



Christian Gieraths - Press Folder

1. Press Release of the Exhibition
"Salaam Bombay"
at the Baukunst Galerie,
30 June to 2 September 2011

2. Biography and Exhibitions

 Biography

 Solo-Exhibitions (Selection)

 Group-Exhibitions (Selection)

 Works in Museums and Public Collections (Selection)

3. Bibliography (Selection)

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PRESS RELEASE: Christian Gieraths – Salaam Bombay

30/06- 02/09/2011

On Wednesday, June 29th, 2011 the Baukunst Galerie will be opening the exhibition *Salaam Bombay* by the Cologne-based photographer Christian Gieraths. These latest works, produced in Mumbai, India, in 2010 have been made possible through funds from the *Kunststiftung NRW*. At the same time the Fuhrwerkswaage, Cologne, will be showing Gieraths' works, in the exhibition *Beautiful Hell - Mumbai* from June 26th to July 17th, 2011.

Christian Gieraths is a flaneur who is interested in the hustle and bustle of a society which develops itself in the pulse of technological progress and which, therefore, is in an ongoing condition of change. He is continuously searching for places where he can find these changes manifested in its historical, political or aesthetic forms. Sochi, Havana, Tokyo, Hollywood and Las Vegas have been previous settings of earlier series' which show a similar picture language: They show deserted places, streets and interiors as well as facades. His focal point of the compositions is always identical. Hence, the viewpoint of the observer as well as the restricted image section remains Gieraths' criteria for composition. His photographs are comprised by a certain silence that derives from his composition and reminds of film stills.

Colour and atmosphere as well as the artist's viewpoint are most significant. By depicting his compositions in a short span of time he enables the past to become present. Through dealing with these locations and its surroundings, as well as thoughtful observations of the sensual reality and the atmospheric moods, Gieraths transforms his visual experience into photography.

In his latest series *Beautiful Hell - Mumbai* Gieraths was confronted with one of the most populated cities in the world. This experience lead him to an unavoidable change of his perspective. His photographs show new tendencies and they still remind of film sets and film stills. Unaware of his picture making, people are starting to become part of his compositions and the choice of his perspective frees. His primary concern to create a composition of colour and atmosphere remains. Gieraths' photographs seem to remind of documentary in an objective way. But there are no traces of noise, chaos or smells of putridity and spices. Neither is there a vision of luxury or poverty that everyone who travels to India is confronted with. His works impress in an unspectacular and calm way and show a pictorial quality derives from his studies in the class of Prof. Ulrich Erben. It is the result of precise observation and sensible artistic aim that can only be reached through the medium of photography.

Gieraths was curious about the dream factory *Bollywood* which he considered a place of new symbolic importance and afflicted with myths for new stories. With a skilled eye of a painter he observes Mumbai known as Bombay until 1966. This city, which became independent in 1947, is shaped by modern buildings and historic architecture of the British colonial style. In Mumbai, nowadays a typical Indian city, Gieraths' hunted for magic places such as cityscapes, urban corners, streets and buildings that were, or could be used as film sets. Besides exteriors there are sceneries such as foyers, corridors, cinemas, concert halls and projection rooms that become subjects of his compositions.

The exhibition's title *Salaam Bombay* derives from a film title of the 1980s which reflects Gieraths' interest in locations for the Hindi film industry, located in Mumbai.

Christian Gieraths was born in Cologne in 1976. He studied history of art, cultural studies and philosophy before studying fine arts with Ulrich Erben at the *Kunstakademie Münster* from 1999 to 2005. In 2001 he began to study in the photography class of Thomas Ruff at the *Kunstakademie Düsseldorf*. In 2006 he completed his master year overseen by Daniel Bueti. In the same year he was awarded with the first prize of the GWK Subsidy Award of Fine Art by the *Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Westfälischen Kulturarbeit* and exhibited together with Andreas Gursky, Thomas Ruff, Jürgen Klauke and Boris Becker in the touring exhibition *Fotokunst aus 60 Jahren. Kunst aus NRW*. In 2008 a great solo exhibition followed by a catalogue release in the RWE Tower in Dortmund, and in 2010 Gieraths received a traveling grant of the *Kunststiftung NRW* for Mumbai, India.



BIOGRAPHY

- 1976 born in Cologne
- 1998-2000 studies Art History, Philosophy and Cultural Sciences at the WWU Münster
- 1999-2005 studies Fine Art at the Art Academy Münster in the class of Ulrich Erben
- 2001-2005 parallel studies at the Art Academy Düsseldorf in the photography class of Thomas Ruff
- 2005 graduate degree and master student of Ulrich Erben
- 2005-06 one year master class of Daniele Buetti
- 2006 1. Prize GWK Subsidy Award of Fine Art, Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Westfälischen Kulturarbeit e.V.
- 2010 travelling grant of the Kunststiftung NRW for Mumbai, India

Christian Gieraths lives and works in Cologne (D).

www.christiangieraths.com

SOLO-EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2011 “Salaam Bombay“, Baukunst Galerie, Cologne
“Beautiful Hell - Mumbai“, Kunstraum Fuhrwerkswaage, Cologne
“Odessa Suites“, Galerie Reygers, Munich
- 2010 “Christian Gieraths“, Stoll, Cologne
- 2008 “Urban Stills“, Baukunst Galerie, Cologne
“pastime paradise“, RWE Tower, Dortmund
- 2007 “pastime paradise“, Kunstverein Greven (D)
- 2006-07 “Christian Gieraths. Cityscapes“, Westphalian State Museum of Art and Cultural History Münster (D)
- 2006 “Christian Gieraths. Cityscapes“, Galerie Poller, New York



- “Director's Cut“, curated by Ellen Harris, Aperture Foundation, New York
- 2005 “havanna – tokyo“, Atelierhaus Wilhelmstraße e.V., Stuttgart
- “havanna – tokyo“, Galerie Reygers, Munich
„havanna – tokyo“, Galerie Poller, Frankfurt am Main
- 2004 ”Photographs“, Galerie Poller, Frankfurt am Main
- 2003 Galerie Reygers, Munich
- 2002 “Sotchi royal“, Citymuseum Münster

GROUP-EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2008 “Glückwunsch. 20 Jahre Kunstverein Ahlen“, culture festival, installation for an assembling of dramatic prose of Zeha Schröder in the machine hall of the colliery Ahlen (D)
- “hier und jetzt“, Art Prize of the City of Hamm, Gustav-Lübke-Museum (D)
- 2007 “Köln Quartett“, Fuhrwerkswaage, Cologne
- 2006 “Fotokunst aus 60 Jahren. Kunst aus NRW unterwegs. Aus der Sammlung des Kultusministeriums des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Kornelimünster“ (with Andreas Gursky, Thomas Ruff, Katharina Sieverding, Jürgen Klauke, Boris Becker, Claus Goedicke, Axel Hütte et al.), Stadtmuseum Ratingen, Flottmann-Hallen Herne and Galerie Münsterland, Emsdetten (D)
- 2005 “Slow Down“ (with Frank Breuer, Tim Davis, Laura Letinsky, Hiraki Sawa, Beat Streuli), Galeria Pilar Parra & Romero, Madrid (E)
- “Wanderpause“, Kunstverein Peschkenhaus Moers (D)
- 2003 “Acqua e Sale. Itinerare. Art Routes in Salento – Between Culture of Stones and Multimedia“, Palazzo D' Elia, Casarano, Salento (I)
- “Schönheit“, exhibition project in the city of Münster
- 2002 “laut und leise“, Galerie Art & Henle, Berlin
- “...aus der Klasse Ruff...“, Galerie Haus Schneider, Karlsruhe
- “o.T.“, Kunstverein Ahlen (D)



“Verzauberung durch Irritation“, Sculpture Project Ahlen,
photo installation “Zauberwald“ at the Mariengarten, Ahlen (D)

“Meisterschüler in Westfälischen Schlössern. Umhängen“,
Kunsthaus Bochholt (D)

“provacant“, Galerie Art und Henle, Berlin

2001 “Lonestar 2000“, photo installation at the municipal stages, Münster

WORKS IN PUPLIC COLLECTIONS

cifo – Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami (USA)
Kunst aus NRW collection, Kornelimünster, Aachen
RWE Kunstsammlung, Dortmund

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2011 *Christian Gieraths. Beautiful Hell - Mumbai*, Cat. Kunstraum
Fuhrwerkswaage, Cologne, Cologne 2011.

2010 *Christian Gieraths. Sochi Royal*, ed. by Christian **Gieraths**,
San Francisco 2010.

Christian Gieraths. Odessa Suites, ed. by Christian **Gieraths**,
San Francisco 2010.

Christian Gieraths. Pastime Paradise. Florida, ed. by Christian **Gieraths**,
San Francisco 2010.

2008 *Christian Gieraths. Pastime Paradise*, ed. by Christian **Gieraths**,
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Christian Gieraths. Pastime Paradise, Cat.: Foyer RWE Tower, Dortmund,
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Kunst unserer Region. Zu Gast bei RWE Westfalen-Weser-Ems“, with a text
of Petra **Lindner**, Dortmund 2008.

Raap, Jürgen: “Christian Gieraths, aus der Serie ‚Urban Stills‘“, in: *Kölner
Illustrierte*, August 08, p 49.



“Christian Gieraths in Köln“, in: *Visuell. Magazin der Bildbranche*, July / August, 4_2008, p 48.

Linden, Thomas: “Das Leben der Dinge. Die Baukunst Galerie zeigt Fotos von Christian Gieraths“, in: *Kölnische Rundschau*, Nr. 182, 06/08/2008, p 9.

“Christian Gieraths – Urban Stills“, in: *DAMn°magazine* No. 17, p 171.

“Spuren des Umbruchs“, in: *Prinz*, August 2008, p 87.

Kuhn, Thomas W.: “Spekuliere mit Gefühl!“, in: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, July 26, 2008, p. 41.

Zimmermann, Damian: „Flug mit der Kamera über Abgründe. Neue Ausstellungen in Kölner Galerien“, in: *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*, No. 166, July 18, 2008.

2006 *Christian Gieraths. Cityscapes*, catalog on the occasion of the exhibition “Christian Gieraths 2000-2005“ in the Westphalian State Museum of Art and Cultural History Münster, with an introduction of Brigitte **Franzen** and a text of Karl Heinrich **Delschen**, ed. by the Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Westfälischen Kulturarbeit, Münster 2006.

“Christian Gieraths. Havanna & Tokyo“, in: *Monthly Photography*, Vol. 456, Korea 2006, p 146-151.

2005 “Christian Gieraths - Cosmetics“, in: *OjodePez-Photoeditor Sven Ehmann* Madrid 2005, p 92-97.

Meister, Helga: “Christian Gieraths – Malerische Fototräume“, in: *Wanderpause*, Cat.: Kunstverein Peschkenhaus Moers, Moers 2005.

Busse, Gundel-Maria: “Menschenleere Fassaden - Werke Christian Gieraths' “, in: *Main-Echo*, 12/16/2005, Frankfurt am Main, 2005.

2004 **Delschen**, Karl Heinrich / **Lindner**, Petra: *Christian Gieraths – Photographs*, Frankfurt am Main, 2004.

Roth, Wilhelm: "Entdeckung in der Leere - Christian Gieraths' quadratische und strenge Blicke auf Kapstadt in der Frankfurter Galerie Poller“, in: *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 09/08/2004, p 17.



Lindner, Petra: "Christian Gieraths - Cosmetics", in: *Schönheit*,
Cat.: Stadtraum Münster, ed. by Senatsausschuss für Kunst und Kultur der
WWU, Münster 2004.

2003 "Die coole Leere im Lunapark - Christian Gieraths", in: *Münchner
Abendzeitung*, 12/01/2003, p 20.

Meisterschüler in Westfälischen Schlössern, Cat.: Kunstakademie Münster,
Münster 2002.

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durch Irritation*, Cat.: Skulpturenprojekt Ahlen, Ahlen 2002.

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