

SCHIRMER/MOSEL

Press Release

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Hilla Becher dies aged 81

October 10, 2015, artist and photographer Hilla Becher died in Düsseldorf aged 81. With their photographic work, Hilla Becher (born on September 2, 1934) and Bernd Becher (1931-2007) were responsible for the discovery of photography as an art genre in its own right in 1960s Germany.

The couple's work, whose aim was to document anonymous industrial structures, was highly esteemed both nationally and internationally and received numerous awards, including the Golden Lion at the 1990 Venice Biennale and in 2002 the European Erasmus Prize in Amsterdam. With their photographic oeuvre and their joint teaching activities at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, the Bechers established the famous Düsseldorf School of Photography, which has produced numerous, now world-famous artists such as Andreas Gursky, Thomas Struth, Candida Höfer, and Thomas Ruff.

Since their beginnings in the 1960s, Bernd and Hilla Becher's photographs have not only been the subject of formal-aesthetic debate and analysis, but have themselves constituted an indispensable component of modern art history. They have achieved nothing less than the invention and establishment of a new aesthetics of perception.

In terms of publishing, Lothar Schirmer has managed Bernd and Hilla Becher's oeuvre since 1977. To date, Schirmer/Mosel has published 22 volumes on their work.

For further information:

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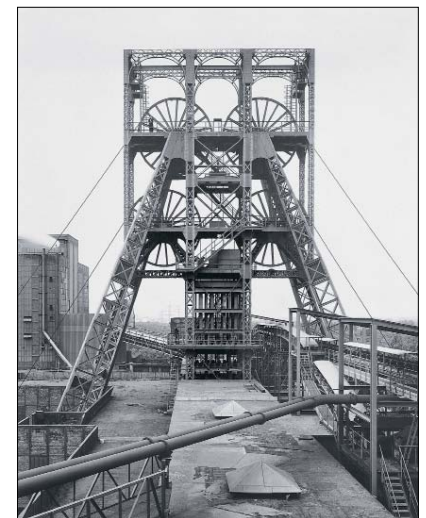
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"We began this work out of a pure desire for images; we knew that documenting such fascinating forms – which one can of course fundamentally see as beautiful or ugly and whose purpose is first and foremost not aesthetic – would bring us pleasure. We wanted to discover these forms and collect them with the help of photography."

Hilla Becher, 2005



Hilla Becher, 2007 Photo: Laurenz Berges



Beringen winding tower, Belgium, 1991
(Hilla Becher on the upper platform)
Photo: Bernd Becher



Max, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Le Havre, 1970