

Press Release January 5, 2026

***Artist Meets Archive* kicks off its next edition!**

In 2026/27, the unique residency and exhibition program by Internationale Photoszene Köln will take place for the fifth time. Together with the **Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln**, the **Archiv der Fotowerkstätte Schmölz**, the **Greven Archiv Digital** as well as the **FrauenMediaTurm Köln** and the **LVR-Landesmuseum Bonn**, we invite artists to delve into diverse photographic holdings, stories, and discourses, and to develop their own explorations and projects.

The new edition of Artist Meets Archive once again brings together a wide range of different photographic archives and collections, highlighting the complexity and versatility of photography: as a medium of reportage or feminist activism, documenting urban history and spatial change, or interpreting movement and dance (history). It combines extensive press image archives with collections and estates of significant photographers, opens up diverse institutional perspectives on photography, and places a particular focus on the (image) archive at the intersection of analogue and digital organization and use.

International Open Call starting January 5, 2026

The Open Call launches on **January 5, 2026**, inviting artists from around the world to apply for one of the residencies. Applications are submitted via the digital application forms of the respective archives and collections at <https://www.photoszene.de/en/artist-programme/artist-meets-archive-5/>. The application deadline is February 5, 2026.

The residencies will take place in **summer 2026** at the participating archives and collections. The resulting solo exhibitions will be jointly and ceremonially opened and presented as part of the Photoszene Festival in **May 2027**.

Jury and Selection Process

The selection of the participating artists will take place through a jury process in February 2026. The juries vary by archive and consist of representatives of the respective institutions, Heide Häusler (Artistic and Managing Director, Internationale Photoszene Köln), Daria Bona (Program Director *Artist Meets Archive*, Internationale Photoszene Köln) as well as one external expert from the curatorial or academic field. The external experts will be announced at the end of January.

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About the Program *Artist Meets Archive*

Artist Meets Archive is the central curated program of Internationale Photoszene Köln, focusing on artistic engagement with photography in the context of archives. Since 2018, the successful residency and exhibition program has been organized in cooperation with a rotating selection of photographic collections and archives from the city of Cologne and the surrounding region. To date, 12 institutions have participated in the program, including Museum Ludwig, the Dombauarchiv, the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, the Kölnisches Stadtmuseum, and Die Photographische Sammlung / SK Stiftung Kultur. Within this framework, 20 renowned international artists – including Erik Kessels, Fiona Tan, Joan Fontcuberta, Ronit Porat, and Lebohang Kganye – have been able to combine their specific artistic practices with the respective archives and tell new stories beyond scientific archival logics. All selected artists are invited to Cologne to work with the photographic holdings of the archives and collections and to develop their own artistic explorations based on the specific material. The resulting projects are presented to a broad public as solo exhibitions at the Photoszene Festival in the following year.

We say thank you!

Artist Meets Archive #5 is generously supported by the City of Cologne, the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Kunststiftung NRW, the Sparkassen Kulturstiftung Rheinland and Sparkasse KölnBonn. Thank you!

Artist Meets Archive #5 – The Archives and Collections

Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln

The Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln (German Dance Archive Cologne) is an internationally affiliated centre for information, documentation and research in the field of dance and, with its unique holdings, has a place among the world's most important archives on the art of dancing. Its outstanding photography collection gathers together original prints by renowned artists such as Hugo Erfurth, Germaine Krull, Albert Renger-Patzsch or Umbo. In addition, it houses extensive archives of famed dance and ballet photographers. The holding is complemented by subsidiary archives arranged into themes and special holdings – along with an impressive collection of around 3,000 historical photo postcards. More than 600 bequests and collections also comprise numerous photographs that bring to life the history of dance and its visual interpretation through the medium of photography.

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Usually, exhibitions are only experienced in their finished form – visitors rarely get an insight into the creative production process. The Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln intends to change this with an unusual format: as part of Artist Meets Archive #5 the archive is opening its exhibition space in the form of an “open lab”. In this context, for Photoszene Festival 2027, an exhibition’s developmental process is to be turned into a publicly visible and tangible experience. The conclusion of this open experiment will be formed by the exhibition’s opening, which will take place simultaneously with the Festival’s finissage. Subsequently, the exhibition will be on show in the Dance Museum of the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln for a duration of ten months.

We would like to invite an artists’ collective to devise this format and the process – bringing along curiosity, creativity and a passion for the archive’s holdings and working together with the team of the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln.

For more information on holdings, premises and planning details, the team of the Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln is gladly available by e-mail (tanzarchiv@sk-kultur.de). We’ll be delighted to receive your queries!

Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln
Im Mediapark 7
50670 Köln
<https://www.deutsches-tanzarchiv.de/>



Fotograf:in unbekannt, Still aus einem Tanzfilm von Busby Berkeley
© Deutsches Tanzarchiv Köln

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Archiv der Fotowerkstätte Schmölz

The archive of the Schmölz photography studio is a location that stands out in the history of architecture and photography. It constitutes almost the complete legacy of the work and activity of the prominent Cologne photographers Hugo Schmölz (1879—1938) and Karl Hugo Schmölz (1917—1986). With their impressive architectonic shots and wide-ranging documentation of important construction projects in Cologne and the Rhineland, the two of them assume an influential role in regional photography history.

The archive comprises approximately 66,000 negatives and some 48,000 original prints, along with a detailed customer card index and record books. Besides architecture photography, which forms the main inventory, it contains expansive, previously largely unexplored bundles of industrial, portrait and commercial photography. Thus, the historical shots allow not only spatial, but also societal changes over the course of time to be tracked: Cologne in the Weimar Republic, the permeation by National Socialism of all sections of society, wartime devastation and reconstruction after 1945 through to the post-war modern era. Moreover, as one unique corpus, the holding illustrates the development and achievements of one of the region's most influential photographic (family) businesses, which was also active cross-regionally and internationally. Since 2003, the archive of Fotowerkstätte Schmölz has been under the ownership of photographer Maurice Cox, who is its curator and administrator. It is among the most significant archives in NRW still to be in private hands.

The project partnership with the archive of Fotowerkstätte Schmölz is supported exclusively by the Dutch Embassy to strengthen artistic exchange between Germany and the Netherlands. For the collaboration with the archive of Fotowerkstätte Schmölz within the framework of Artist Meets Archive #5, we therefore invite artists who reside in the Netherlands, were born there, or hold Dutch citizenship.

Archiv der Fotowerkstätte Schmölz
Klingelpütz 29
50670 Köln
www.archiv-schmoelz.de



Karl Hugo Schmölz, Markthalle innen, Hochbauamt Köln,
1940 © Archiv Cox, Köln

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Greven Archiv Digital

The Irene und Sigurd Greven Stiftung is a foundation devoted to conserving and publishing image holdings from Cologne, the Rhineland and NRW. A central project is the Greven Archiv Digital, a growing online archive comprising several hundreds of thousands of photographs from press, church and business archives as well as from photographers' living legacies and bequests. One focus is formed by the press photography archive of the Kölnische Rundschau, whose prints and negatives have been digitalized and made accessible since 2020.

All Rundschau holdings are not only conserved digitally and in analogue form, but simultaneously made accessible to a wide public in the digital portal. Carrying over the originally analogue filing systems into the digital realm opens up new forms of research, visualizes transformations from the print to the digital reproduction and enables open dealing with historical press photographs. Precisely this switchover from archive to portal offers particular starting points for artistic approaches. The photographs range from the post-war period to the 1990s and document politics, urban development, worlds of work and everyday life, culture and sport. Alongside familiar motifs, the holding comprises numerous previously unregarded series that enable new interpretations of urban and societal history.

For Artist Meets Artist #5 we are looking forward to applicants who work with documentary visual material, are keen to reflect on the transformation from analogue archive to digital image space, or are looking to try out alternative approaches.

Irene und Sigurd Greven Stiftung / Greven Archiv Digital
Neue Weyerstraße 1-3
50676 Köln
www.greven-archiv-digital.de



Brigitte Stachowski, Köln-Riehl: Freibad Riehl, 1977
© Irene und Sigurd Greven Stiftung

LVR-Landesmuseum Bonn & FrauenMediaTurm Köln

The LVR-Landesmuseum Bonn is one of the oldest museums of cultural history in Germany and has a tradition going back 200 years. It collects, preserves, exhibits and educates on treasures from archaeology, art and cultural history from more than 400,000 years. It is the Rhineland's only cultural history museum to trace the region's development from its beginnings to the present day. Its photographic collection encompasses important testimonies of German photography history of the 20th century and bequests from prominent photographers, for example Hermann Claasen und Liselotte Strelow, Hans-Martin Küsters and Angela Neuke.

For more than forty years, the FrauenMediaTurm has been home to one of the most significant collections on both the historical and latter-day women's movement in Germany. Letters and journals, posters, button badges, films and magazines from 200 years of feminist women's history, more the 86,000 written and 9,000 image documents in total, are kept alongside library treasures in the mediaeval Bayenturm in Cologne. With an archive, library and reading-room, the FMT is a place of living memory dedicated to women's movements and is open to the public.

The work of photographer Angela Neuke is to be the starting point of engagement during Artist Meets Archive #5. An influential protagonist of a new photojournalism approach in German photography after 1960, she documented the Federal Republic's societal lifeworld into the 1990s with a socially critical, politically focused gaze. As she did so she worked especially on socially disquieting content and feminist topics that remain highly current to this day and were published on a regular basis in magazines such as Emma or Brigitte.

Neuke's extensive legacy is located today in the LVR-Landesmuseum Bonn, which is due to put on a comprehensive monographic exhibition of her work in May 2027. The FrauenMediaTurm also keeps many of her photographs, including impressive shots of the first feminist demos against violence towards women and girls from the 1970s. Both holdings form the basis for artistic engagement with (photo) historiography from a feminist perspective. Accordingly, the residency will take place at two research locations.

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LVR-Landesmuseum Bonn
Rheinisches Landesmuseum für Archäologie, Kunst- und Kulturgeschichte
Colmantstrasse 14-16
53115 Bonn
<https://landesmuseum-bonn.lvr.de>

FMT – FrauenMediaTurm
Bayenturm / Rheinauhafen
50678 Köln
<https://frauenmediaturm.de/>



Angela Neuke, „Drei Frauen in einer Wohnung – geht das gut?“ in Brigitte Nr. 10, 1979 © L. Lutz, LVR-Landesmuseum Bonn, Foto: Jürgen Vogel

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Stadt Köln ■ SK Stiftung Kultur

GREVEN ARCHIV DIGITAL

IRENE UND SIGURD
GREVEN
STIFTUNG



Stadt Köln
Kulturamt

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Kunststiftung
NRW



Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung
Rheinland



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Füreinander Hier.

Further information on the individual archives and collections of Artist Meets Archive #5, on the participation requirements and application process of the Open Call, as well as on past editions of the program, can be found at <https://www.photoszene.de/en/artist-programme/>.

During the Open Call, an **online Q&A session** will be offered in German and English to answer questions about the application process. The dates will be announced at <https://www.photoszene.de/en/artist-programme/artist-meets-archive-5/> and on social media.

Press Service

Additional press images and press releases are available for download on the **press page** of Internationale Photoszene Köln. We appreciate coverage in your media outlets and the active sharing of our event announcements on your social media channels!

Contact

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