

## **SOURCE**

**A "workshop and participative art / teaching project" by the artists and teachers Tina Bara (Prof. of Photography) and Alba D'Urbano (Prof. of Intermedia), Academy of Visual Arts, HGB, Leipzig**

Following the recent success of the project "Source" implemented already in collaboration with two art schools, we decided to carry out the project described below, once a year in as many countries. So far we were invited by the University of Art and Design in Milan (Italy), and by the Art Academy in Nanjing (China) to realise this project in a 2-3 week workshop. Both workshops contained about 40 students participating from the subject areas of fine art, communication design, photography and public art. This was the maximum limit of our capacity (20-25 participants would be ideal). At the request of the department director students in Italy completed the project by a publication and in China we supported the installation of an exhibition.

### **General Project Description:**

Project "SOURCE" is dedicated to the analysis and construction of photographic images, that we will discover within family albums.

In this context, "SOURCE" thematises social processes and changes that emerge between and in the progression of generations.

Particular attention will be paid to the aspects related to the representation of the human body and that of portraits, but also the involvement of figures in space, their relation to architecture and to objects that appear in the pictorial space, with which the sitters more or less consciously interact.

The photographs will be formally and medium-reflexively examined via a process of intensive observation and research, in regards to their sociological, psychological and historical components. Students will be taught an awareness of what the photographs can tell, including that of private family history and beyond. We will teach them to formulate their findings in short texts.

In addition, we will develop new, current photographic images and/or video works with the students, that respond to the selected and analysed photographs.

The word "SOURCE" in a figurative sense refers to origin, and the project reflects on the theme of provenance and the behavioural aspects that are passed down from generation to generation. In our project we connect this to the production and use of photographic images, that are ritually made and stored by families for the purpose of memory. We will also reflect on the transition of analogue to digital photography and the technical and aesthetic aspects of various time-related apparatuses.

"SOURCE" is about the interaction of adult children with their parents, and the appropriation of photographs with their corresponding biographical and action intended backgrounds, in order to achieve a kind of revival of some of the thousands of perished moments from the private archives of the world, that are collectively similar and yet always of individual and historical significance, as general history and collective social developments can always be read within and represented in private photographs and the stories of families contained within them.

"SOURCE" reflects on the present through the past.

### **Conditions for participation:**

Basic knowledge and practice of photography and image processing, and/or handling of time-based media. Availability of digital SLR cameras, and/or video cameras and computer access for every student.