

FUTURE CITY

STADT DER ZUKUNFT

The PhotoBookMuseum

Hansestadt Rostock

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Stadt der Zukunft – Future City

The project aims to use photography to present the city as a resource – as an opportunity for the personnel development of urban residents, as a basis for a peaceful, liberal and resource-friendly society, as an engine for a rich cultural life and a thoughtful engagement with the past.

HANSEartWORKS 2018 takes place in Rostock, Germany from 21 to 24 June 2018

Awarding authority: Hansestadt Rostock

Project coordination: Sarah Linke, Department of Cultural Affairs, Monument Protection and Museums

Project partner: The PhotoBookMuseum

Brief description

What does the city have to offer in terms of personal lifestyle planning and the developmental of society? Is it possible to identify and present a photograph overview of the city's historic, aesthetic, functional, ecological and economic potential? These questions are at the heart of the HANSEartWORKS 2018 exhibition. Artists from towns and cities that are members of the Hanseatic League Federation, are invited to submit photos of their "Future City" as part of a collaboration between The PhotoBookMuseum and the Hanseatic City of Rostock. The PhotoBookMuseum will then collate the most interesting future images and present them in an exhibition to be held in the public arena. The photos will be exhibited both in shipping containers and on large outdoor panel displays. The central element of the exhibition will be a so-called "photobook factory" in which the artists from other Hanseatic towns and cities and visitors will be able to put together their own "Future City" photobook.

Future City – An Introduction

The city as a resource

Towns and cities are the most important human habitats. That is certainly true of the modern era considering our burgeoning urban populations. Yet, it also holds true for early human history because the most important social, cultural, scientific and economic developments all originated in towns and cities. This fact is the source of the concept of “the city as a resource”.¹ Conceiving of the urban environment as a resource enables us to understand why towns and cities offer an especially innovative and productive environment for societal developments: resources equate to opportunities to take action. In this sense, the built environments, open spaces and infrastructure of towns and cities, but also the people, goods and information crammed together in highly concentrated urban areas, all provide opportunities for activities and social interactions. Because cities are home to a huge variety of people, material goods and non-material resources, they present their residents with a range of activity options that can only be found there. That’s why, “[...] resources represent a promise for the future. The city itself is just such a promise for everyone who is able to use it to shape his or her personal future as well as for society at large, which can draw upon it as an engine of social, cultural and economic progress.”²

How urban is the city?

How should the city of the future be, if one conceptualises it as a resource? The city as a resource encompasses human activities and interpersonal relationships, but also the mutual relationships that develop between people and other forms of life, artefacts and the built environment; mutual because urban structures are themselves capable of shaping, hindering or catalysing relationships.³ The aspiration, in this context, is to bring about a state of maximum relationship abundance. An urban district or open space can be said to have an abundance of relationships if it is replete with heterogeneous, productive relationships interconnected by structured and peaceful ties. Relationship abundance is “a condition that exists between two extremes: relationship poverty on the one hand, which is characterized by a lack of or very few relationships or else by relationships of exclusively the same type; and chaos on the other hand, which can result from too great a range of different relationships and which actually hinders effective action and prevents the emergence of a cogent sense of purpose.”⁴

Relationship abundance has several positive effects: first, existing goods are reused multiple times and, therefore, efficiently. Second, people from very different backgrounds and with different interests and outlooks can encounter one another and form relationships. Third, a culture of conflict and competing interest management tends to emerge in which behavioural norms are introduced and spatial regulations are created. Fourth, objects and artefacts, buildings and even specific relationship forms are stabilized and retained over the long term if many people experience them as something of value.⁵

1 Tim Rieniets, Nicolas Kretschmann, Myriam Perret, Professur Kees Christiaanse, ETH Zürich (Ebs.): Die Stadt als Ressource. Texte und Projekte 2005 – 2014, Zürich 2014.

2 Ibid., p. 13.

3 Simon Kretz, Christian Salewski: Urbanität der Dinge. Beziehungsreichtum und Beziehungspotential als Ressource, in: Die Stadt als Ressource. Texte und Projekte 2005 – 2014, Zürich 2014, p. 168 f.

4 Ibid., p. 170.

5 Ibid., p. 170. f.

Still, relationship abundance is not enough to create true urbanity: “Where existing relationships are rigid and not to change, people lack opportunities to take actions towards transforming existing relationships according to their own needs, rearranging them and to occupying these changed forms.”⁶ Where relationship abundance shall be possible even in the future, urban spaces have to have the potential of creating new relationships, predictable and unpredictable ones.

Opportunities to communicate, to learn and to occupy spaces need to be activated via urban planning, political, artistic and other interventions. Such interventions can turn conflicting interactions between different users into peaceful, productive relationships. They can create a common awareness on the historical specifics, the esthetic quality or social function of a site. Where relationship potentials are activated, a site can be more strongly integrated into the relations network of the city. Thus, innovations occur in the meaning of new, additional uses that replace or enhance the existing variety of relationships. Due to this, recognizing and activating relation potentials is an important tool for sustainably, efficiently and carefully using the resource city.

Photographing the “Future City”

Photography is ideally suited to producing images of the “Future City”, because, by carefully observing places and people and consciously selecting their photographic resources, photographers can highlight opportunities for action and relationship potentials. Not only can photographs document how publicly accessible areas are currently being used, how people are owning open spaces and what meaningful or conflict-laden relationships are actually being formed there. They can also depict potential relationships that could be activated in the future through spatial or social interventions.

Participants are invited to explore their own Hanse towns through the camera lens asking, for example: how does a specific location in my town look that is rich in relationships and relationship potential? How does a place that is relationship impoverished or chaotic present itself to the viewer? Which non-activated relationships can be identified in my home town, which could be activated going forward? These questions pertain equally to busy plazas, shopping streets, parks, and public buildings, as well as abandoned or neglected paces. Creating an image of the future of such places will involve revealing their latent potential for value-generating, respectful, structured activities and relationships in addition to showing what exists there and who tends to frequent them. As such, the project aims to use photography to present the city as a resource – as an opportunity for the personnel development of urban residents, as a basis for a peaceful, liberal and resource-friendly society, as an engine for a rich cultural life and a thoughtful engagement with the past.

6 Ibid., p. 172.

Future City – Exhibition and Photobooks

Nomination procedure

In July 2017, the Hanseatic Cities will publish the call for applications related to a participation in the exhibition “Stadt der Zukunft – Future City”. The participating Hanseatic Cities will select **three positions minimum** out of the received applications and propose them to the Department of Cultural Affairs, Monument Protection and Museums by 30 November 2017. From these proposals, the PhotoBookMuseum will choose the 10 to 15 best photographers in cooperation with the project coordinator.

Exhibition in shipping containers and photobook factory

The PhotoBookMuseum team will exhibit the most interesting photographs of the 10 to 15 nominated participants, thus composing an exhibition that looks into the future of the Hanseatic Cities. The photographs will be presented on two shipping containers (6.2 x 2.5 meters) and on large panels in the outside area. A third shipping container hosts the photo book factory. Here, participants and visitors may create their own catalogues with all photos from the exhibition on preprinted pages. Supported by the team, a personal view on the future can be placed on the cover of this exhibition's catalogue. This can be a digital photograph taken during the Hanseatic Day. The catalogue is a photo book on the future of the Hanseatic Cities, it is an exhibition documentation and can be even taken to pieces again for further use as a poster. In addition, the team of The PhotoBookMuseum will conduct a workshop for the participants to present and discuss their entire series of photographs on the subject of “Future City”.

About The PhotoBookMuseum

The PhotoBookMuseum was founded by Markus Schaden, Frederic Lezmi and Helge Hofmann in Cologne in 2014. As non-profit organization, the PhotoBookMuseum promotes the photo book as a central form of expression in photography. In the meaning of a public institution, it serves as platform for exhibitions and events and is dedicated to researching and imparting contemporary photo book culture. The PhotoBookMuseum is a democratic institution that encourages people's active participation. It is intended to be a social space that imparts the formal, content-related and narrative features of the photo book as medium to a wide audience. The PhotoBookMuseum uses mobile exhibition formats for this.

In October 2016, the PhotoBookMuseum stopped off with the mobile exhibition and mediation project “World in Transition” in Rostock's district Groß Klein. Via photo books and workshops, the project “World in Transition” financed by the Montag Foundation Art and Society opened up for people of all ages from Groß Klein and the whole of Rostock new perspectives on the global and individual transition of our times.

Information

<http://hansetag-rostock.com/events/hanseartworks/>
www.thephotobookmuseum.com

Future City – Application

Conditions of participation

The nominated artists have to be present in person over the exhibition period from 21 to 24 June 2018. The Hanseatic cities will cover the related travel costs of the participants and the artists' fee. As no original works will be presented in the exhibition, no costs for artwork transportation and insurance will occur. The Hanseatic City of Rostock offers the participating artists one free meal per day as well as a free accommodation in a private household.

Application documents

Application must be submitted in digital format only on a data carrier (USB flash drive) or via upload link. Please make sure that the upload link is not limited in time. The following documents have to be provided by the applicants:

- (a) The completed application form (see annex), as PDF file or jpg file
- (b) 20 to 25 photographs related to the topic “Stadt der Zukunft – Future City”, as jpg files with a minimum width of 1400 pixels, the title of the photograph being included into the file name
- (c) Description of the artistic concept of maximum 1800 characters as PDF file.
The description shall present the approach to the subject and the formal implementation.
- (d) Artistic CV of a maximum of 1800 characters, as PDF file

Timeline

<i>03 July 2017</i>	Publication of the call for applications
<i>31 October 2017</i>	Submission of applications to the participating Hanseatic City
<i>30 November 2017</i>	Submission of at least three selected artists to the City of Rostock
<i>28 February 2018</i>	Announcement of participating artists
<i>21 June 2018</i>	Exhibition opening in Rostock

Application Form

Application for participation in the exhibition "Stadt der Zukunft – Future City"
as presented in the Hanseatic City of Rostock from 21 to 24 June 2018.

The application documents must be submitted before: **31. October 2017**

The application documents must be send to the following address (including e-mail adress):

<i>First Name and Family Name</i>	
<i>Street</i>	
<i>Postcode and City</i>	
<i>Country</i>	
<i>Telephone, Fax</i>	
<i>E-mail</i>	
<i>Website</i>	
<i>Date of birth</i>	
<i>Title or short description of the submitted photo project</i>	
<i>Upload-link (not limited in time)</i>	

I submit the following application documents:

Application form (PDF or jpg format)

20 to 25 photos (jpg format, 1400px width minimum, sRGB)

Artistic CV (1800 characters maximum, PDF format)

Artistic concept and implementation (1800 characters maximum, PDF format)

I accept the conditions specified in the call for application.

Date

Signature