artistic expression together with their revolutionary input on the photographic medium within the global context.

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Education

The exhibition rooms count with the permanent presence of the educators whom belong to the Department of Education of Fundación PROA, especially capacitated for this exhibition. In addition, different interactive proposals are offered: programmed visits in Spanish and English, studio visits, and school-group visits.

Programmed guided visits in Spanish:

Tuesday to Friday, at 3 and 5 pm.

Saturday and Sunday, at 12, 3 pm and 5 pm.

For guided visits in English, booking is required at educacion@proa.org / 4104 1041

Studio visits

The opportunity to analyze some of the exhibited pieces and discuss relevant questions.

Every Friday at 4 pm (in Spanish).

Duration: 1 hour

Questions and inscriptions: educacion@proa.org / 4104 1041

School-group visits

The school program offers students and professors the opportunity to approach contemporary art. Guided visits are offered with suggested classroom activities.

Questions and inscriptions: educacion@proa.org / 4104 1041

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Auditorium

The exhibition will be accompanied by special events and activities that will take place in Fundación Proa's auditorium.

Urban Spaces: Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff, Thomas Struth will open to the public on Saturday, May 30th until the end of July, 2009 in FUNDACIÓN PROA, Av. Pedro de Mendoza 1929, La Boca, Buenos Aires. Opening hours are Tuesday to Sunday, from 11 to 7 pm.

Admission is ARG \$ 10 (general), ARG \$ 6 (students) y ARG \$ 3 (retired).

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From May 30th, 2009

Until end of July 2009

Curator

Ludovico Pratesi

With the collaboration of Benedeta Carpi di Resmini

Exhibition and Catalogue coordination

Camila Jurado

Aime Iglesias Lukin

Invited consultant

Valeria González

Organization, Production and Graphic Design

Fundación Proa

Sponsored by

Tenaris - Organización Techint

With the support of

Embajada de Italia en Argentina

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