

WEEGEE BY WEEGEE

To
FRITZ GRUBER,
who was my
photographic INSPIRATION
& To the whole
photographic world
Weegee
N.Y. 1964

from: Weegee, Weegee by Weegee, 1964

**More than 5000 photobooks,
a myriad of notes, exhibition
catalogues and printed
matter, and among it all,
many stories ...**

**From Abbott
to Zurborn,
from Tillmans
to Steichen.**

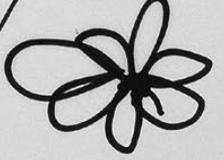
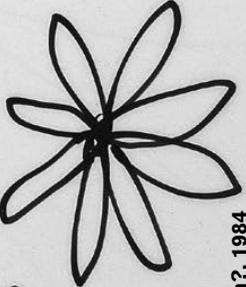
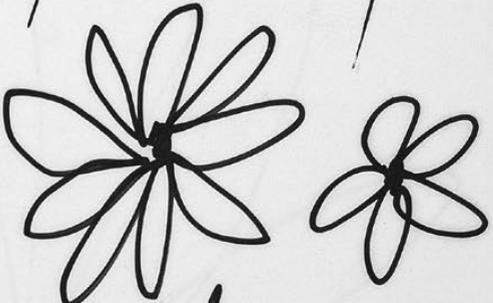
The Gruber Library: a Universe of Photography

Renate and L. Fritz Gruber's photobook collection is a working library of unique relevance to the history of photography: with over 5,000 books, its cultural value is initially reflected in a multitude of outstanding monographic publications, which now rank among the incunabula of the medium. However, the library reveals a profoundly democratic way of thinking about and mediating photography when viewed as a whole: with its encyclopaedic profile, its 70-year-plus genesis and its utilisation.

Leo Fritz Gruber (1908–2005) is a key figure in photography. Using his social and creative skills with virtuosity, he built up an international network of personal relationships. He and his wife Renate invited a multitude of people to soirees and discussions at their private home in Cologne. The address soon became an unofficial attraction to the photography scene across the entire Western world. Those invited often expressed their gratitude with a photobook. The library thus traces a social matrix of friendships and collegial relationships that stretches back into the 1930s. The signatures and inscriptions range from Henri Cartier-Bresson to Robert Frank, from Weegee to William Klein, from Berenice Abbott to Gisèle Freund.

For the book and photography lovers L. Fritz and Renate Gruber, the publications in the library were an indispensable resource for garnering information on the medium and the work of various photographers. For them, the library was nothing less than a universe of photography.

Aur Berta, Renate,
Fritz,
our inspiring friends.
Ed, Anneke,
Johnny, Köh,
10 February 1985



from: Ed van der Elken, Amsterdam?, 1984

The Gruber Library: the cornerstone of the first photobook museum in the world

Thanks to the ZeroFourFoundation gGmbH, the PhotoBook-Museum gUG has managed to secure a unique photobook treasure of great international importance: The Gruber Library: The Renate and L. Fritz Gruber Photobook Collection. In collaboration with the ZeroFourFoundation, the museum has taken the initiative to make this unparalleled piece of cultural heritage accessible to the public. Since its internationally acclaimed founding exhibition in Cologne's Carlswerk in 2014, the objective of the PhotoBookMuseum has been to promote the photobook as an independent form of photographic expression. The previously mobile museum is currently planning a permanent location in Cologne. Here the Gruber Library will become accessible and experienceable using digital strategies and tactile spatial presentations. The museum's intention is to acquire, research and present further collections of international significance. Following in the spirit of Renate and L. Fritz Gruber, the Gruber Library will also continue to grow. A collection in which the Grubers' idea of democracy is expressed through photography: a juxtaposition and coexistence of positions, perspectives and different points of view.

Brassaï

Pour
L. Fritz Gruber
on ne veut plus
amicalelement
B. M. / ad



ÉDITIONS NEUF
PARIS

le 22 mai
1962

The PhotoBookMuseum

The PhotoBookMuseum gUG is the only museum in the world dedicated exclusively to the photobook. Its main focus is the democratic potential that the medium offers. As a museum of the 21st century, it sees itself as a vibrant, social space, open to a broad audience. Having functioned thus far as a mobile museum, the search is now on for a permanent location in Cologne, where it can work on long-term projects involving national and international collections.

ZeroFourFoundation

The ZeroFourFoundation gGmbH promotes the arts, seeks out critical engagement with visual cultures and works for the preservation of visual cultural heritage. Its emphasis is on photography and photobook culture. Within this framework, the ZeroFourFoundation will place the Gruber Library at the permanent disposal of the PhotoBookMuseum for educational purposes and also supports the museum's other collection and education projects. The ZeroFourFoundation is especially committed to the advancement of diversity as well as international and interdisciplinary exchange. As such, it consciously operates at the interface of art, science and society.

**ZEROFOUR
FOUNDATION**

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The PhotoBookMuseum

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L. Fritz Gruber

dediziert

Chargesheimer

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