

INHERITED STONES – NAZI PARTY RALLY GROUNDS

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The first part of my photographic work on the Nazi Party Rally Grounds deals with the fascist aesthetics of the buildings of the Third Reich. I have visualized the buildings in a way that replaces feelings of monumentality and fascination with shabbiness, transience and ugliness. This is achieved in terms of content through the choice of detail and the formal quality of the image design. Normal focal length, parallel shooting positions, central division, pale colors and the square as an image format are inherent components of the concept. The work can be understood as a counter-design to fascist aesthetics. The intended impression of the National Socialist ruling architecture is reversed in these photographs, which opens up a possible level of reflection for the recipient.

Part II: Even today, we Germans are confronted with “What to do with the buildings of the Third Reich?” They are partly too big, even for the elimination solution of simply blowing them up. The Nazi Party Rally Grounds are also a problem. One is more or less clueless when encountering the many hectares of unused ground. The anxiety of causing an historical faux pas is too great to permanently convert the grounds. So, in our time of democracy, just as in times of national socialism, the grounds remain a place for mass functions. The grounds are filled with people attending rock festivals, folk festivals and car races held there. You can go for a boat ride on the “Dutzendteich” have a barbecue at the “Silbersee” and Hitler’s Big Street has become a parking area. From an historical point of view, one might easily be disgusted but the present mass events on the Grounds have other positives signs. It is important in the present, to reflect on the past. My Work provides room for this. The uncrowded pictures make place for an historical analysis on the potential mass seducibility, but also for the necessary contentwise and political requirements.

Nuremberg , Germany

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18 photographs, c-prints, 60 x 60 cm