

NEW PUBLICATION 2023

Irina Ruppert
Soldaten_0008-0129



Dedication by Irina Ruppert
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Collages about killing and being killed made from archive photos and insects

In *Soldaten_0008-0129*, Irina Ruppert combines archival passport and portrait photographs of soldiers from different countries with dead insects. The portraits are relics from the past and reveal nothing about the individual stories of the soldiers. Their uniforms testify to their origins and military rank—but tell us nothing about what the young men experienced. Symbolically embodied by the dead insects, a sense of death surrounds the images. The flies and spiders remind us of passing and forgetting, of killing and being killed.

Irina Ruppert's work was initiated by her interest in her grandfather, who was from the Ukraine. He was drafted into the German Wehrmacht during the Second World War. The questions she would have addressed to her long-dead grandfather became the basis for *Soldaten_0008-0129*. (Sophia Greiff)

Irina Ruppert (* 1968 in Aktjubinsk, Kazakhstan) is a photographer and lecturer in artistic documentary photography at the University of Applied Sciences (HAW) in Hamburg and at the Ostkreuz School in Berlin. At the age of seven she moved to Hamburg with her family, where she has lived ever since. She completed her diploma in 2002 at the HAW Hamburg in the design department with a focus on photography with Ute Mahler. Her work has received international awards and been exhibited, e.g. in the Deichtorhallen Hamburg, at the photo festival in Arles and in the State Art Gallery in Russe.

Irina Ruppert gained notoriety through her illustrated book *Rodina*, for which she photographed in Russia and Eastern Europe. In it she deals with the topic of emigration. Her photographic works *Cortorar Gypsies* about traditionally living Roma in Romania and *Erz. 7139* about seasonal workers in Rhineland-Palatinate were well received. Works by Ruppert are represented in the Altenburg auction house, in the Forum for Photography, in the Kominek Gallery in Berlin and in the collection of the ZF Art Foundation.

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