

PRESS INFORMATION

ROBERT LEBECK. 1968 March 4 – July 22, 2018

Press Preview Thursday, March 1, 2018, 11:15 a.m.

Exhibition Opening Saturday, March 3, 2018, 7 p.m.

"The year of the student protests took place without me." In his autobiography, the German photojournalist and collector Robert Lebeck (1929–2014) described how he experienced the year 1968: "When the barricades were burning in Paris, I was working in Florida on a series about two murdered co-eds; when students began protesting in front of the Springer Building, I was photographing the christening of Hildegard Knef's baby; and when Russian troops marched into Prague, I was accompanying the pope's visit to Bogotá."

The exhibition

A closer examination of the numerous exhibited contact sheets, prints and reportages made by Robert Lebeck during this epoch-making year on behalf of "Stern," one of Germany's highest-circulation magazines at that time, reveal the extent to which his incisive photographs, despite his own assessment, truly reflect the social changes that were happening at that time.

Upheaval, protest, perseverance and failure: In "Robert Lebeck. 1968", the leitmotifs of that year that are not always visible in the mythicizing retrospective view are made tangible in exemplary photographic series taken in places like New York, Bogotá, Kassel, Belfast and Wolfsburg. Many of the exhibited photos – which is part of their special attractiveness – have never been published and are completely unknown. Whether dealing with "Divorced Women," Rudi Dutschke in Prague, Robert F. Kennedy's funeral or Joseph Beuys at the documenta, concentrated contemporary history encounters bold photo reportages and photographic art in Robert Lebeck's works.

The catalogue

Edited by Ralf Beil and Alexander Kraus, the exhibition catalogue published by Steidl Verlag, Göttingen, features essays by Ralf Beil, Michael Glasmeier, Fabian Köster, Alexander Kraus, Aleksandar Nedelkovski, Stefanie Pilzweiger-Steiner, Stephan Ruderer, Annette Vowinckel, Martina Winkler, Ulf Erdmann Ziegler as well as an extensive selection of previously unpublished photographs and contact sheets as well as the most important reportages from the year 1968. Hardcover, 360 pages, 226 illustrations, 24 x 30 cm, German and English edition, 48 € in the museumshop.

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