



NEW RELEASE

Ruth Stoltenberg Schengen

Texts by Rolf Sachsse, Ruth Stoltenberg

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Schengen – synonym for a Europe of open borders or closed doors?

Schengen is a Luxembourgish winegrowing village that borders on Germany and France. In 1985, the first agreement to eliminate inner-European border controls was signed here, in the very heart of Europe. Today, in the period of the refugee crisis, this agreement has literally reached its limits. Ruth Stoltenberg was raised in this three-country border region and addresses the effects of the opening of the borders on the culture and everyday life of the people who live there. Do houses and front gardens reveal national identities? Or does this region shaped by winegrowing and agriculture have its own cross-national charm?

»Schengen is small, the Schengen Area is large. Schengen is therefore a model for close coexistence in which the differences are as small and as great as those of the people who have earned a living here. Ruth Stoltenberg's pictures are a beautiful and emphatic reminder to all nationalists hung up on unnecessarily exaggerated differences. That is why this book belongs in every school bag of every European child, so they know where they are growing up – in the Schengen Area. Of course, it also belongs on the desks of all European politicians, so they can see what they are fighting for – the restraint of differences to the size of those in Schengen, Apache and Perl.«

– from the text by Rolf Sachsse

Ruth Stoltenberg (born 1962 in Saarburg) received her photographic training at the *Neue Schule für Fotografie* in Berlin and at the *Lichtblick School* in Cologne, after having worked as a television editor. She quickly developed her own artistic handwriting and has now completed several long-term projects. The focus of her work is mostly on historically influenced, abandoned or transitional places. Her works have been exhibited and awarded several times both nationally and internationally, and the most important projects have been published in catalogues and books.

<http://www.ruthstoltenberg.de/>

Exhibitions

Schengen

Haus am Kleistpark, Berlin

17.01. – 24.03.2019

Objekt I

Galerie im Tempelhof Museum, Berlin

24.01. – 03.03.2019

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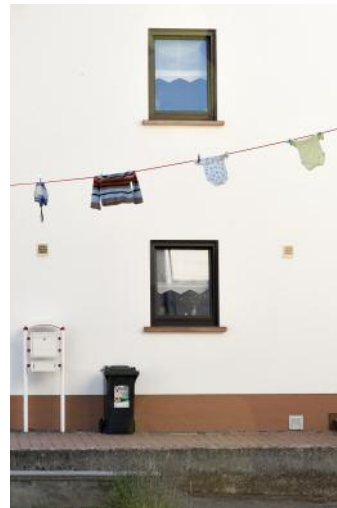
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