



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **CARL STRÜWE IN THE CONTEXT OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY with Liz Deschenes, Jan Paul Evers and Jochen Lempert**

FEBRUARY 05 – APRIL 29, 2012

**PRESS PREVIEW:** THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2012, 11:30 AM

**OPENING:** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2012, 11:30 AM

**ARTIST TALK:** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2012, 5 PM  
Artist talk with Jan Paul Evers

The Bielefeld graphic artist and photographer, Carl Strüwe (1898–1988) counts as one of the pioneers of artistic micro photography. With his complex of works, »Formen des Mikrokosmos« (Forms of the Microcosm, 1926–1959), he participated over time in the photographic styles of the New Sobriety and the New Vision, the New Landscape movement in the USA, as well as the European subjectivists and the experimental photography of the 1950's.

The exhibition at the Bielefelder Kunstverein intends to be retrospective and »anticipation« at the same time. It does not organise its pictures in any art-historical order. Much rather, it takes examples of the artist Strüwe's work and brings him into a dialogue with the contemporary photographers, Liz Deschenes (\*1966, lives and works in New York), Jan Paul Evers (\*1982, lives and works in Cologne) and Jochen Lempert (\*1958, lives and works in Hamburg). The exhibition takes up the question of the artistic relevance and actuality of his approach in his photographic work as reflected in contemporary art. It further intends to take Strüwe's work as a starting point for sketching out central developments and characteristics of artistic photography in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

From today's perspective, the »Formen des Mikrokosmos« offer an excellent paradigm for the shifting between »artistic« and »scientific« photography, which already began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but also for the development of producing art via photography at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Beyond that, they also reflect fundamental questions of how we deal with the history of photography, as well as the visualisation of knowledge, of the relationship between documentation, abstraction and staging, together with the technical conditions of the medium, not least the role of people in all this.

With Liz Deschenes, Jan Paul Evers and Jochen Lempert, we have invited three artists who repeatedly engage with the history of photography and with the medium as such in their work. The exhibition's display extends across two floors of the Kunstverein and presents the Strüwe's micro photographs in variously conceived showcases and in interaction with the respective other works. Where Liz Deschenes interacts with Strüwe through existing works, Jan Paul Evers and Jochen Lempert have also integrated new photographs, which were produced specially for this exhibition. In this way, the visitors can experience dialogic impulses and can view Strüwe's work embedded in the context of three different sorts of work.

Curator: Thomas Thiel

*The exhibition is being developed jointly with Kunsthalle Bielefeld and the Carl Strüwe Archive Bielefeld. The exhibitions as well as an accompanying catalogue have been supported by LWL-Kulturstiftung Westfalen-Lippe. From February 05 to May 12 Kunsthalle Bielefeld presents »Carl Strüwe. Reisen in unbekannte Welten«.*

**BIELEFELDER KUNSTVEREIN / IM WALDHOF / WELLE 61 / D-33602 BIELEFELD / KONTAKT@BIELEFELDER-KUNSTVEREIN.DE / T+49(0)521.1788 06 / F+49(0)521.1788 10 BANKVERBINDUNG STADTSPARKASSE BIELEFELD / BLZ 480 501 61 / KTO 72 008 980 / COMMERZBANK BIELEFELD / BLZ 480 400 35 / KTO 7 808 710 UST.-IDNR. DE251853318 AUSSTELLUNGSÖFFNUNGSZEITEN DO UND FR 15:00–19:00 UHR / SA UND SO 12:00–19:00 UHR**

IN COLLABORATION WITH



EXHIBITION SUPPORT



CORPORATE PARTNER



## CATALOGUE AND BROCHURE

In February 2012 Hirmer Verlag is publishing a German monograph on Carl Strüwe's work with texts by Jutta Hülsewig-Johnen, Gottfried Jäger and Thomas Thiel. With more than 200 illustrations it is the first extended publication on this artist.

Jutta Hülsewig-Johnen, Gottfried Jäger, Thomas Thiel (Ed.), *Carl Strüwe. Reisen in unbekannte Welten*, 240 pages, ca. 200 images, 24 x 28 cm, ISBN: 978-3-7774-6051-2

To mark the exhibition »Carl Strüwe in the context of Contemporary Photography«, a 28-page brochure will be published (German/English).

## GUIDED TOURS

During our exhibitions, we offer free guided tours every Sunday at 5 pm. Besides that, we can offer individual guided tours and workshops upon request.

You will find further information related to the exhibition in the press section of our website [www.bielefelder-kunstverein.de](http://www.bielefelder-kunstverein.de).

## CONTACT

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