

Erika Sulzer-Kleinemeier

**An exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Foundation
May 28 – July 2, 2006**

Since the sixties, the German photographer Erika Sulzer-Kleinemeier has focused on political events and portraits of famous figures, but she has also examined the everyday moments that often reflect social realities. Many of her photographs were commissioned by magazines and dailies and have been published in print media such as *Spiegel*, *Zeit* and *Telegraph Magazine*, to name a few. Others were taken outside of any journalistic context.

Photography, especially documentary photography, is still considered the best medium for storing and transporting the past into the present based on the premises of objectivity and truth. On the other hand, Erika Sulzer-Kleinemeier has always challenged the purported objectivity of the photographic medium by positioning her work clearly in reference to the present. Her b&w photographs, as well as her newer panoramic color photos, pack current events into memorable images, but through their everyday motifs they also seek the political aspect of quotidian life. Many of her works reflect the medium of photography by integrating its representational mechanisms into the image. Moreover, the reference to the political rhetoric of self-portrayal also often becomes part of the image aesthetic. Realism is supplanted by the making visible of strategies of representation; involvement takes the place of a clinical inventory.

The exhibition gives insight into Sulzer-Kleinemeier's comprehensive oeuvre, while at the same time evoking episodes of West Germany's past that seem at once familiar and forgotten. Thus condensed in these precisely composed photographs one finds moments of history whose images still strongly influence our cultural memory to this day. Konrad Adenauer's funeral, Gerhard Schröder as a young man, the student revolts of the sixties, the protests against wage cuts in 1972, the peace rallies of the eighties, or German Reunification reveal themselves in hindsight as stages of history that visually and powerfully compact these moments which otherwise threaten to merge invisibly into the complexity of the events. What becomes strikingly clear in the works shown here and in their arrangement, is that the recording of history is always a matter of interpretation and selection. Also, that photography works against forgetting and can thus make things visible that are not necessarily meant to be seen. As an active press photographer, Erika Sulzer-Kleinemeier has always had a surefire eye when it comes to capturing moments that convey the transformation of reality into image.

Erika Sulzer-Kleinemeier (*1935) lives in Gleisweiler an der Weinstraße. Her works have been represented in group exhibitions most recently at Frankfurter Kunstverein, Gropiusbau Berlin, ZKM Karlsruhe and Neue Galerie Graz.

After her exhibition in Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig in 1999 the exhibition in the Ursula Blickle Foundation will be her second large solo show in Germany.

Exhibition venue

Ursula Blickle Foundation, Mühlweg 18
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Curator

Dr. Vanessa Joan Müller

Press information

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Preopening viewing

Please call for an appointment:
Phone +49 7251 60919 Fax +49 7251 68687

Press photos

Available on our website:
www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

Duration of the exhibition

May 28 – July 2, 2006

Opening

Saturday, May 27, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

Catalogue

A catalogue shall be published in conjunction with the exhibition.

Opening hours

Wed. 2:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 2:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m. and by appointment

We'd appreciate an announcement of our exhibition in your medium. If publicized, please send us a copy for our files. Thank you.