



Art & culture Art in the making

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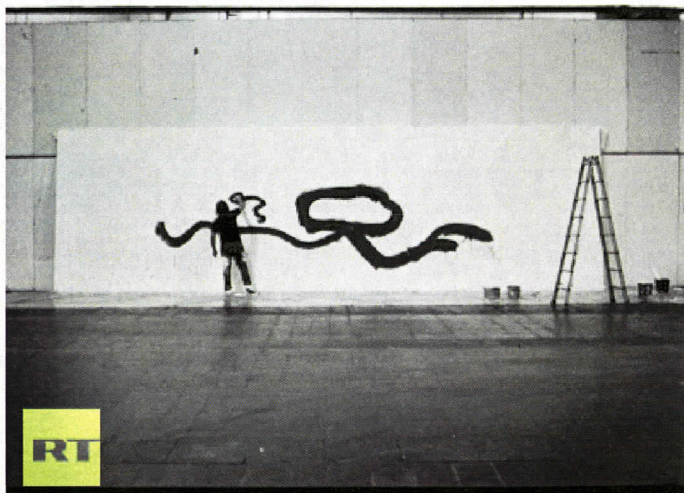


A new exhibition at the Moscow Multimedia Art Museum focuses on Germany's Rhineland region, the art of which is at the forefront of contemporary photography.

But on closer examination it becomes clear – it is not the artworks, but the artists who make them that are the true stars of the show entitled “Fascinating Documents”.

Always behind the scenes – with a camera or brush in hand – they create artworks we try to comprehend. But there is no better way to feel the aura of works than to delve into their artistic world of their creators and see them from the inside.

The tradition of recording an artist's studio dates back to the advent of photography in the late 19th century. In those early years, Edward Steichen photographed Auguste Rodin at work, and Brassai was acclaimed for his atmospheric images of the studios of Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso. In the mid-1950s, in a period when Rhineland art was flourishing, documenting the artists' activities in photographs became widespread.



Benjamin Katz. A.R. Penck painting „Quo vadis Germania?“ (Image from exhibition “von hier aus”, Düsseldorf 1984; Stiftung museum kunst palast, Düsseldorf, Archiv künstlerischer Fotografie der rheinischen Kunstszene (AFORK) © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2011)

Two hundred and fifty selected works from the archive of Photographic Archive of Rhineland Artists on show are divided into five themes – studios, performances, the Academy of Arts, exhibitions and portraits of artists. Photographers Benjamin Katz, Peter Kastner, Willi Kemp, Erika Kiffel, Manfred Leve, Anton Stankowski and Lothar Wolleh and many others give the public a chance to observe the process artworks creation and feel that they too are participating in a creative act. They capture artists working in their studios, exhibiting their works, or enjoying moments of leisure.

One of the stirring highlights of the exhibition, according to the organizers, is a photo of two men sitting on camels' backs in a big sumptuous hall – the setting turns out to be the Academy of Arts, and the men – Bernd Jansen Uecker and Gunther Klaus Rinke, who have just been appointed the Academy's professors and in this way express their joy and freedom – artistic freedom, without which their work would have been impossible.

The exhibition "Fascinating Documents" will be on at the Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow until 7 July.

Elena Monakhova, RT

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