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“One of the most important chroniclers of Soviet and post-Soviet society”

The Goslar Kaiserring 2015 goes to the Ukrainian artist and photographer Boris Mikhailov

GOSLAR. Boris Mikhailov has been chosen to receive the 2015 Goslar Kaiserring, one of the most prestigious of contemporary art prizes. The news was announced today by the Mayor of Goslar, Oliver Junk, at the traditional New Year reception in the Kaiserpfalz. The 76-year-old Ukrainian photographer, who lives in Berlin and Kharkiv/Ukraine, is one of the most highly regarded artists on the contemporary photographic scene. Boris Mikhailov will receive the Kaiserring in Goslar on 10 October 2015.

In their citation, the Kaiserring jury described Boris Mikhailov without a doubt as “one of the most important chroniclers of Soviet and post-Soviet society. Born in Ukraine in 1938, his international reputation is based on his moving photographs of homeless people in his native city of Kharkiv. Trained as an engineer, Boris Mikhailov began in the 1960s to engage in photography as a hobby, trying out its technical potential and experimenting in a variety of ways with the pictorial material, out of which he created new and unusual forms of depiction. He used techniques such as superimposition, post-colouring, defamiliarization, humorously critical combinations of text and picture deriving from his own and found material to record, and comment on, everyday life and repression in the then Soviet Union. Superficially he employed an aesthetic that was loyal to the regime, but at the same time it was ironically subverted.”

Boris Mikhailov

Boris Mikhailov lives and works in Kharkiv and Berlin. After graduating, Boris Mikhailov worked as an engineer in a missile construction factory. This “boring and routine” job did not satisfy him. He decided to make a film about the history of the factory, where he worked, and which was also formerly a colony for homeless children who lived and worked there. At the same time, Mikhailov also began taking photographs and devoting much of his free time to photography. The ordinary citizen and his life was the main subject of his photographs. After difficulties with the KGB and the loss of his job, his photographs became more socially oriented and he began to criticize the regime. In his main photographic series, Mikhailov addresses social themes, using concrete examples to show the state of society and changes brought on by the dissolution of the USSR. From the late 80s he began to exhibit in the West and soon received recognition from the international art community.

Mikhailov has been awarded numerous international photography prizes. He has had solo exhibitions at major art institutions in Europe and in the United States. His works are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Tate Modern and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Foto Museum Winterthur; Kunstmuseum Basel; Berlinische Galerie, Berlin; Sprengel Museum, Hanover; Neue Pinakothek, Munich, Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Albertina Museum, Vienna.

Goslar Kaiserring

The Goslar Kaiserring is one of the most prestigious modern art prizes worldwide. It has been awarded since 1975. The first winners were Henry Moore, Max Ernst and Alexander Calder. They were followed by such pioneers of contemporary art as Joseph Beuys, Gerhard Richter, Nam June Paik, Christo, Cindy Sherman and Jenny Holzer. Wiebke Siem's predecessors as winners in recent years include Matthew Barney, Andreas Gursky, Bridget Riley, David Lynch, Olafur Eliasson and Wiebke Siem.

Solo exhibitions (Selection)

- 2013** *UNRESPECTABLE. Retrospective*, Kharkov City Art Gallery, Kharkov, Ukraine
- 2012** *Boris Mikhailov Time is out of joint. Fotografien 1966–2003*, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin
- 2011** *Boris Mikhailov: Case History*, Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York
Boris Mikhailov. Black Archive 1968–1979. Tea Coffee Cappuccino 2000–2010, Galerie Barbara Weiss, Berlin
- 2007** *Boris Mikhailov. Look at me I look at Water*, Sprengel Museum Hannover, Hannover
- 2004** Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
- 1999** *By the Ground*, Museum of Modern Art, Ljubljana
Boris Mikhailov, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris
- 1998** *Boris Mikhailov*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Boris Mikhailov: Les Misérables (About the World), Sprengel Museum, Hannover
- 1996** *Boris Mikhailov*, Kunsthalle Zürich
- 1995** *Boris Mikhailov*, Portikus, Frankfurt am Main
After the Fall, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia

Group exhibitions (Selection)

- 2014** *Manifesta 10*, Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russland
Unbeugsam und ungebändigt: Dokumentarische Fotografie um 1979, Museum Ludwig, Köln
- 2012** *Shanghai Biennale*
Photography: New Documentary Forms, Tate Modern, London
Photography Calling!, Sprengel Museum Hannover, Hannover
The World belongs you, François Pinault Foundation, Palazzo Grassi, Venedig
- 2011** *Ostalgia*, New Museum, New York

8. Mercosul Biennale, Brasilien
Breaking News, Fukushima and the consequences, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin

2007 52. Biennale Venedig, Pavillon der Ukraine

2006 *Der Kontrakt des Fotografen*, Akademie der Künste, Berlin
Twilight - Photography in the Magic Hour, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Berlin-Tokyo/Tokyo-Berlin. Die Kunst zweier Städte, Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin

2003 *Cruel + Tender, The Real in the Twentieth-Century Photograph*, Tate Modern, London
Berlin-Moskau, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin
Traumfabrik Kommunismus, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt/Main

2001 *From the 60 until now...*, Museum of Modern Art, New York

2000 *12th Biennale of Sydney*, Sydney

Contact:

Further information and pictorial material can be found on the websites of the Mönchehaus Museum (www.moenchehaus.de) and the City of Goslar (www.goslar.de). Enquiries should be directed to the press office of the City of Goslar, Tel. 0049 5321 704-226. Information can also be obtained from the director of the Mönchehaus Museum, Dr Bettina Ruhrberg, Tel. 0049 5321-4948, ruhrberg@moenchehaus.de

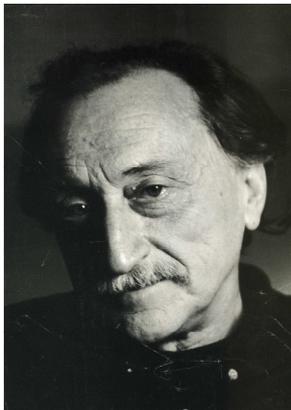


Photo:

B. Mikhailov by Nobuyoshi Araki