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Ulrich Wüst *stromauf stromab*

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Ulrich Wüst embarks on a photographic journey along the Elbe in Magdeburg

Between gravel paths and industrial wastelands, between floodplains and harbor basins, Ulrich Wüst follows the course of the Elbe through Magdeburg on extensive photographic walks—on foot, with his camera, attentive and persistent.

Bringing together more than 200 photographs taken between 2021 and 2025, this volume forms a multifaceted portrait of the river as seen from the city, both upstream and downstream (*stromauf / stromab*). Beginning at the gauge house near the Strombrücke, Wüst's route leads southwards to the rural outskirts and northwards to the waterway junction with the trough bridge of the Mittelland Canal. He never crosses the Elbe. His gaze remains fixed on the western bank—a place where the relationship between city and river has been shaped over centuries by separation, barriers, and later by an industrially driven process of reconnection.

Wüst's photographs are not a documentary inventory. They offer neither tourist views nor picturesque postcard scenes. Instead, peripheral zones, derelict sites, abandoned industrial areas, newly created promenades, and quiet stretches of water are condensed into a subjective visual landscape. The deserted scenes appear like stages after the departure of their actors—places where history has settled and the present is tentatively taking shape.

Wüst's subjective perspective combines analytical clarity with poetic precision, inviting us to rediscover the relationship between city and river.

Ulrich Wüst (*1949) lives in Berlin and Schönhof/Uckermark. From 1967 to 1972, he studied at the University of Architecture and Civil Engineering in Weimar. Until 1977, he worked as an urban planner, later as a picture editor, and from 1983 onward as a freelance photographer. His works are held in major international art collections, including the Berlinische Galerie, the National Museums in Berlin, the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, the DZ BANK Art Collection in Frankfurt am Main, the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, and the Harvard Art Museums in Cambridge.

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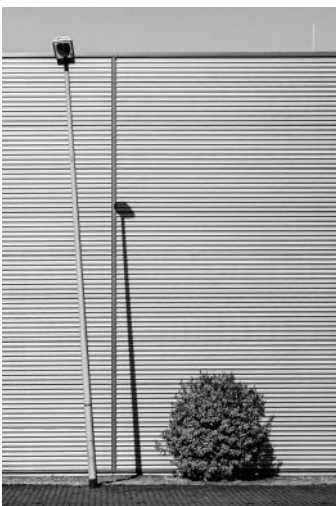
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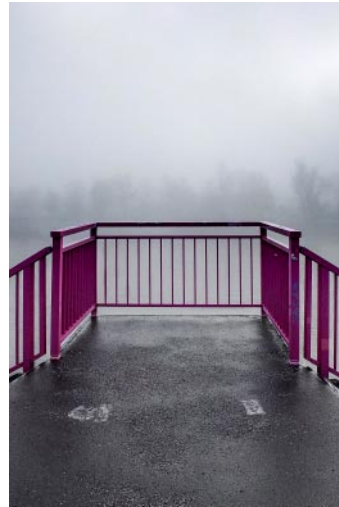
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