

Michael Danner Projects



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Critical Mass/Kritische Masse: Library

Nuclear Power in Germany 2012

99 books, magazines and records; variable dimensions

During the 1980s, the debate about nuclear power in Germany was accompanied by a virtually unmanageable number of publications not few of which reached best-seller status. Critical Mass/Kritische Masse: Library is a loose compilation of such books, magazines and records containing contributions of a large number of involved parties, among them operating companies, scientists, state representatives and anti-nuclear activist groups.

The ambitious development of nuclear power was intended as a means to accelerate growth and overcome the economic stagnation of the 1970s. For the conservation movement, this energy policy was the symbol of an obsolete path to growth and the anti-democratic confraternity of industry and politics. "Nuclear sleaze", "nuclear lobby", "nuclear mafia", "nuclear state" were some of the most popular slogans used at that time.

A look at the list of the various authors and editors from the anti-nuclear resistance movement shows the capability of integration of this heterogeneous mass movement. Publications served the production of knowledge accessible to everyone; in fact, numerous citizens acquired extensive technical knowledge, helping them, for instance, in their attempts to fight

official approval procedures. The unsettling appearance of many front pages is significant of the acrimonious conflict about a technology that embodies the paradoxicalities of modern life like few others do.

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About

Born in Reutlingen (Germany) in 1967, I now live in Berlin. I studied photography at the Fachhochschule Bielefeld (D) and the University of Brighton (UK) and subsequently lived in London from 1997 to 2000.

My artistic and photographic work focuses on the life-world. Here, I develop visual strategies that serve as a means of stepping back from the scene at hand, thus allowing for observation, interpretation and staging.

The distance thus achieved creates space for various levels of meaning, such as social and historical references or medial reflections. My aim is to facilitate a dialogue between image and recipient that reaches beyond the subject itself and links with the observer's life-world.

In addition to numerous publications and exhibitions, my photographic works have been entered into renowned collections and have been awarded many prizes.

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