STADT GOSLAR

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His monumental photos have brought him international fame

The Goslar Kaiserring 2008 goes to Andreas Gursky

GOSLAR. The German artist Andreas Gursky will be awarded the Kaiserring of the City of Goslar for the year 2008 – as was announced by the Lord Mayor of Goslar Henning Binnewies on Friday evening at the traditional New Year's reception at Goslar's Kaiserpfalz. The artist was born in 1955 in Leipzig and lives and works in Düsseldorf. He will receive the Kaiserring at a special meeting of the Goslar Counsel on 11th October.

With their choice of Andreas Gursky the jury is honouring an artist who has risen to world fame with his large-scale works. Part of the Jury's decision states: "The pictures of a world (society) that Andreas Gursky has created in the last fifteen years present chaos and design, formlessness and form, fragmentariness and monumentality at the same time. They disrupt the narrow perspective of the individual viewer; in order to act as a mirror and a corrective to social reality they go beyond mere portrayal. Like an anamorphic or distorted picture, more enters one's gaze than one is normally accustomed to see. These are fictions made from a substrate of facts. Overwhelmed by the magnetism of the photographs – which is enhanced by the extremely large formats, the perfection, the brilliance and partly also by their pathos when arranged in diptychs – familiar images rise up in the beholder's mind ... Andreas Gursky's way of working is not subtractive, as in analogue photography, in which the motif is set from the beginning, but additivel individual elements are pieced together during the digital postproduction to form a new image. The conceptual approach of his teachers, the Kaiserring recipients Bernd and Hilla Becher, has left an unmistakable mark on his work: the way he groups individual exposures into typologies and catalogues of forms that direct the viewer's gaze to the structures is likewise based on the principle of the montage. But while the Bechers have clung firmly to documentary analogue photography, Gursky combines its binding qualities with the liberty of digital photography."

Andreas Gursky, who began his artistic career with small-scale photographs showing the relationship between man and his environment, changed in 1988 to large-size works, and has come to be regarded as one of the leading contemporary photographers in the world. Since the end of the 1980s he has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions home and abroad. His works may be found in major national and international collections. A

Editorial Department:
Susanne Rossdeutscher
susanne.rossdeutscher@goslar.de
Markt 1 (Rathaus)
38640 Goslar
Telephone (05321) 704 226
Telefax (05321) 704 1226

solo exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Basel until 24 February 2008 is currently showing works from his most recent work phase.

Further information as well as visual material can be found on the internet sites of the Mönchehaus Museum, www.moenchehaus.de, the city of Goslar www.goslar.de, and Galerie Monika Sprüth, www.spruethmagers.com. We will be happy to help you with any questions – please phone 05321 704226. Information is also available from the Kaiserring Commissary of the City of Goslar, Inge Langner, Tel. 05321 26950.

The Goslar Kaiserring is one of the most celebrated distinctions for modern art worldwide. Prior to Andreas Gursky it has been awarded to Henry Moore, Max Ernst, Alexander Calder, Joseph Beuys, Günther Uecker, Georg Baselitz, Christo, Gerhard Richter, Cindy Sherman, Sigmar Polke, Christian Boltanski, Jenny Holzer, Robert Longo, Jörg Immendorff and last year Matthew Barney.

Brief lifelines

Andreas Gursky

1955 born in Leipzig

1978-1981 Folkwangschule (GHS), Essen

1981-1987 Kunstakademie, Düsseldorf

1985 Worked with Bernd Becher (in his master class)

Lives and works in Düsseldorf.

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