

PRESSE RELEASE

December 2018

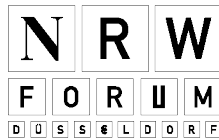
Two Rivers: Joachim Brohm / Alec Soth

Two photographers, two rivers: from March 29 to July 7, 2019, the NRW-Forum Düsseldorf will present *Two Rivers*, an exhibition of the most important groups of photographic works by the German artist Joachim Brohm and the American photographer Alec Soth. In a world premiere, the exhibition combines works from a total of ten series, including Alec Soth's magnum opus *Sleeping by the Mississippi* and Joachim Brohm's famous *Ruhr* series.

The exhibition focuses on Alec Soth's series *Sleeping by the Mississippi* and Joachim Brohm's *Ruhr* series, which both portray people on the periphery of a river. Brohm, who studied at the Folkwang Hochschule, is a visual artist who expresses himself through the medium of photography. Soth is a lyrical documentary photographer in the tradition of Robert Frank, Stephen Shore, and Joel Sternfeld. What unites the two is a documentary-artistic view that identifies them as sensitive documentarists of their social environment. The exhibition brings together a total of ten groups of works by the two photographers. In addition to the well-known series on the Ruhr and the Mississippi, rare portraits by Joachim Brohm and a new work by Alec Soth will also be shown for the first time worldwide.

Alec Soth has been one of the most important photographers on the international photography scene since his first major work *Sleeping by the Mississippi* in 2004. Soth is a visual artist, Magnum photographer, blogger, publisher, and educator. He explores the many different forms of photography and how they present themselves in the world. As a lyrical documentary photographer – in the tradition of Robert Frank, Stephen Shore, and Joel Sternfeld – Soth sees himself primarily as an American photographer. The landscapes of the USA, the majestic Mississippi, the thundering Niagara Falls, the vast and open deserts, the small cities and suburbs: all of these have created the structure and framework for his poetic studies of American life. In addition to *Sleeping by the Mississippi* (2004), works from the series *Niagara* (2006) and *Songbook* (2014) will be shown in particular.

Joachim Brohm is a visual artist who expresses himself through the medium of photography and who has been instrumental in the development of photography as an art form since the 1980s. In his first, internationally acclaimed series *Ruhr* (1980–1983), he documented the leisure activities of people on the river banks of the Ruhr. Alongside the photographers from the Düsseldorf School of Photography, Brohm is



one of the most important photographic artists in Germany. In his mostly documentary works, he primarily explores the structures of urban development and periphery – with all their social, sociological, economic, and cultural implications. He was artistically educated and influenced at the Folkwang Hochschule in the tradition of Otto Steinert and Michael Schmidt, but also through his Fulbright Scholarship at Ohio State University, where he studied photography under Allan Sekula. In addition to Brohm's early work *Typology* (1979), in which he documented the typological peculiarities of allotment gardens in the style of Bernd and Hilla Becher, the exhibition also presents works from his American work *Ohio*, the *Ruhrstadt* (1988–92), *Areal* (1992–2002), and *Culatra* (2008–2010). Rare portraits from *Ohio* will be on view for the first time. Joachim Brohm still teaches photography at the HGB – Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst in Leipzig.

The exhibition was developed and curated by Ralph Goertz, director of the IKS – Institut für Kunstdokumentation (Institute for Art Documentation), who has already featured at the NRW-Forum with the exhibitions *Joel Meyerowitz Retrospective* and *Lindbergh/Winograd: Women on Street*.

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Duration: 29/03/2019–07/07/2019

Opening: 28/03/2019

Press viewing: 28/03/2019, 11 a.m.

Projekt partner



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