

Press release

Museum Folkwang

***Man and His Objects* – Photographic Collection**
25 February to 29 April 2012
Museum Folkwang, Essen
Press Conference, 23. February 2012, 11 a.m.

There is doubtless no other field of photographic practice as fascinating as the depiction of people. In them our history can be read at many levels: In individuals and types we recognize social conventions and body language, we discover a bygone world of living beings and rituals and make guesses about the identity of the depicted and the individuality of the photographer when confronted with the stagings of various role plays. The exhibition *Man and His Objects* is not limited to the portrait-makers' ways of depiction since the 19th century. It also confronts those photographed with their world of objects, as witness to their everyday experience and as representative of human productivity.

With over 200 works, the Museum Folkwang is presenting the most extensive show from its holdings and thus, at the same time, the development of the collection. The collection's focus is on the 20th and 21st centuries. It includes artistic, applied and occasionally amateur photography. The construction of the collection does not only follow a photo history perspective, but also a definition of photographic practice which takes into consideration its plurality, different functions and areas of application.

The Photographic Collection of the Museum Folkwang was founded in 1978. Since then it has been constantly collecting and has established an international exhibition program. The Photographic Collection is among the most prominent European museum collections and includes more than 55,000 works. Its establishment and expansion was made possible especially by the Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, the Presse-Stiftung NRZ and numerous governmental and private donors. Since 1999, the association "Förderer der Fotografischen Sammlung im Museum Folkwang" has supported its development with a focus on contemporary photography.

Accompanying the exhibition is a publication of 262 pages, with 200 full-page photos, priced 28 Euro, from the Edition Folkwang / Steidl with texts by Peter Geimer, Kathrin Peters, Steffen Siegel and Bernd Steigler and an introduction to the exhibition by Ute Eskildsen.

This exhibition is supported by the Stiftung Kunst, Kultur und Soziales der Sparda-Bank West.

Images are available for downloading at www.museum-folkwang.de

Opening Hours Tue – Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. – 10.30 p.m., Closed Mondays

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