

Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Centre, presents:

## **DANIEL & GEO FUCHS** **STASI SECRET ROOMS**

August 16 to October 5 2014

*Press release*



This year, it has been 25 years since the Berlin Wall came down, and the Cold War came to an end. To mark this occasion, Nikolaj Kunsthal presents the photo exhibition Stasi Secret Rooms by Daniel & Geo Fuchs from August 16 to October 5 2014.

**THE EXHIBITION OPENS SATURDAY AUGUST 16 AT 2 PM.**  
**THE ARTISTS WILL GIVE A GUIDED TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION AT 3 PM.**

The artist duo Daniel & Geo Fuchs have travelled the length and breadth of East Germany to photograph the abandoned offices, the shelves of records, and the clinically clean interrogation rooms left behind by Stasi, or as it was officially known, the Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (MfS), when the Wall came down in 1989, and Stasi facilities and intelligence material were confiscated the following year.

Daniels and Geo Fuchs have been working carefully with the arrangements and the natural light in these rooms in order to create a credible feeling of entering a time in which detectives fought with umbrellas, the world was divided into East and West and scrupulously journalised, and in which no-one could fully trust his or her neighbour.

In its heyday, Stasi numbered some 100,000 full-time employees and probably more than 200,000 informants. It is estimated that together they gathered information on at least every third of the citizens in order to defend socialism East German style. This required interrogation rooms, office facilities, and not least 180,000 running metres

for the intelligence collected and stored, often on secret addresses far way from the public eye.

Some of the old rooms have been given new functions, some have been left standing as monuments, and yet others have been left in virtual time capsules for 25 years. In addition to the original photos, the artists will be adding a new work for the presentation at Nikolaj Kunsthal.

The artists say:

*"2014 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Berlin Wall coming down, and with this the beginning of a reunited and democratic Germany. Therefore, it is particularly important to us this year to make visible the power which Stasi enforced on its fellow citizens: how its systematic strategies of humiliation and methods of obliterating the individual helped keep the East German people in a terrifying iron grip."*

## **ABOUT DANIEL & GEO FUCHS**

Daniel Fuchs (b. 1966) and Geo Fuchs (b. 1969) were both born and raised in West Germany. Since 1995, they have worked together on several conceptual projects, of which the most notable besides Stasi Secret Rooms (2004) include the photo series ToyGiants (2006) – photos of Selim Varol's huge collection of toys - and Famous Eyes (2002), a documentation of contemporary celebrities posing with close-ups of their own eyes.

The artists' works have been shown worldwide at a number of solo and group presentations, among these *Kunsthalle Wien; Museum Villa Stuck Munich; Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt; Norton Museum of Art Palm Beach; Andy Warhol Museum Pittsburgh; CAC Malaga; Kunsthal Rotterdam; Biennale of Contemporary Art Thessaloniki.*

See more on: [www.daniel-geo-fuchs.com](http://www.daniel-geo-fuchs.com)

## **CONTACT**

Daniel and Geo Fuchs will be in Copenhagen August 14–17 2014.

For artist interviews, press photos and additional information, please contact Head of PR, Nikolaj Kunsthal, Eva Bjerring m: [pr@nikolajkunsthal.dk](mailto:pr@nikolajkunsthal.dk) or t: +45 3318 1784 / mobile +45 2124 7393

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