

Paul Albert Leitner
Mein Archiv wächst und ich bin 66

>Opens: Saturday, 07.12.2023 19:30
>Exhibition run: 08.10.–25.11. 2023

Paul Albert Leitner is the ideal cast when it comes to the embodiment of the archival in itself in contemporary Austrian photography. Leitner, the constant traveler, goes home when he returns, on "home duty," as he says, to organize thoughts and images, to a mountain landscape of boxes with thousands and thousands of meticulously labeled photographs, found objects, newspaper clippings, texts, collages. On the occasion of a generous donation of 80 framed photographs by Paul Albert Leitner to the Fotohof archiv – cityscapes, landscapes, street scenes, self-portraits – a representative overview of the work of this great Austrian photographer is shown.

With irony and wit he often appears in his pictures himself: »Me, myself in a hotel« – the hotel room as transitory space par excellence – as always with precise caption, concretely named with name and room number, place and time - becomes the stage for the staging of the very conscious dwelling, of the here and now. Leitner, in his paintings an art figure in changing episodes of life, is a master of seeing the glimmer in the very everyday, of recognizing the moment as glamorous. Sensitive as he is to the poetry in the everyday, Leitner is concrete and matter-of-fact in his photographic approach, a documentarist in fact. He shows the beauty and the strangeness of the world; and in doing so, he also reveals the magic of photography: his photographs are testimonies to the uniqueness of constellations and the preciousness of the fleeting moment.

Paul Albert Leitner, born 1957 in Jenbach, Tyrol, lives and works in Tyrol and Vienna.