

NEW RELEASE

Arne Wesenberg Im UnRuhestand

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Working life is not necessarily followed by retirement

»One must be thankful in life«, the centenarian master baker Walter Gräper explains. He is one of the over 200 »UnRuheständler« (UnRetired or Restless People), who Arne Wesenberg (b. 1974) portrayed with his analogue, large-format camera over a period of more than seven years. What they all have in common is that, despite their old age, they remain in the heart of the community and their professional lives: craftsmen, artists, and actors well past the age of retirement. Arne Wesenberg photographed these unretired people across Germany and posed the questions: How does a society develop, in which people become increasingly older? What comes after a long professional life? The answers provided by the unretired people are extremely varied – just like their portraits. The reason behind their restlessness is different for each of them. Some need the money, while others search for personal fulfillment or simply feel the need to serve the community. Brief biographical texts provide additional information about the individual »UnRuheständler«.

»Die erwerbstätigen Ruheständlerinnen und Ruheständler, die Arne Wesenberg in diesem Band portraitiert, sollte es eigentlich nicht geben – zumindest wenn man vom Normalfall ausgeht, der im deutschen Wohlfahrtsstaat heute institutionalisiert ist. (...) Was der Anstieg von Erwerbstätigkeit im Rentenalter bedeutet, ist umstritten: Sie kann als bedauernde Ausnahme vom arbeitsfreien Ruhestand gesehen werden, als willkommene Flexibilisierung des Lebenslaufs, als eine Lösung für gesellschaftliche Folgeprobleme

der demographischen Alterung oder als ein Ergebnis des erfolgreichen Kampfs gegen Altersdiskriminierung«
– from the Text by Simone Scherger

Arne Wesenberg (born 1974 in Stralsund) studied communications design at the *Werkkunstschule Lübeck* and history of art in Hamburg. Since 2006 he is a communications designer and since 2010 he has been working on his photography project »Im UnRuhestand« (»The Unretired«). From 2010 to 2015 he went to photography classes at the *Ostkreuzschule - School for Photography and Design* in Berlin, with Andreas Mühe, Thomas Meyer and Sven Marquardt. In 2013 Arne Wesenberg won the *Opus Photography Award* and in 2015 the *IPOTY - International people discovery of the year* in the category *People*. Besides he was a finalist at the *Hellerau Photography Award* in 2016 as well as at the *Youmanity imAge Photographiy Award*.

www.arnewesenberg.com

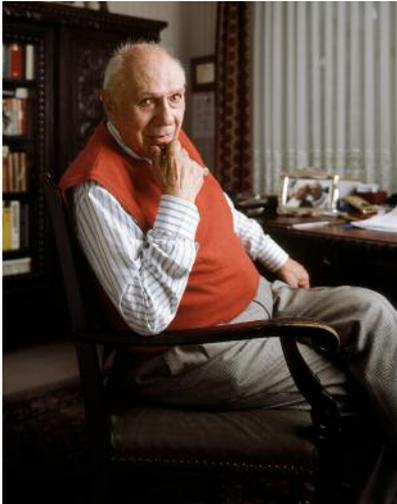
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Press images



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2 Dieter Hallervorden, born 1935, taken in Berlin, 2014
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3 Herbert Feuerstein, born 1937, taken in Lübeck, 2015
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4 Ingeborg Stübs, 1928–2012, taken in Lübeck, 2011
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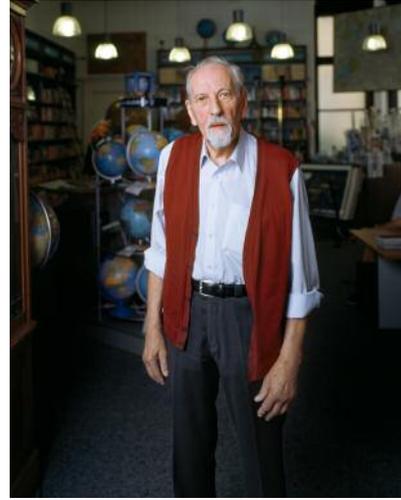
5 Manfred and Jürgen Charchulla, born 1931, taken on Fehmarn, 2011
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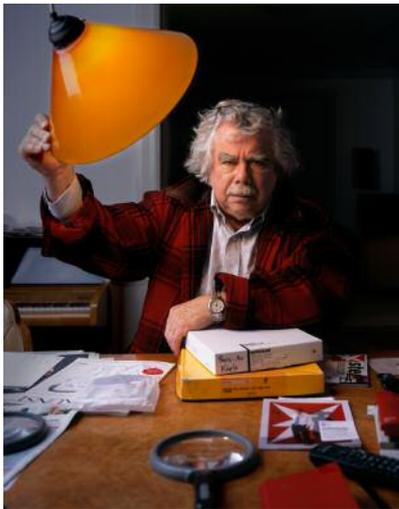
6 Kathi Kink, born 1923, taken in Naring, 2015
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7 Lothar Schirmer, born 1945, taken in München, 2015
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8 Robert Kiepert, 1928–2017, taken in Berlin, 2012
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9 Volker Hinz, born 1947, taken in Hamburg, 2014
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10 Wolfgang Beltracchi, born 1951, taken in Montpellier, France, 2016
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