

Documentation Centre for Displacement, Expulsion and Reconciliation
Special Exhibition: "OSTGEBIETE / ZIEMIE ZACHODNIE. German-Polish Perspectives"

BIOGRAPHIES

Photographers

Karolina Gembara works with photography, film, video and video installation. Her artistic practice focuses on questions of memory, migration and social engagement, as well as forms of care. In doing so, she explores the interconnections between personal and collective history. She is a PhD candidate at the Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School, where her research examines post-war resettlements and the handling of gaps in archives through methods of critical storytelling. Gembara is a member of the artist collectives Sputnik Photos and Archiwum Protestów Publicznych. In Warsaw, she has realised participatory projects with migrants that combine artistic practice, research and social work. She also publishes texts and teaches in the field of photography and visual culture. <http://www.karolinagembara.com>

Annette Hauschild, born in 1969 in Gießen, lives in Berlin. She completed her photographic training in 1993 at the Lette-Verein. In 2004, she attended a masterclass with Arno Fischer at the Fotoschule Fotografie am Schiffbauerdamm. She has been a member of OSTKREUZ since 1996. Hauschild works primarily in the field of portrait photography whilst also realising independent long-term photographic projects. Her works have been presented in numerous group and solo exhibitions, including at C/O Berlin, Hellerau – European Centre for the Arts, the House of World Cultures and the Academy of Arts. Together with Ute Mahler, she curated the OSTKREUZ exhibitions Ostzeit and Über Grenzen. Together with Boaz Levin, she developed the exhibition Traum weiter – Berlin, die 90er for C/O Berlin.

Jerzy Lewczyński (1924–2014) was a photographer, critic and publicist, as well as a key figure in the Polish post-war avant-garde. After early works in the context of Pictorialism and Social Realism, from the 1950s onwards he developed an experimental visual language, influenced by Surrealism, Neorealism and the historical avant-garde. Central to his work was the concept of the 'archaeology of photography': Lewczyński collected, archived and edited found photographs, amateur images and documents to reveal hidden stories, individual memories and collective traumas. He understood photography as a trace of the past and as an instrument for exploring history, memory and transience. His works combine personal and political memory into a multi-layered visual archive.

Thomas Meyer was born in Delmenhorst in 1967. He studied at the University of the Arts in Bremen and has been a freelance photographer in Berlin since 1997. Meyer has been a member of Ostkreuz – Agentur der Fotografen since 2000. He photographs for various international magazines and clients and was the photographer for the FAZ campaign "Dahinter steckt immer ein kluger Kopf" for several years. He also taught at the Ostkreuz School of Photography from 2008 to 2019 and held several teaching posts in photography at the Berlin University of Applied Sciences. Since 2017, Meyer has been the resident photographer at the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation. His photographs are regularly featured in solo and group exhibitions. <http://www.thomas-meyer.com/>

Katarzyna Mirczak is a visual artist specialising in photography, sound and artist's books. Her practice centres on visual archives, artefacts and traces of the body, which she examines and

reinterprets as forms of cultural memory. She studied archaeology at Jagiellonian University and took part in archaeological research in the Black Sea region. Her work has been shown at venues including the York Art Gallery, as well as at Paris Photo, the AIPAD Photography Show and Vienna Contemporary. She is the author of the artist's books *Ether*, *Przerwa na światło* and *Słowa*, and works at the National Institute of Cultural Heritage in Poland.

Filip Piotrowicz is a photographer and participant in the Sputnik Photos mentoring programme. He studied at the Institute of Creative Photography (ITF) in Opava and is a member of the Galeria Czwartek collective. In his artistic practice, he explores questions of the human condition and develops his work from personal experiences as well as from an engagement with his immediate surroundings. His works have been presented in group exhibitions in Warsaw, Łódź and Frankfurt (Oder). In 2025, he staged the solo exhibition "A nam się zostało" at the Ruino Ruido Foundation. <https://filip-piotrowicz.com/>

Natalia Poniatowska is a visual artist who works with the medium of photography. Shaped by growing up in the industrial landscape of Silesia and by seven years spent in Scotland, her artistic practice combines social sensitivity with a precise, minimalist visual language. After studying at The Glasgow School of Art, she now lives and works in Warsaw. Her works oscillate between documentary observation and personal narrative, exploring questions of memory, belonging and social reality. Her works have been exhibited at venues including the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh, the Muzeum Narodowe w Krakowie and as part of the Pingyao International Photography Festival. <https://npaphotography.com/>

Wojtek Sienkiewicz, born in 1979 in Oława, lives and works in Jaczkowice. He studied at the Wrocław School of Photography and at the Institute of Creative Photography in Opava. In his long-term photographic works, he turns his gaze to his immediate surroundings and explores landscape, memory and everyday reality. Alongside his artistic practice, he works in the fields of graphic design and advertising photography, as well as a journalist for cycling and motorcycling magazines.

Ina Schoenenburg was born in East Berlin in 1979. From 2009 to 2012 she studied at the Ostkreuz School of Photography. She has been a member of OSTKREUZ since 2016. For her long-term project *Blickwechsel*, she received the Prix Exchange Boutographies / Fotoleggendo in 2016, as well as the Otto Steinert Prize and the Vonovia Award for Photography in 2017. She has been teaching photography at the Ostkreuz School of Photography since 2019. Alongside her independent artistic practice, Schoenenburg works as a photographer for national and international newspapers and magazines. Her work has been exhibited in France, Italy and Switzerland, amongst other places. She lives and works in Berlin. <https://www.inaschoenenburg.de/>

Linn Schröder, born in Hamburg in 1977, lives and works in Berlin and Hamburg. She studied communication design and photography at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences and at the Zurich University of the Arts, and has been a member of OSTKREUZ since 2004.

Linn Schröder's work has received numerous awards and has been shown in solo and group exhibitions across Europe. She regularly undertakes teaching assignments, including at the Weißensee Academy of Art, HTW Berlin, the Ostkreuz School of Photography and the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. <http://www.linnschroeder.de/>

Heinrich Völkel was born in Moscow in 1974 and grew up in Leipzig. After completing his A-levels, he undertook his photographic training at the Lette-Verein in Berlin, graduating in 1999. He has been a member of the OSTKREUZ agency in Berlin since 2004. In addition to numerous publications in renowned German magazines, he regularly presents his work in exhibitions both in Germany and abroad. His work has been shown at venues including C/O Berlin, the Haus der

Kulturen der Welt, as well as in Paris, Perpignan, Munich and Glasgow. He has received various prizes and awards for his work. In recent years, he has increasingly devoted himself to teaching photography. Heinrich Völkel lives and works in Wiesbaden.

Concept and Project Management

Barbara Kurowska, born in 1983 in Warsaw, studied International Relations in Wrocław and Leipzig. From 2008 to 2012, she worked as a freelance research assistant at the video archive of the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. Since 2013, she has been a research assistant in the Documentation and Research Department of the Foundation Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation and is responsible for the work with eyewitnesses. In the permanent exhibition of the Documentation Centre, she curated the interview-based section 'Loss and New Beginnings'. In 2025, she was project manager and curator of the special exhibition 'The Trek – Photographs of an Escape in 1945'.

Arvid Peschel, born in 1988 in Bergen auf Rügen, studied History, Jewish Studies, Latin American Studies and Public History in Berlin. From 2018 onwards, he contributed to various exhibition projects at the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum and the Lindenstraße Memorial in Potsdam. Since 2021, he has also worked part-time as a freelance photographer. Since 2024, he has been a project assistant in the Exhibitions and Collections department of the Foundation for Flight, Expulsion and Reconciliation. Alongside Barbara Kurowska, he is project manager of the special exhibition "Eastern Territories / Ziemie Zachodnie".