



„Überwindung der Diktaturen – Dichter, Künstler und Schriftsteller in der Begegnung.“

Work Description Bucharest Harald Hauswald (1954)

I will primarily show photographs taken in Berlin. The city's internationally famous symbol, the Brandenburg Gate will take a central position. A group of pictures showing the gate throughout three decades will form the hub of my contribution which will consist of a block of about 20 photographs in total. Expressive images both old (on the left) and new (on the right) will flank it. They will not only cover public behaviour of the former ruling state bureaucracy, but also show some extremes of today's freedom: in an "anything-goes" type of society possibilities of today are yesterday's unthinkable. Cuckoos meet at Alexanderplatz to find a stage to present themselves, human beings as artworks. The concept of my contribution aims to contrast the ruling ideology of dictatorship with the prevailing consumerism of democracy. What were emotions then are sentiments today.

The block will unfold its vigour from a 1980's photograph of the Brandenburg Gate: people glaring over the cordons into the West, their hearts full of yearning. This was the magic point of the compass where our city, our country, our world came to an end; where it just began for others, though. A second snapshot taken on December 22nd 1989 depicts people running through the gate. On this very day it was officially opened for pedestrian border crossings. People ran out into the world. The earth turned into the globe again.

My contribution is composed in a way to illustrate the changes both in cityscape and in people's minds. A lot of redevelopment has been done in the city, but it brought about a good deal of sterilisation that altered the life-world of its inhabitants. In Prenzlauer Berg district new but ugly glass and steel buildings are increasingly creeping into empty spaces left behind from the last World War; what comes into being there is state of the art of architecture but unaffordable for most people as rents are soaring up, too.

In a way the grey dreariness of the past had its own charm after all, I grant; anyway, most of it was lost for good. Just a few of the redevelopment areas gave birth to a new quality that is worth speaking of. For me personally, to think and act freely is the greatest achievement that came with the changes in government. The text of Lutz Rathenow that accompanies my photographs shall direct visitors towards the exhibition wall. This may be achieved by a vertical panorama projected by a beamer or installed as print.

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