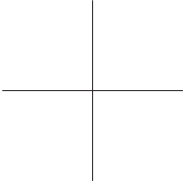


CENTRE FOR STUDIES
IN THE THEORY AND HISTORY
OF PHOTOGRAPHY

[Lehr- und Forschungsstelle
für Theorie und Geschichte
der Fotografie]

sponsored by the Dr. Carlo Fleischmann-Foundation



The history and theory of photography is commonly understood to be an inherent part of art history. However, unlike some art schools and polytechnics, the art history departments of universities in the German-speaking world are just beginning to explore the vast field of photography in its historical, theoretical and above all historiographical relevance.

The Institute of Art History at the University of Zurich aims to contribute to this new field by developing a sophisticated and integrated teaching programme for the theory and history of photography. In 2006 the University of Zurich and the Dr. Carlo Fleischmann-Foundation agreed to support this at that time pioneering project, namely the foundation of the *Centre for Studies in the Theory and History of Photography*. The goal being to support and encourage art historians, artists and restorers to pursue their research in the media and material history of photography. Future art historians shall have a specialised advanced education in the theory and history of photography, with the Centre supporting them for example to become curators in the growing field of photography and to encourage writing about photography. All this allows for complex and integrated ways of education and research in the field of the history of art with regard to new media and their pictorial practices and materials. Teaching and research are therefore to be understood as integral parts of the overall project. This *Centre for Studies in the Theory and History of Photography* has developed several instruments for students and researchers to come together, and generates visions for a challenging approach in understanding photography as an autonomous medium in its own aesthetical and political right. Additionally, new strategies to integrate photography into art history shall be explored. More significantly, we want to understand photography as a medium in which to study the significance of images in a globalised and at the same time highly particularised world.

The first step was taken by the University of Zurich in 2007 with the initiation of bachelor and master courses of studies in the named field. The University has since installed a new specialised master course in the *History of Art and Photography with Technical Studies* and a doctoral course in *Media History of the Arts*. Both programmes are due to start in autumn 2009, before which a pilot project will already begin in summer 2009 (further details to be announced soon). A visiting artist programme, a regular lecture series and the *Dr. Carlo Fleischmann-Visiting Professor for Photography* make part of the overall vision of the Centre to accumulate knowledge about photography and bring together experts, practitioners and students to share experience, ideas and visions in an experimental and international perspective.

For recent and current activities see www.khist.uzh.ch

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