

F.C. GUNDLACH
YOU'LL NEVER WATCH ALONE
8 MAY UNTIL 16 AUGUST 2026

F.C. Gundlach. You'll Never Watch Alone focuses on the impact of F.C. Gundlach (1926–2021) as a photographer, gallery owner, collector, entrepreneur and networker. The exhibition showcases his iconic colour photographs as well as unpublished black-and-white and colour shots, and works by his role models, contemporaries and successors. The exhibition is staged to mark the 100th anniversary of F.C. Gundlach's birth as part of the 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026.

F.C. Gundlach became renowned for fashion photography taken around the globe. An influential photographer and leading figure in a fashion, art and culture network, he was closely involved in the production and reception of German fashion magazines. His many cover images not only shaped how fashion was staged and presented, but also the related social concepts of gender and identity.

Taking Gundlach's work as a starting point, the exhibition investigates photography's emergence as a visual culture, its associated milieu since the 1950s, and its impact on social trends and movements. As the show's title implies, photography does not exist in a vacuum. Gundlach's cooperations with others stretched from Paris to New York and Tokyo, connecting publishing, the photography industry, the gallery scene, and the museum world. They crucially shaped his ideas as a photographer, collector and supporter of this medium. His personal contacts constantly inspired him to experiment with new stylistic forms and, in this way, set new standards for others. His activities as a collector were similarly marked by the same curiosity and openness.

In showcasing Gundlach's multifaceted oeuvre, the exhibition explores biographical continuities and fractures as well as photography's social development as a visual medium. For instance, as a gallery and laboratory owner and a teacher in Hamburg and Berlin, Gundlach's promotion of this medium lent a new visibility to new talents just as much as the discourse of photography itself. The exhibition seeks to locate F.C. Gundlach's oeuvre in a comprehensive context and highlight his importance in developing photography in the contested space of commissioned works, art and technology.

Through his diverse activities, trips and dialogues with other actors in the field of photography, Gundlach decisively influenced the visual culture of his day. In turn, he was also shaped by social movements, political decisions and trends. In addressing such reciprocity, the exhibition not only examines photography's inherent connection to cultural and social

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developments, but also illustrates how Gundlach's landmark visions paved the way for decoding and understanding images in our own time.

Actively committed to Hamburg, the place he chose to live, he played a significant role in establishing a culture of photography in the city. His works and the collection, administered by the F.C.Gundlach Foundation, continue to have an impact today.

On display are 130 photographs by F.C. Gundlach and 70 works from his collection, which are placed in relation to one another, including works by Erwin Blumenfeld, Richard Avedon, Regina Relang, Cindy Sherman, and many others. The Foundation is the sole lender of works for this first major show of Gundlach's oeuvre since his death in 2021. Although coinciding with the centenary of his birth, it is not intended as a retrospective. Instead, taking decisive stages in his life as exemplary offers new perspectives on his oeuvre and the scene around the culture of photography emerging in the 20th century. Apart from his famous, now iconic photographs, the exhibition is showing experimental works and new discoveries by Gundlach and the contemporaries influencing his artistic career.

Curators: Sebastian Lux, Franziska Mecklenburg, Dr. Sophie-Charlotte Opitz.

Catalogue

The comprehensive accompanying catalogue, issued by Hirmer Publishers, presents all the works in the show as well as in-depth essays supplementing each exhibition chapter. Taking up and expanding the exhibition's focus on networks, six experts from the photographic market, performance, freelance photography, institutional research, media sciences and ethics have been invited to respond to the catalogue texts with their own thoughts and ideas. These interdisciplinary contributions also transfer to the catalogue the exhibition's core proposition that photography, as a cultural good, is stimulated and hence further evolved through exchanges and a constant process of experimentation.

Edited by Dr. Sophie-Charlotte Opitz and Sebastian Lux.

An exhibition by the Bucerius Kunst Forum and the F.C. Gundlach Foundation, Hamburg



Parallel to the exhibition *F.C. Gundlach. You'll Never Watch Alone*, the Deichtorhallen Hamburg will present the show *Cocktail Prolongé. F.C. Gundlach special* in the Hall for Contemporary Art from 5 June to 22 September 2026: a kaleidoscope of diverse representations of physicality and the associated desires, fantasies, and emotions that shed new light on F.C. Gundlach.

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The exhibition is staged as part of Hamburg's 9th Triennial of Photography from 5 June to 22 September 2026. Entitled *Alliance, Infinity, Love - in the Face of the Other*, this year's Triennial includes eleven exhibitions in eight museums and exhibition venues in the city. More details: 2026.photo-triennale.de

WE'LL ALWAYS WATCH TOGETHER

FROM JUNE 7, 2026

A collaboration between the Bucerius Kunst Forum, the Folkwang University of Arts, and Fachhochschule Dortmund

Parallel to the main exhibition and the Triennial of Photography Hamburg, the Bucerius Kunst Forum, in collaboration with the Folkwang University of Arts, presents the show *We'll Always Watch Together* at Alter Wall 4, just a few meters away from the Bucerius Kunst Forum. Photography students from Professor Peter Miller's class will show new works that reflect Gundlach's innovative spirit and address current issues in photography. Students from Fachhochschule Dortmund will accompany the exhibition with curatorial texts. The opening on June 6 at 6 p.m. is open to the public.

At the beginning of the 2025 winter semester, Dr. Sophie-Charlotte Opitz, curator of the exhibition *F.C. Gundlach. You'll Never Watch Alone*, presented the research findings to the students in a seminar. The students translated these findings into photographic experiments, both scientifically and artistically, under the supervision of Professor Peter Miller, Chair of Photography and Time-Based Media, and Sophie-Charlotte Opitz.

In his PPS gallery and his laboratory, Gundlach collaborated creatively with numerous artists. There, they experimented, tested media boundaries, discarded ideas, rethought concepts, and approached photography with courage. The students take up this enthusiasm for experimentation in photography and develop it further into their own artistic projects.

Press photos are expected to be available from the end of April.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation.



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