

Press release, March 2018

# COPEN HAGEN PHOTO FESTI VAL

## Copenhagen Photo Festival 2018 · June 7-17 **Scandinavia's largest photo event takes over the capital for the 9th time**

**There is a number of events coming up, when Copenhagen Photo Festival takes place for the 9th time this June. Known and unknown locations all over Copenhagen will be filled with exhibitions as well as artist talks, workshops, seminars and photo walks. This year the recognized German art photographer Jessica Backhaus will be exhibiting at the festival, where her works will enter into an artistic dialogue with Danish photographer Emil Salto. Our next exhibition portrays the battle against The Islamic State and especially the international effort to regain control over Mosul from the terror organization.**

Copenhagen Photo Festival has a clear ambition: Our ability to take position in regards to the photography as a form of expression must be strengthened. This ambition is supported by the festival presenting new and thought-provoking works of both art- and documentary photographers during these eleven summer days.

The exhibitions take place all over the city, but the heart of the festival is Photo City, which is located in the area surrounding Østre Gasværk Theater at Østerbro – among the locations is the breathtaking, closed substation, Understation, as well as outdoor.

### **International master photographers and debating war photography**

This year the German photographer Jessica Backhaus (1970) will be exhibiting works from her two latest projects, *Six Degrees of Freedom* and *Trilogy*.

In her works Backhaus seeks to link personal experiences with more formal and abstract qualities of photography. The experience of the works therefore embraces the whole spectre of photo art from the personally experienced to the documentary and the aesthetic experiment. In the exhibition Backhaus' works will enter into an artistic dialogue with the Danish photographer Emil Salto (1968).

In the mobile exhibition hall, the exceptional exhibition *Battle for Mosul – Rise of the White Flag* is shown in collaboration with the organization Warzone Freelance. Through skilled photography the battle between The Islamic State in Iraq is portrayed with a focus on the freeing of the city Mosul.

Apart from presenting war photography at its finest the exhibition also put the role of the photographer at debate. The projects therefore not only shows the dramatic war scenes, but also tells the story of the consequences, which the war has had on civilians and the local culture. The exhibition also includes a number of cultural objects, which the photographer was trusted with from locals, which they have brought out of the country in order to protect them from the war. Taking part in the exhibitions is among others the following photographers: Jan Grarup (Denmark), Alex Kay Potter (USA), Alessandro Rota (Italy), André Liohn (Norway/Brazil), Andrea DiCenzo (USA), Andrew McConnell (Ireland), Andoni Lubaki (Spain), Charles Thiefaine (France), Gabriel Romero (USA), João Castellano (Brazil), Juan Carlos (El Salvador), Nish Nalbandian (USA), Osie Greenway (USA), Yan Boechat (Brazil) og Quentin Bruno (Belgium).

In Photo City you can also experience exhibitions with carefully selected photographers from all over the world:

- Marta Pohlmann-Kryszkiewicz (1978, Germany/Poland)
- Sara Vighi (1969, Italy)
- Dana Balajovsky (1990, Argentine)
- Prasiit Sthapit (1988, Nepal)
- Martin Thaulow (1978, Denmark)
- Nils Stelte (1989, Germany)

And finally, the exhibition *Sculptural Landscapes*, a curated group exhibition, is shown, which portrays the inner and outer landscape through sculptural and abstract photography.

### **The Censored Exhibitions hits record again**

True to tradition The Censored Exhibition, which consists of carefully selected works from an open call, can be experienced at the festival.

In 2017 Copenhagen Photo Festival beat its own record, when 242 applications from 30 different countries was received. This year the festival has hit yet another record as 449 applications from 55 countries was received.

The selection is done by a jury of experts, which this year consisted of Danish art photographer Balder Olrik, German publisher and curator Markus Hartmann and Johan Vikner, who is Exhibition Manager at Fotografiska International in Stockholm.

The exhibitions is a unique opportunity to be promoted as a photographer at Scandinavia's largest photo festival to a large and dedicated audience of both visitors, critics and curators.

The selected photographers get the chance to sell their works at an auction in connection with the festival, as Copenhagen Photo Festival collaborates with

recognized Danish auction house Bruun Rasmussen Kunstauktioner. The auction will take place on the last day of the festival.

### **Photography is more than just pictures of pets and parties**

Director of the festival, Maja Dyrehauge Gregersen, looks forward to this year's festival with both pride and excitement.

"Now that we – thanks to smartphones – all walk around with a camera in our pocket, there is a need now more than ever to be reminded, what photography really is. Because it is more than just perpetuation of our meals, parties and pets," she explains and continues:

"Photography is a complex and varied form of expression, which can move, inspire and transform us. This we have experienced and proved year after year with Copenhagen Photo Festival, and I am sure that we will do that again this year. I think, we have succeeded in putting a strong festival programme together, and I'm very much looking forward to letting people experience this in June."

*Read more about the festival and keep yourself updated at [www.copenhagenphotofestival.com](http://www.copenhagenphotofestival.com)*

### **Best regards**

Have Kommunikation

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### **About Copenhagen Photo Festival**

Copenhagen Photo Festival is a yearly event that takes place in June. In eleven days photography is on the agenda with exhibitions, workshops, seminars, photo walks, portfolio reviews and much more. We collaborate with galleries, museums and institutions all over Copenhagen and southern Sweden as well as public exhibition spaces such as in the metro and on *Byens Hegn*.

The heart of the festival is Photo City, which is located around Gasværksgrunden at Østerbro, both in the closed substation Understationen, as well as outdoor. Photo City shows 5-10 udstillinger on a yearly basis, and Photo Stage is the stage for artist talks, workshops and debates.

Copenhagen Photo Festival had 49.320 visitors in 2017 and 58 exhibitions in collaboration with 55 different exhibition spaces, including Fotografisk Center and The National Museum of Photography. Every year 250 Danish and international photographers contribute to the festival programme.