

Jury Assessment

The Jury commends the high overall quality of the exhibition, which presents us with a broad spectrum of contemporary photography in Germany in an exciting form.

After in-depth discussion, the four-person jury unanimously selected artist Andrea Grützner, who was born in Pirna in 1984, as the award winner with her group of works entitled “Erbgericht”. *Gegenwart / Erinnerung* (Present / Memory), the underlying theme of this year’s foundation prize is implemented here convincingly and with diversity. The subject and content of her long-running series is the former Erbgericht inn, built in 1898 in the Saxony village of Polenz where the artist’s grandparents live, which has been condensed over the decades into a historically evolved collage of space and materials resulting from numerous alterations. She translates her own and handed down memories of this place and the life that happened there into standalone images that iridesce between painting, collage and photography. In Erbgericht, Andrea Grützner works with a large-format camera and tripod, several flashes and coloured filters almost as installations in the space, to translate it in turn into the two-dimensional.

The aim is to break up the space – ultimately, the tension relationship between real, tangible location and transformation into images and imagination. As the artist says in her statement, the winding spaces, corners and objects are bound up with memories of generations. She scans the spaces with coloured flashes and the intangible shadows determine the image structure, becoming metaphors of memory.

With *Erbgericht*, her group of works produced purely in analogue, Andrea Grützner creates something new in terms of form and content. Here, the timescales of past, present and future even in the medium of photography are fascinatingly interwoven into disconcerting representations of reality.

Ann-Christin Bertrand, Stefan Gronert, Matthias Harder, Ute Noll
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