



## **Press Release**

March 2010

### **Michael von Graffenried to receive Dr. Erich Salomon Award for 2010 from DGPh**

The Swiss photographer Michael von Graffenried will be honoured with the Dr. Erich Salomon Award of the German Society for Photography (DGPh). The award ceremony will be held at photokina 2010, where Graffenried will also be showing works from his extensive oeuvre in the *Visual Gallery*.

Awarded annually since 1971 in recognition of "the outstanding use of photography in the field of journalism", the prize – beside the Cultural Prize the most prestigious award of the DGPH - is in memory of Dr. Erich Salomon, a major photographer of the Weimar Republic era and a great inspiration to the entire field of contemporary photojournalism. The price comes with a certificate and a Leica M-camera decorated with an individual engraving.

Michael von Graffenried, who was born in Bern in 1957, is among the most independent and socially committed European photographers and has been consistently breaking down the boundaries of the medium for more than 30 years. The range of themes he explores is unusual in its breadth and variety. The wars in Algeria and Sudan are milestones of his work, as are nudists in Switzerland and scenes from a small town in the USA. Graffenried has also been a pioneer in terms of new forms of publication for his works. He showed his photo series documenting a drug-addicted couple, titled *Cocainelove*, on advertising billboards in major Swiss cities. This project was regarded as a manifesto calling for a new approach to photojournalism.

Graffenried has also been literally expanding the boundaries of photographic technique. In 1991 he became the first photographer to systematically use a panoramic camera for creating journalism reports.

Michael von Graffenried, who has lived and worked in Paris for the past 20 years, is not a photojournalist in the traditional sense of the word. For example, since the very beginning of his career he has refused to commit himself to an editorial board or a photo agency and creates his works independently. As is the case for many of his colleagues, he is increasingly blurring the boundaries between photojournalism and art.

## **Websites**

[www.dgph.de](http://www.dgph.de)

[www.mvgphoto.com](http://www.mvgphoto.com)

## **Galerie**

Galerie Esther Woerdehoff Paris

[www.ewgalerie.com](http://www.ewgalerie.com)

## **Awards**

1989 World Press Photo-Preis

2006 Ritter der französischen Ehrenlegion

## **Major solo exhibitions**

2010 Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris

2009 Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern

2007 Auf dem Dach eines 12-stöckigen Gebäudes in Downtown Kairo

2006 Bank of the Arts, New Bern, North Carolina (USA)

2005 Landesmuseum Zürich

2004 Kornhausforum Bern

2003 Stadtbibliothek von Bordeaux

Kunstmuseum Bern

Museum für Gestaltung, Zürich

UMAM, Beirut

Musée d'arts et d'histoire, Neuchâtel

2000 Nationalbibliothek Algier

1999 Fotomuseum Winterthur,

Kloster und Kalkfabrik in Saint Ursanne

1998 L'abbaye de l'Épau, Le Mans,

Centre National et Musée Jean Jaurés

Castres, Pavillon Delouvrier, Paris

1997 Witkin Gallery, New York,

Galerie Scalo, Zurich

Museum Zündorfer Wehrturm, Köln

Galerie Agathe Gaillard, Paris

Museu Nogueira da Silva, Braga, (Portugal)

Galerie Focale, Nyon

1995 Maison de la Culture, Amiens

Pariser Sénat auf Einladung von Danielle Mitterrand

Völkerkunde-Sammlung, Lübeck

Arche de la Défense, Paris

Musée de l'Élysée, Lausanne

1994 Hong-Kong Arts Center

1991 Visa pour l'image, Perpignan

Palais de la Culture, Algier

## **Illustrated Books :**

- *eye on africa. Fotografien aus Kamerun.* Text von Albertine Bourget. Schwabe, Basel 2009
- *Cocainelove.* Benteli, Bern 2005
- *Risk. Contact statt Ausgrenzung.* Contact Netz, Bern 2004
- *Im Herzen Algeriens.* Museum für Gestaltung Zürich. Benteli, Bern 2002
- *Swisspanorama.* mvgphoto.com, Paris 2002
- *Du Jura au vaste monde parcours d'un photographe.* Editions Ferme Asile, Sion 2000
- *Jura. Visages d'une jeune république hors image.* Editions Arts Vivants, Saint-Ursanne 1999
- *Weltpanorama.* Mit einem Geleitwort von Franz Hohler. Weltwoche-ABC, Zürich 1998
- *Algerien. Der unheimliche Krieg.* Benteli, Bern 1998
- *Nackt im Paradies* (mit Texten von Harald Szeemann und A.D. Coleman). Benteli, Bern 1997
- *Sudan. Der vergessene Krieg.* Benteli, Bern 1995
- *Algerien. Der Traum von der Demokratie.* Benteli, Bern 1993
- *Swiss People.* Genf/Steffisburg 1991
- *Swiss Image.* Benteli, Bern 1989
- *„Mich trifft keine Schuld“.* Dokumentation zum Sturz von Frau Kopp. Ringier, Zürich 1989
- *Markt im Bernerland.* Text von Ueli Schmezer. ED, Langnau 1988
- *Bundeshaus-Fotografien.* Grafino, Bern 1985
- *Kramgasse Bern.* VDB, Bern 1983
- *Berner Beizen-Porträts.* VDB, Bern 1982
- *Gurten Folkfestival.* Benteli, Bern 1981
- *Unter Berns Lauben.* Text von Sergius Golowin. VDB, Bern 1980

## **Films**

- 2009 *Brick Lane*, 10'
- 2005 *Cocainelove*, 19'
- 2002 *Guerre sans images – Algerien, ich weiss, dass Du weisst.*  
Dokumentarfilm von Mohammed Soudani, 90'

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