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# MUSEUM LUDWIG

## PRESS RELEASE

June 7 – September 22, 2019

### **Benjamin Katz: Berlin Havelhöhe, 1960/1961**

Photography room, 2nd floor

Press conference: Thursday, June 6, 2019, 10 a.m.

#### Speakers:

Yilmaz Dziewior, Director, Museum Ludwig

Barbara Engelbach, Curator

Benjamin Katz, Artist

Benjamin Katz became known in the 1980s as a fixture of the art scene in West Germany. He took portraits of artists such as Georg Baselitz, James Lee Byars, A.R. Penck, Cindy Sherman, and Rosemarie Trockel, photographed the bustling art scene at openings, and documented the creation of major exhibitions such as *Westkunst* in Cologne in 1981, *documenta 7* in Kassel in 1982, and *von hier aus* in Düsseldorf in 1984.

On the occasion of the eightieth birthday of Benjamin Katz (born on June 14, 1939, in Antwerp, Belgium), the Museum Ludwig will present his series of photographs *Berlin Havelhöhe* (1960/1961), which has never before been shown in its entirety. The series was recently acquired directly from the artist's archive. Even before Katz devoted himself professionally to photography, he captured his surroundings in 1960 and 1961 during an eighteen-month stay at the Havelhöhe hospital. Suffering from tuberculosis, he spent his time there as a patient and photographed everyday life: his fellow patients, the hospital staff, the buildings built during the Nazi era as an air force academy, and the surrounding area. The photographs represent a socio-historical as well as an artistic and personal document, since they record Katz's beginnings as a photographer. *Berlin Havelhöhe* also exemplifies an image of the artist as a young man.

Director Yilmaz Dziewior: "The Museum Ludwig has a large collection of Katz's portraits of artists spanning several decades. It also includes his extensive documentation of the 1981 exhibition *Westkunst* as well as photographs from the installation of many exhibitions. I am all the more delighted that we were able to acquire *Berlin Havelhöhe*, a significant early series by Katz. We would like express our warmest thanks for his trust and for sharing his memories with us."

The entire series will be shown in the form of forty-one photographs printed in three different sizes and 318 vintage prints mounted on A4 paper. On the first floor, as part of the permanent collection, the Museum Ludwig will also present Katz's well-known portraits of artists, which he took during his studio visits beginning in the 1980s, including Georg Baselitz, A.R. Penck, Gerhard Richter, and Rosemarie Trockel.

*Benjamin Katz: Berlin Havelhöhe, 1960/1961* is the sixth presentation in the photography room, which since 2017 has featured changing selections of the approximately 70,000 works from the Museum Ludwig photography collection. The photography room is located in the permanent collection on the second floor.

An exhibition catalogue will be published by Hirmer Verlag. With texts by Yilmaz Dziewior, Barbara Engelbach, and Benjamin Katz, 160 pages, 73 illustrations, in German and English, €22 (retail price), €20 (museum price).

The exhibition is sponsored by Dr. Becker Klinikgruppe and the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst am Museum Ludwig.

Curator: Barbara Engelbach

### **Website and Social Media**

The Museum Ludwig will be posting about the exhibition on its social media channels with the hashtag #MLxKatz.

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Vimeo: @MuseumLudwig – [www.museum-ludwig.de](http://www.museum-ludwig.de)