

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Miron Zownir: BERLIN NOIR Images of a city between 1978 and 2016

Opening: **Samstag, 25 March 2017, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.**
The artist will be present at the opening.

Duration: **28 March – 27 May 2017**

Location: **Hardhitta Galerie, Moltkestraße 81, 50674 Cologne**



Miron Zownir, Berlin, 1980 (left) und 2002 (right), 30 x 40 cm, archival silver gelatin print, both images: © + Courtesy of the artist

Opening on the **25th of March**, the Cologne based **Hardhitta Gallery** presents A new Solo-exhibition by the German artist **Miron Zownir**, one of the most radical photographer of contemporary times.

In his new book entitled **Berlin Noir**, from which the exhibition is curated and takes its name, Zownir uses urban landscapes and portraits to document timeless big city melancholy and all of the facets of the wild life of Berlin. The exhibition and the publication together present a retrospective of Zownir's photography between 1978 and 2016.

In the 1970's Berlin was a mecca for nonconformists and artists. It was an urban oasis for the unconventional that promised unrestricted freedom of development. A city in which the magical promise of transformation has always hung in the air. Zownir's early Photographs that were taken of a West Berlin hemmed in by the "death strip", the inner German border, document the rebellious weltanschauung of the punks, the social hopelessness of dropouts, drug addicts, casual labourers or the homeless.

On the other hand his newer Photographs depict examples of the "anything goes" lifestyle of the Berlin Clubs, the celebrated body cult of the love parade or of commercial sex events, that again appear to have been born of a seemingly limitless freedom. But even in these images, the dusky abstraction of black and white disrupts the surface of the image and unveils the ecstatic escape of lust and pain, the feeling of loneliness in a crowd, a depressing foreboding of the morning after.

Something, however, seems to have remained the same: Berlin is still a dream destination for freaks and flamboyant oddballs from around the world. From the very beginning Zownir paid attention to these extraordinary people and their "otherness". Berlin Noir also features a series of original Berlin characters, with appearances, amongst others, from characters such as Bruno S., Ben Becker and Germany's fattest whore Molly Luft. His portraits however are not silent, they are bluntly expressive and emotional. They create a field of energy in which each individual with their own cultivated passions becomes visible, whether they are depicted in everyday situations, states of emergency or simply just standing in the background.

Miron Zownir was born in 1953 in Karlsruhe. He lives and works in Berlin.
Further information at: www.mironzownir.com/

About the book: **Miron Zownir – BERLIN NOIR**, Publisher: Pogo Books Verlag, 232 pages, 208 images, Triton, half-linen hardcover, 30,5 x 24,5 cm, German/English, ISBN: 978-3-942547-58-1, 1st edition 2017, Price: 58,- EURO



Solo and Groupexhibitions (selection): Hamburger Deichtorhallen/Haus der Photographie (Hamburg), Fotomu seum Winterthur; Museum für Fotografie (Braunschweig); Centre de Cultura Contemporànea (Barcelona); Georgian National Museum of Fine Arts (Tiflis); Goethe Institut/Red House (Sofia); Akademie der Künste (Berlin); NRW Kunstaussstellung (Düsseldorf), Kunstverein München; The Horse Hospital (London); Lead Awards Ausstellung (Hamburg)

Publications (selection): *NYC RIP*, Pogo Books; *Ukrainische Nacht*, Spector Book; *Down and Out in Moscow*, Pogo Books; *Eyemazing: The New Collectible Art Photography*, Thames & Hudson; *The Valley of the Shadow - The Photography of Miron Zownir*, Gestalten; *Miron Zownir: 30 Jahre Radical Photography*, Goethe Institut Sofia, Bulgaria; *Darkside, Vol. 1: Photographic Desire and Sexualitay Photographed*, Steidl & Partner; *Darkside, Vol. 2: Photographic Power and Photographed Violence, Disease and Death*, Steidl & Partner; *Mono Volume 2*, Gomma Books, London; *Radical Eye - The Photography of Miron Zownir*, Gestalten

The **Hardhitta Gallery** for contemporary photography and Painting was founded in 2011 by Bene Taschen. After solo-exhibitions of the american photographers Gregory Bojorquez and Joseph Rodriguez, the gallery expanded its program in 2014 to include the Berlin based photographer Miron Zownir and the Painter Oliver Blum from Düsseldorf. The gallery's program has since been further expanded to include the american photographers Jamel Shabazz and Arlene Gottfried in 2015 and the painter Ulrike Nattermüller in 2016. From early 2017 the gallery relocated to Moltkestraße 81, Cologne and is represented regularly at Paris Photo.

For more information about the gallery or the artworks please contact:

Hardhitta Gallery | Bene Taschen | Tel: +49 (0) 163 6130 694 | E-Mail: info@hardhittagallery.com
Web: www.hardhittagallery.com | Opening times: Wednesday – Saturday, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

For press material and interview requests please contact:

Nadine Dinter PR | Nadine Dinter | Fasanenstraße 70, 10719 Berlin
Tel: +49 (0)30/398 87 411 | Mobile: +49 (0)151 123 70 951 | E-Mail: presse@nadine-dinter.de