

Ursula Schulz-Dornburg

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Ursula Schulz-Dornburg, *Ararat 01 and Ararat 02* (2006) Silver gelatin print

Düsseldorf-based artist Ursula Schulz-Dornburg is best known for her architectural photographs and her signature topographical focus. Using mainly black and white photography, Ursula captures the sites she visits in a series of similar, repetitive images in order to build a picture of a place; a process both formal and intuitive.

Travel has been an important aspect of her practice. Schulz-Dornburg's projects range from a series of dramatic landscape photographs of Mount Ararat – a potent symbol of Armenia, and stated in the book of Genesis as the site where Noah's Ark landed – to intimate studies of the Hejaz Railway in Saudi Arabia, built in the early 1900s under the rule of the Ottoman Empire.

Not long before the onset of the Iraq-Iran war in 1980, Ursula reached Mesopotamia and shot her first images of ruins. *Necropolis* was taken in Syria in 2010, six months before the Syrian Civil War. Schulz-Dornburg's most significant works, however, are perhaps the series of bus stops she photographed in Armenia, built in the 1970s when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the Brezhnev era bared its teeth to the West. Alongside their purely functional task, these shelters also conveyed a political message: the vision of the power of socialism to change society.

Over the course of the last thirty-five years, Schulz-Dornburg has developed a practice in which documentary activism combines with a conceptual artistic vision. Describing her architectural photographs, she states:

"I looked at how man-made structures interact with the landscape and how the two coexist. Architecture is about telling the stories of people, and these are landscapes manipulated by conflict."

The artist's photographic works have been exhibited in museums worldwide, including: Tate Modern, London; Kunstparterre Munich; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Art Institute Chicago; Corcoran Gallery, Washington; Centro Fotografico Alvaroes Bravo, Mexico City; IVAM Valencia; 21er Haus, Museum of 20th Century Art, Vienna.

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Ursula Schulz-Dornburg was born in Berlin in 1938. She studied photography and journalism in Munich between 1959-60.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2015

Architekturen im Atombombentestgebiet, Gallery Elke Dröscher - Kunstraum Falkenstein, Hamburg
Palmyra. Necropolis, Raketenstation Hombroich, Neuss
Tongkonan, Alang und das Haus ohne Rauch, Raketenstation Hombroich, Neuss

2014

My Sister Who Travels, Mosaic Rooms, Qattan Foundation, London
KURCHATOV - Architecture of a Nuclear Test Site, AEDES, Berlin
Museum für Fotografie, Berlin,

2013

Transformed Visions with Mark Ruwedel, Tate Modern, London
Sonnenstand Kirkeby Kapelle. Museum Insel Hombroich, Neuss
Abans del diluvi. Mesopotàmia 3.500-2.100 aC, CaixaForum, Madrid
Steinschiffe, Kunstmuseum, Bochumfotografien, Gallery Sabine Knust, Munich

2012

Abans del diluvi. Mesopotàmia 3.500-2.100 aC, CaixaForum, Barcelona

2011

Niemandslicht, Kunstmuseum, Bochum
From Medina to the Jordanian Border, Pergamonmuseum, Berlin

2009

Sonnenstand / Wueste, Tristan Hoare & Wilmotte Gallery UK, London
Horizontabschreitung with Miroslav Balka, Kunstparterre, Munich

2008

Tongkonan, Alang und das Haus ohne Rauch, Aedes am Pfefferberg, Berlin LUZ
DE LA FOTOGRAFÍA. SILENCIO DE LA ARQUITECTURA, Auditorio de San Francisco, Ávila
Photographie, Beck & Eggeling new quarters, Düsseldorf
Presencia y Ausencia, Fundación BBK, Bilbao

2007

Fotografien, Kunstverein, Krefeld

2006

Architekturen des Wartens, Museum Ludwig, Cologne
PAGAN Zeit aus Stein, Galerie Sabine Knust, Munich

2005

Architekturen des Wartens, Galerie Elke Dröscher, Hamburg

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Selected Group Exhibitions

2015

Conflict, Time, Photography, Tate Modern, London

Conflict, Time, Photography, Museum Folkwang, Essen

Conflict, Time, Photography, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

2014

Structure and Clarity, Tate Modern, London

2013

Transformed Visions with Mark Ruwedel, Tate Modern, London

2009

EAST_ for the record (zu Protokoll), Galerie fuer Zeitgenoessische Kunst, Leipzig,

2008

Objectivités - La photographie à Düsseldorf, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris

Selected Public Collections

Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom

Museum of Modern Art, Paris, France

Bibliothèque National, Paris, France

IVAM, Valencia, Spain

Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

Museum of Photography, Berlin, Germany

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, United States

Art Institute of Chicago, United States