

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, July 11, 2023

AFTER NATURE . ULRIKE CRESPO PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

Announcing a New Prize from 2024

Since the start of the Anthropocene era, since we humans irrevocably began to alter the system of our Earth, the worlds of flora and fauna have come under threat—and we have, too. Will we succeed in changing our economic, social, and cultural systems in order to halt the global human-led destruction of the environment? And what role does photography play in these processes?

C/O Berlin will continue to explore these highly topical questions in an exhibition series, and, together with Crespo Foundation, will award the yearly *After Nature . Ulrike Crespo Photography Prize*. The prize recognizes two individuals or groups with an advanced exhibition and publication practice whose work explores new concepts of nature in the Anthropocene era. Moreover, the prize honors exceptional approaches to the topic of photography after nature and enables the realization of new artistic projects.

With this topic, C/O Berlin and Crespo Foundation open up a dual perspective on the relationship between photography and nature. On the one hand, it highlights the need to develop new ideas of nature in an era where every aspect of the environment has been shaped by human activity. On the other hand, it refers to photography as a medium in which one's relationship to the world has long been documented, constructed, and brokered. During the nineteenth century, photographs were often described as being "after nature" in order to evoke their special proximity to reality.

"Together with Crespo Foundation, we will award the second most substantial prize for photography in Europe, the *After Nature . Ulrike Crespo Photography Prize*. In doing so, we are focusing on the most urgent question of our day. Each year, we will jointly award this prestigious photography prize to two artists, which will culminate in two exhibitions that visually reflect on ecological questions. We look forward to the continuity in our programming and most of all to the first artistic works, which are certain to inspire further discussion."

– Stephan Erfurt, CEO, C/O Berlin Foundation

"Ulrike Crespo's own photographic works displayed her deep understanding of nature. Her artistic practice brought together the macrocosms of landscapes and the microcosms of flora, queried the idea of 'natural beauty,' and showed just what 'photography after nature' can mean. Through her Crespo Foundation, Ulrike Crespo also supported other artists. Now, the Glenkeen Garden she founded in Ireland offers an artist residency with a focus on 'ArtNature/NatureArt'. With *After Nature . Ulrike Crespo Photography Prize*, art photographers are encouraged to

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examine their own gaze on humans and nature. In the exhibition series linked to the prize, shown at C/O Berlin and at Crespo Foundation in Frankfurt am Main, the most varied photo-artistic viewpoints on local and global discourse will be presented.”

– Christiane Riedel, Member of the Executive Board, Crespo Foundation

The yearly awarding of prizes is a two-step process. During the first stage, an international group of experts in curation, academia, and publishing will submit their nominations. The nominated artists will then be invited to submit a proposal for a new work. An international jury will review the submissions and select two artist proposals. Each winning artist or artist team will receive a cash prize of €40,000, as well as an exhibition at C/O Berlin in which they will display their project. They will also publish a joint catalogue.

A new position dedicated to the curatorial management of *After Nature . Ulrike Crespo Photography Prize* has been created within the C/O Berlin programming team. Katharina Täschner is the junior curator of the project since February 2023. She will be responsible for managing the selection process and curating the prize-winning exhibitions. The first winners will be announced in early 2024. Their artistic works will be shown in autumn 2024.

Opening at C/O Berlin on September 16, 2023, the group exhibition *Image Ecology* marks the beginning of this long-term cooperation with Crespo Foundation. The exhibition considers the economic consequences of image-making and presents a global cross-section of innovative approaches by artists examining the environment alongside photographic practices and contexts.

About the Crespo Foundation

The Crespo Foundation is a non-profit foundation based in Frankfurt am Main. The foundation was established in 2001 by the psychologist and photographer Ulrike Crespo (1950-2019) with the aim of supporting people during crucial phases of their personal development, motivating them to realize their potential, and encouraging them to take responsibility for themselves and others. The Crespo Foundation furthers these aims with a wide range of initiatives in the fields of culture, education, and society.

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Exhibition	Sep 2024 – Jan 2025
Opening Hours	Daily . 11:00–20:00
Admission	12 euro . reduced 6 euro
Organizer	C/O Berlin Foundation Amerika Haus . Hardenbergstraße 22–24 . 10623 Berlin Tel +49.30.284 44 16-0 . www.co-berlin.org www.facebook.com/coberlinphoto www.instagram.com/coberlin www.twitter.com/coberlin #coberlin #afternatureprize
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