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**PRESS RELEASE**

To mark the exhibition at Schloss Benrath in Düsseldorf:  
**Simone Nieweg: The Woods, the Trees, the Light**  
A photographic hymn to the beauty of the forest

**Simone Nieweg**  
**Der Wald, die Bäume, das Licht**  
**The Woods, the Trees, the Light**  
With a poem by Heinrich Heine  
and a preface by Lothar Schirmer  
German Edition with  
English/French language booklet  
112 pages, 90 color plates  
ISBN 978-3-8296-0750-6  
€ 49.80, US \$ 59.95, GBP 49.95

For more than 30 years the Düsseldorf-based photographer Simone Nieweg (born 1962) has had a keen interest in nature and landscapes. For her new illustrated book *The Forest, the Trees, the Light*, which Schirmer/Mosel is publishing on the occasion of her exhibition at Schloss Benrath in Düsseldorf (starting February 14, 2016), Simone Nieweg roamed through forests in Europe and North America. Her journeys took her from the Lower Rhine to the Swabian Mountains, through northern Norway and the south of France, the Mühlviertel region in Austria, and California. Over the course of 25 years a series of enchanting color photographs emerged, of which 90 are featured for the first time together in a book.

The images by Simone Nieweg, a former protégée of Bernd Becher at the Düsseldorf Academy of Art, are composed with great care, technically perfect, and always devoid of human figures. It is almost possible to sensually experience the diverse colors, smells, and noises of the forests and plants. Regardless of whether they stand alone, in a row or a group, form part of a thicket or forest, Nieweg's camera highlights the way trees are unique and reveals how definitively trees and forests structure and accentuate landscapes.

Simone Nieweg opens her book with Heinrich Heine's famous poem *Forest Solitude* and in doing so strikes precisely the tone between Romanticism and Realism that her poetic photographs also adopt. With their snowy paths, glades shrouded in mist and forest edges in twilight, for all their immediacy Nieweg's forests are also symbolic places – at times melancholy and romantic, at others mythical and wild. The artful light that plays in the treetops or falls on the leaf-covered ground, and which Simone Nieweg approaches with infinite patience, gives her forest images a peculiar distinct clarity and meditative beauty – a book that invites you to take a deep breath.

*The greenwood! Ah, there could I be  
With spirits and animals, living free;  
Fairies and splendid-antlered game  
Came around unfearing, as if tame.*

*They were not shy, nor feared to frisk  
Around me, without sense of risk;  
I was no hunter – the deer knew well;  
No rational man – the fairies could tell.*

Heinrich Heine  
1797–1856

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