

**K20**

**Press information**

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**Stiftung Kunstsammlung**

**Nordrhein-Westfalen**

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## **Thomas Ruff from September 12, 2020 at K20**

The comprehensive exhibition of works by Thomas Ruff (b. 1958, lives in Düsseldorf) on the lower level of K21 focuses on photographic series from the past twenty years, for which the artist, one of the most important protagonists of contemporary photography, hardly ever picked up a camera himself. For his often large-format images, he instead used found photographs from a wide variety of sources. The exhibition therefore not only offers an overview of Ruff's work of the past decades, but also of nearly 170 years of photographic history.

The image sources range from nineteenth century studio photography to machine-made photographs of distant planets, from post-war press photos to propaganda images from the People's Republic of China. In each series, Ruff explores the technical conditions of photography by examining these highly varied pictorial worlds: the negative, digital image compression, or rasterization in offset printing. At the same time, he takes the afterlife of the images in archives, databases, and on the Internet into consideration, thus formulating highly complex perspectives on the photographic medium and the world that has always been photographed.

**K21**

*Curator: Falk Wolf*

The exhibition "Thomas Ruff" is made possible by National-Bank, Essen.

***Thomas Ruff***

*K20, September 12, 2020 – February 7, 2021*

*Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf*

**Press conference: September 10, 2020, 11 am at K20**

#ThomasRuff

#K21

Media partner of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

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