

The Jewish Diaspora of Berlin

April 30 – May 5, 2023

Katholische Akademie Berlin

JEWISHNESS. OTHERNESS. PERFORMANCE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC REFLECTION

April 30, 7 pm – Public Evening Lecture in english

Frédéric Brenner is an internationally acclaimed photographer, known for exploring questions of longing, belonging and exclusion for over four decades. His major opus, *Diaspora, Homelands in Exile*, is the result of a 25-year search in over 40 countries to create a visual record of the Jewish people at the end of the 20th century, a case study of the human condition. Initially intended to chronicle vanishing Jewish communities, the project evolved into a probing examination of the multiple, dissonant identities of a scattered people.

Brenner initiated an international photographic project, *This Place*, in which he invited eleven other artists to join him in exploring Israel and the West Bank as place and metaphor. His own contribution is entitled *An Archeology of Fear and Desire*.

His most recent photographic essay, *Zerheilt: Healed to Pieces* (Hatje-Cantz 2021), explores Berlin as a vast spectrum of expressions and performances of Jewishness. Via a series of fragmentary insights into this incubator of paradox and dissonance, he reflects on conflicting narratives of redemption and sheds light on an ever-so-present absence. Like a shattered mirror, these images offer a polyphonic, sometimes bizarre and disturbing reflection of and on a topography of displacement and estrangement, far beyond the story of Berlin or of Jews.



Photo: Frédéric Brenner

In cooperation with the
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Program

The Jewish Diaspora of Berlin

Sunday, April 30

- 09:00 Arrival
- 13:00 Arrival
- Evening **Public Evening Lecture**
- 19:00 **Frederic Brenner** “Diaspora in Photography”

Monday, May 1

- Morning **Seminar**
- 09:00 **Micha Brumlik** “The Coming Out of the Jewish Community in the Old Federal Republic: the Frankfurt Fassbinder Affair”
- Afternoon
- 13:00 Tour of Jewish Berlin
- Evening **Lecture**
- 19:00 **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin** “Safed: Jewish Exile in Falastin?”

Tuesday, May 2

- Morning **Seminar**
- 09:00 **Elad Lapidot** “Are Israelis in Berlin a New Jewish Diaspora?”
- Afternoon
- 13:00 Diaspora Vertreibung Museum
- Evening
- 19:00 Free Evening

Wednesday, May 3

- Morning
- 09:00 **Matti Shmuelof & Abdull Kader**
- Afternoon
- 14:00 Jewish-Muslim Conversations in Berlin
- Evening **Lecture**
- 19:00 **Jerry Z. Muller** “Professor of Apocalypse: The Many Lives of Jacob Taubes”
- 20:30 Festive Dinner

Thursday, May 4

- Morning **Workshop**
- 09:00 **Maxim Biller**
- Afternoon
- 13:00 Free afternoon
- Evening
- 18:00 Concert at Barenboim-Said Akademie

Friday, May 5

- Morning
- 09:00 **Amir Engel and Stephan Steiner** Closing Remarks
- Afternoon
- 13:00 Kabbalat Shabat – Fraenkelufer Synagogue

Professor of Apocalypse: The Many Lives of Jacob Taubes May 3, 7 pm – Book Presentation in english

A descendant of entire generations of eminent Jewish scholars from Eastern Europe and a rabbi himself, Jacob Taubes (1923-1987) was an eminent figure of Jewish life in postwar Germany. His path led him from his native Vienna via Zurich to Israel, from there to New York and finally to West-Berlin.

Taubes was an intellectual impresario whose life was marked by the conflicts between Judaism and Christianity, but also by the theories of modernity, especially Critical Theory. Thus unfolds the narrative of the many lives of this professor of apocalypse, an advocate of utopia whose friendships and enmities open up an entire panorama of postwar intellectual life and reconnected German debates with European, American, and Israeli circles.

