



Fotografiska
Berlin

Emerging Berlin

Lukas Städler: Hain

Press Preview & Opening: 22 Aug 2024, 18:00
Runtime: 23 Aug – 9 Oct 2024

What images come to mind when you think of cruising; the anonymous, consensual sexual encounters often involving gay men in public spaces? Photographer Lukas Städler was both intrigued and unsettled by this scene, and felt compelled to explore it in a deeply personal way. His series *Hain* challenges common perceptions of cruising, capturing romantic moments with naked male subjects in idyllic natural spaces. Through his lens, Städler breaks through stereotypes and offers you a new perspective.

„About 2 years ago I started to portray cruising spots in Berlin, places where gay men usually meet for short and anonymous sexual interaction. The locations in the forests of the city or public parks such as Tiergarten or Hasenheide are often only a few meters away from the pedestrian paths. My intention was to present a romantic idea of those situations that confused me at the first moment. While speaking to different men and experiencing their different kind of intimacies, I recognized that this work is kind of a self-portrait, reflecting on personal questions of loving and aging.” – Lukas Städler

Städler’s ongoing project began with frequent visits to these sites. It took him over a year to capture his first photograph, spending time with people he met from various age groups and social backgrounds. Though their personal connection and trust, Städler was invited to share these intimate moments.

Through *Hain*, Städler offers you a glimpse into a hidden Berlin – a cityscape that often remains out of view. Cruising started at a time when gay people could not come out openly and had no public spaces to express their sexuality. Parks and urban spaces like Berlin’s Tiergarten became venues for private encounters. Today the cruising scene has evolved, with dating apps providing an alternative for sexual connections. Nonetheless, these physical spaces remain embedded in the city’s layout. In this setting, Städler’s photography serves as a medium for expressing queer identity. The term *Hain* brings to mind a small, peaceful grove or thicket, representing a special or sacred place.

The exhibition opens on 22 August 2024. It is part of our Emerging Berlin talent program, supporting photographers at the early stage of their careers.



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LUKAS STÄDLER

Lukas Städler (born 1992, Buchholz in der Nordheide) is a German photographer. After studying fashion design at Hochschule für Technik & Wirtschaft Berlin, Fine Arts at Universität der Künste, and Photography at Ostkreuzschule für Fotografie Berlin, he is currently living and working in Berlin. His last exhibition, *Ouverture*, was shown in 2024 at the gallery Dittrich & Schlechtriem, who are also currently representing him.

CREDITS

The exhibition is curated by Marina Paulenka (Director of Exhibitions) and Marie-Luise Mayer (Exhibitions Associate and Project Lead for Emerging Berlin). This exhibition is in partnership with photography print partner [WhiteWall](#).

PRESS PREVIEW

On Thursday, 22 August 2024 at 18:00, we will open the exhibitions *Lukas Städler: Hain* and *Eli Cortiñas: The Machine Monologs. Part I: The Storm* to the press. You are invited to join a press and members tour with the artists at 18:00. Following the tour or the visit to the exhibitions, join the opening program in the Café Bar, starting at 19:30.

Please RSVP to immanuel.ayx@fotografiska.com and let us know if you would like to join the artist tour.

ABOUT EMERGING BERLIN

Berlin is a city full of stories, history and change. To empower the local artist community and discover new sides of Berlin, Fotografiska have launched a talent program – Emerging Berlin – where photographers at the early stage of their career are given the space to exhibit. Selected through an open call for proposals, the program will exhibit six artists per year in Fotografiska Berlin's graffiti hall. The exhibiting artists receive a solo exhibition, mentorship, press and media opportunities, and direct professional exchange with experts from the field. The program will also include workshops and portfolio reviews open to the public, to continue to support local talent. Emerging Berlin is a program devoted to researching, supporting and showcasing new voices from Berlin.



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ABOUT FOTOGRAFISKA

Fotografiska is the contemporary museum of photography, art and culture. With locations in Stockholm, Berlin, New York, Tallinn and Shanghai, Fotografiska exhibits world renowned artists as well as local, emerging talent. Exhibitions change almost every month to continuously inspire new perspectives. From its restaurant and bars to its parties and talks, the museum offers a social and cultural experience – open late every day, from 10:00 to 23:00.

Fotografiska Berlin

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INSTAGRAM

#EmergingBerlin

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PRESS

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