

**DANIEL & GEO FUCHS: STASI - SECRET ROOMS****12 June – 13 September 2015 WING, MEDIApoint****Media preview: 11 June 2015 at 11.00 am****Artist/curator talks: 12 June 2015 at 12.00 am****Opening night: 12 June 2015 from 6.00 to 8.00 pm**

In January 2004, Daniel and Geo Fuchs were invited to an artist residence in Berlin to work on new projects. There they became aware of the structural legacy of the regime of DDR, the German Democratic Republic: the office buildings of Stasi, the East German Ministry of State Security, its prisons and archives. More than 15 years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, some of these locations remained virtually untouched, with office furnishings still intact. In the rooms found by the artists, the trappings and symbols of unmerciful pursuit and oppression were perfectly conserved.

In the following years, the two artists travelled to East Germany several times to research the historical background of these locations. Their pictures offer us a look behind the mechanisms of State Security and its amalgamation of architecture, power and powerlessness. To this end, the Fuchs duo imposed a strict procedure in that they photographed all of the rooms from the same perspective. The result is pictures of relentless consequence and clarity, from blind surveillance monitors in a control room to the chambers of the committing magistrate in Hohenschönhausen with its flower-patterned wallpaper. The images reveal the desolation and coldness of the system, whereas the long corridor from the same prison facility, with its interrogation cells laid out on both sides, takes on a completely new aspect when set against the backdrop of political discourse of the past.

In precise, large-format photographs, Daniel and Geo Fuchs show us rooms used for decades for interrogation by the Ministry of State Security of the DDR, prison cells for political prisoners, as well as the offices of Erich Mielke, the former Minister of State Security. The stored files – endless stacks of protocols of control and espionage, division and corruption – bear witness to the total control that the regime exerted for over 40 years. The exhibition presents photographs that like a maelstrom draw the observer into this frightening chapter of recent German history.

When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, efforts were made to cover up Stasi intelligence activities by destroying as many records as possible. In order to prevent Stasi from further destroying existing archive materials, local citizens began occupying Stasi workplaces all over DDR. When the border was opened, citizens of the DDR could pass freely to the west, and with the reunification of Germany the border crossing was shut down at 12 midnight on 30 June, 1990, exactly 45 years after its establishment.

**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, including “STASI - Secret Rooms” (2004–2007), “Toygiants” (2004–2008) as well as “Famous Eyes” (1999–2002), a documentation of contemporary celebrities posing with close-ups of their own eyes. Their works have been shown worldwide at a number of solo and group exhibitions as well as art fairs, including Kunsthalle Wien, Museum Villa Stuck Munich, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Norton Museum of Art Palm Beach, Andy Warhol Museum Pittsburgh, CAC Malaga, Kunsthal Rotterdam, and Biennale of contemporary Art Thessaloniki.

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