

# HARDHITTA GALLERY

Moltkestraße 81, 50674 Köln

Bene Taschen

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## Miron Zownir – *Berlin Noir*

March 29 – May 27, 2017



On the 25th of March the Cologne Hardhitta Gallery will open a new solo exhibition by the German artist Miron Zownir - one of the most radical photographers of the present.

In his new book **BERLIN NOIR**, from which the exhibition of the same name is being curated, he documents the timeless urban melancholy and the wild life of Berlin in all its facets thanks to urban landscapes and portraits. At the same time, Show & Publication is a retrospective of

Zownir's photographs, which were created between 1978 and 2016.

In 1978, Berlin was more than ever the mecca of nonconformists and artists. An urban oasis of the unsuitable, which promised unrestricted development. A city that has always hovered over the magic of transformation, then as now. Zownir's works from West Berlin, which has been littered with death, drastically documents the rebellious world pain of the punks, the social lack of perspective of dropouts, drug addicts, casual workers or the homeless.

His recent works, however, show examples of the "Anything goes" in the Berlin clubs, the celebrated body cult of the Love Parade or commercial sex events, which in turn testify to a seemingly boundless freedom. But here, too, the gloomy abstraction of the black and white breaks the surface and reveals the rushing escape into pleasure and pain, solitude in the mass, a depressing premonition of the "morning after".

One thing, however, seems to have remained the same: Berlin is still the longing destination for freaks and slender birds of paradise from all over the world. From the very beginning Zownir gave this extraordinary human being and their "otherness" his attention. Also a number of Berlin originals such as Bruno S., the thickest whore of Germany, Molly Luft, Ben Becker or Iris Berben find their appearance in **BERLIN NOIR**.

His portraits do not remain silent. They are relentlessly expressive and emotional and create a force field in which the individuals become visible with their cultivated passions, in everyday situations, exceptional circumstances or even at the abyss.

Miron Zownir was born in Karlsruhe in 1953. He lives & works in Berlin.

### **Solo- and Groupexhibitions (Selection):**

Hamburg Deichtorhallen / House of Photography (Hamburg), Fotomuseum Winterthur; Museum of Photography (Braunschweig); Center de Cultura Contemporànea (Barcelona); Georgian National Museum of Fine Arts (Tbilisi); Goethe Institute / Red House (Sofia); academy The arts (Berlin); NRW art exhibition (Düsseldorf), Kunstverein Munich; The Horse Hospital (London); Lead Awards Exhibition (Hamburg)

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## **Publications (Selection):**

NYC RIP, Pogo Books; Ukrainian Night, Spector Book; Down and Out in Moscow, Pogo Books; Eyemazing: The New Collectible Art Photography, Thames & Hudson; The Valley of the Shadow: The Photography of Miron Zownir; Miron Zownir: 30 years of Radical Photography, Goethe Institute Sofia, Bulgaria; Darkside, Vol. 1: Photographic Desire and Sexualitay Photographed, Steidl & Partner; Darkside, Vol. 2: Photographic Power and Photographed Violence, Disease and Death, Steidl & Partner; Mono Volume 2, Gomma Books, London; Radical Eye - The Photography of Miron Zownir, Design

## **Opening:**

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 6.00 – 9.00 p.m.

## **Gallery Hours:**

Wednesday - Saturday, 1.00 - 6.00 p.m. or by appointment

## **Location:**

Moltkestraße 81  
50674 Köln

## **Photograph:**

**Berlin, 1979**, Silver gelatin print, 30 x 40 inches © Miron Zownir

## **Upcoming Exhibitions:**

*Gregory Bojorquez*  
Moltkestraße 81  
50674 Köln

The **Hardhitta Gallery** was founded in 2011 by Bene Taschen as a gallery for contemporary photography and painting. After the solo exhibitions of the American photographers Gregory Bojorquez and Joseph Rodriguez, the gallery 2014 extended its program to the Berlin-based photographer Miron Zownir and the Düsseldorf painter Oliver Blum. In the year 2015 the gallery took the American photographer Jamel Shabazz and Arlene Gottfried, the following year also the German painter Ulrike Nattermüller in her program. The Hardhitta Gallery is regularly represented at Paris Photo.