

September 25, 2020

**Press Information of the DGPh (German Photographic Society)
CHRIS KILLIP is being honoured with the Dr. Erich Salomon Award:**

This year the German Photographic Society (DGPh) is honouring the British photographer Chris Killip with the renowned Dr. Erich Salomon Award. With this award the Society is paying homage to an outstanding photographer as well as to his remarkable work in the tradition of humanist documentary photography. For 50 years he has been committed to the emancipation and communication of photography as a first-class photographer, curator and critic, and between 1991 and 2017 through his teaching position at Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts, USA. His publications, produced between 1980 and 2020, are among the most impressive works of photography literature. Without Killip, a large portion of British culture and the overlooked history of the daily lives of ordinary people would have remained unrecorded. Killip's photographs and series of images are valuable reports and symbols which highlight the social and economic transformation of Great Britain. In the history of photography they rank alongside the works of the great, indispensable masters and prove to be inspiring models for many other generations of photographers and artists.

Chris Killip, born in 1946 in Douglas on the Isle of Man, began his career as a freelance photographer in 1969. His earliest images focus on his home environment, the Isle of Man. Already they document in their density Killip's skills and the respectful curiosity, sensitivity and great attention he pays to people in their daily lives and on the other hand, the natural acceptance of the people portrayed towards the photographer, who enters into a direct or indirect dialogue with them. What is important to him, however, is the presentation of the entire living space: the complete structure compiled of the landscape, the towns, the climate, and ultimately the basic and vital conditions which affect the existence of the people. He also applied this visual language to his future series of images.

Killip's numerous publications are worthy of note, such as *Isle of Man* (1980), *In Flagrante* (1988), *Pirelli Work* (2003), *Here comes Everybody* (2009), *Seacoal* (2011), *Arbeit/Work* (2012), *Isle of Man Revisited* (2015), *In Flagrante Two* (2016) and *The Station* (2020). They were frequently produced several years after the completion of the photographic work and after an intensive maturing process. Chris Killip emphatically recommends that his photographs – although they have a high degree of

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Gabriele Conrath-Scholl - Michael Ebert - Anna Gripp - Simone Klein

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reference to reality, they also contain overarching generally valid statements – should be read anew and individually again and again.

Chris Killip has received various prizes since the 1970s, including the Arts Council of Great Britain Major Bursary Award in 1977, the HCB Award from the Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson in 1989 and in 2020 the Dr. Erich Salomon Award from the DGPh. His works can be found in international collections, including the Center for Creative Photography, Tucson; Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco; George Eastman House, Rochester; The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Museum Folkwang, Essen; The Museum of Fine Art, Houston; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The National Gallery of Art, Washington; The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid; Tate Gallery Collection, London; The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Due to the current pandemic the award ceremony will take place on line. Further information will follow.

The Dr. Erich Salomon Prize of the German Photographic Society has been awarded since 1971 for "exemplary application of photography in journalism". At the same time, it commemorates the great photojournalist of the Weimar Republic, Dr. Erich Salomon. The prize consists of a certificate and a Leica camera with engraved name and is awarded annually. Among the prize winners are print media, organisations and personalities who have rendered outstanding services to photography in journalism or who have notably contributed to photojournalism, such as the magazine *Stern* (1971), photographers Robert Frank (1985), Barbara Klemm (1989), Letizia Battaglia (2007) or Josef Koudelka (2015), or *Reporters sans Frontières* (2002).

Press photos are available on the DGPh website or from our office.

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