

important, are workshops and the renting out of the laboratory which is located in the back rooms of the gallery in Sophienstraße, Mitte. The courses are aimed at all those who are interested in the practical side of photography. The themes of the courses range from laboratory work to portraits and last around ten hours, although it is even possible to register for six months in the course on artistic photography. In this way, the school covers an area in Berlin which might certainly be described as "under-exposed". For places where photographers can train "whether with or without official certificates" are thin on the ground. And those who attend workshops and use the laboratory here probably also learn to value the exhibitions and the moderate prices of the works, which are usually under 1000,- DM.

Kicken Berlin

The reasons for the gallery's move to Berlin were primarily personal ones. And yet it does not appear to be mere coincidence that one of the most important German gallery owners with respect to photography has taken the road from Cologne to the Spree just now. Rudolf Kicken was already committed here at an earlier date as the managing director of the art forum, and he soon noticed that it would be possible to reach a larger audience in Berlin than in Cologne. After all, the Rhineland was never particularly important to him as a location in financial terms. Most of the sales went to collectors abroad anyway. The trend which began in the final years in Cologne has continued in Berlin: the German collectors are taking an increased interest in photography and there is a growing audience willing to buy. From 200 to 300 visitors per exhibition in Cologne, the figures have grown to 1500 visitors in Berlin. Not least, this is thanks to the neighbourhood, which - with the gallery Neugerriemschneider in the same courtyard - offers a qualified supplementary programme. And further competition, specifically in the field of photography, would be desirable, says Annette Kicken, for in Berlin there is still too little commitment and know-how. And the interested public is a blossoming plant which requires a lot of cultivation, since it won't grow of its own accord. So an advisory service is called for, and it is precisely that which the gallery hopes to offer. Now, in the Berlin pre-

Zeiten sind die Zahlen auf 1500 Besucher hier in Berlin gestiegen. Nicht zuletzt auch dank der Nachbarschaft, die mit der Galerie Neugerriemschneider im selben Hof ein qualifiziertes Ergänzungsprogramm bietet. Und weitere Konkurrenz speziell im Fotobereich würde man sich durchaus wünschen, denn da sieht man in Berlin doch noch zu wenig Engagement und Know-how, sagt Annette Kicken. Auch braucht das neue Pflanzchen Publikum viel Pflege, denn es wächst nicht von alleine heran. Beratung ist also gefragt, und genau das will die Galerie bieten. Hierfür ist in den Berliner Räumlichkeiten nun endlich genügend Platz: neben den eigentlichen Schauraum sind in der Linienstraße auch noch Bibliothek sowie weitere Hinterzimmer, in denen zahlreiche Fotografien aufgestellt und gehängt sind. So kann sich der potenzielle Sammler einen Eindruck vom Wohnen und Leben mit Kunst verschaffen.

Seine beiden wichtigsten Ausstellungen, sagt Rudolf Kicken, waren die Kölner Überblickschau »seen & unseen« zum zwanzigjährigen Bestehen der Galerie sowie die von ihm kuratierte Ausstellung Man Ray 1996 im Kunsthaus Wien. Früher wollte er mal selbst Fotograf werden, doch nach einem Praktikum in einer New Yorker Fotogalerie sattelte er um und gründete 1974 die erste eigene Galerie in Aachen, fünf Jahre darauf ging es nach Köln.

Seit September 2000 ist die Galerie Kicken nun in Berlin tätig, mit einem großen und kleinen Schauraum in der Linienstraße. Annette und Rudolf Kicken pflegen unter anderem die Nachlässe von UMBO und Ed van der Elsken, zeigen Ausstellungen aus der Geschichte der Fotografie von ihren Anfängen bis heute. Im Galerieprogramm geht es ihm weniger darum, bereits bekannte Positionen zu wiederholen, sondern man möchte Aspekte aufzeigen, die in Deutschland bisher noch zu wenig Beachtung gefunden haben. Jüngste Beispiele waren die deutsche Architekturfotografie des 19. Jahrhunderts und amerikanische Farbfotografie vor allem der 70er Jahre. Neben der Fotografie soll es zukünftig auch verstärkt Entdeckungen bei den »Works on Paper« geben, nämlich Architekturzeichnungen. Wir sind gespannt.

Sebastian Schwarzenberger

mises, there is at last sufficient space for this: alongside the actual display rooms in Linienstraße there are also a library and additional back rooms in which numerous photographs are set up and hung. In this way the potential buyer can gain an impression of what it is like to live with art. His two most important exhibitions, Rudolf Kicken says, were the Cologne overview "seen & unseen" for the gallery's 20th anniversary, and the Man Ray exhibition in the Kunsthaus Vienna for which he was the curator in 1996. Earlier, he himself wanted to be a photographer, but after a period of practical training in a New York photo gallery, he changed course and founded his first gallery in Aachen during 1974, moving to Cologne five years later.

The gallery Kicken has now been opened in Berlin since September 2000, with one large and one small showroom in Linienstraße. Among other things, Annette and Rudolf Kicken are responsible for the estates of UMBO and Ed van der Elsken, and they show exhibitions from the history of photography from its beginnings up until the present day. The gallery programme is less concerned with repeating already well-known standpoints, but with demonstrating aspects which have received too little notice in Germany up until now. Most recent examples were German architectural photography of the 19th century and American colour photography, particularly from the 70s. Besides photography, in future the intention is to increase the showing of new discoveries among "works on paper", that is, among architectural drawings. Something to look forward to.

The coming issues:

Issue 9-10/01: NGBK - AG Fotografie and Galerie Bodo Niemann
Issue 11-12/01: picture:perfect and Die Aktgalerie