

Rheinhafen Düsseldorf – Photographs by Tata Ronkholz

Tata Ronkholz (1940–1997) was one of the first students of the photographer Bernd Becher at the renowned Kunstakademie Düsseldorf alongside Candida Höfer, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff and Thomas Struth. Bernd Becher and his wife Hilla were pioneers of conceptual art and contemporary photography, who documented industrial sites threatened by demolition or collapse.

The project *Rheinhafen Düsseldorf*, initiated by Tata Ronkholz and Thomas Struth in 1979, consistently furthered their professors' vision. In a series of impressive interior and exterior photographs, the artists documented a region of Düsseldorf's industrial harbor before it succumbed to the demolition ball in 1981. Even at the very beginning, the project stood under great time pressure. This became even greater after Thomas Struth withdrew from the project in 1980, and Tata Ronkholz completed the extensive interior documentation on her own. Nonetheless, her work was a great success, and her exceptional black and white photographs now testify to the 'extinct' Düsseldorf harbor.

The works were first exhibited at the Stadtmuseum Düsseldorf in 1981. Grisebach is pleased to present this project in an exhibition of around 40 works on the occasion of the Düsseldorf Photo Weekend.