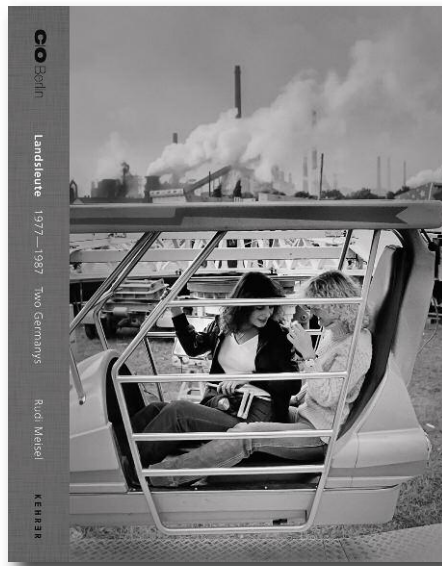


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## *Rudi Meisel*

Landsleute 1977-1987.

TWO GERMANYS.

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Conventional coziness, inhospitable housing, neighborly chat, beery gatherings, youthful rebellion, entertaining fests, rundown streets – over a period of eleven years, West German photographer Rudi Meisel captured the everyday life of ordinary people on either side. His photojournalistic documents merge into a unique, historical archive, and confuse and astonish on account of the subjects' similarity. What is, actually, specifically West, specifically East? Often one has to look to the image titles to be reliably sure of classification. Rudi Meisel was one of the few West German photographers to travel to the GDR several times a year. On assignment from numerous media outlets he was able to document everyday life there – a special thing at that time. In the street photography tradition he is interested in events beyond state-controlled propaganda and staging. Perhaps, in interplay and comparison, the images provide insights into the question of dispositions that make up things like »Germanness« or characteristics of the »German people.«

**Rudi Meisel**, born in 1949 in Wilhelmshaven and raised in Osnabrück, studied photography in the class of Otto Steinert at the Folkwangschule Essen and in 1975 founded the group collective of photographers VISUM, together with André Gelpke and Gerd Ludwig. From 1971 onwards he worked as a freelance reportage photographer for magazines including Spiegel, ZEIT, stern, Time, Newsweek, Merian, GEO, ZEITmagazin. From 1982 to 1991 he photographed for projects together with Otl Aicher and from 1991 to 2005 he was responsible for the architecture and reportage photography for projects by Normal Foster. He has received many awards for his work - ranging from the Deutscher Jugendfotopreis in 1971 and 1972, Photokina Obelisk in 1972 and 1980, the Kodak Photographic Book Prize in 1979 and the Kulturpreis Lotto Brandenburg in 2014. His reportages have been presented in publications and exhibitions, for example in Museum Folkwang Essen, at the phototriennale Hamburg, in the gallery argus fotokunst in Berlin and in Goethe Institutes worldwide. Rudi Meisel lives and works in Berlin.

### Exhibition

C/O Berlin

22.08. – 08.11.2015

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