



**18.03 - 02.05  
2015  
EVA LEITOLF**

## PRESS RELEASE

Quai1 is happy to present its upcoming exhibition

### **« POSTCARDS FROM EUROPE 03/15 » by Eva Leitolf**

**Opening on Wednesday January 21, 6:30pm**

Exhibition from March 18 to May 2, 2015



#### **Playa de los Lances, Tarifa, Spain 2009**

A boat carrying twenty-three undocumented Moroccan immigrants went down off Tarifa during a severe storm on 1 November 1988. The bodies of ten who drowned were washed up on the beach at Los Lances. Nine were never found and there were four survivors.

A vessel with more than thirty people on board sank near Tarifa on 15 September 1997. Six passengers survived, fourteen corpses were found on the Playa de los Lances and an unknown number were lost at sea.

*El País, 2 November 1988 and 16 September 1997; Diario de León, 9 October 2002*

#### **EVA LEITOLF**

Eva Leitolf was born in Germany in 1966 and graduated from the California Institute of the Arts. Her work, amongst others, has been exhibited Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Wallach Art Gallery in New York. She is also a regular speaker at art schools and international universities, in particular the Vevey School of Photography. *Postcards from Europe 03/13*, the first part of her research, was published in 2013 by Kehrer (Berlin).

#### **POSTCARDS FROM EUROPE 03/15**

Work from the ongoing archive

Eva Leitolf started her “Postcards from Europe” project in 2006, assembling photographs and texts touching on examples of conflict in the context of global migration. Leitolf’s interest in the way migrants and refugees are treated within the European Union and at its external borders – in Spain and its North African exclaves, southern Italy, Hungary, the Channel ports of Dover and Calais, as well as Germany and Austria – represents a radical departure from the style of reporting we have become accustomed to. Leitolf’s photographs show scenes where incidents of exclusion, xenophobia and violence have

occurred – but empty of people and sometimes without any sign of human civilisation at all. Each of these “eventless” photographs is accompanied by a dry, detached text describing the events to which it refers. Only in the course of reading does it become apparent why the place was worth photographing at all.

Eva Leitolf’s artistic method thus subverts the idea that the medium of photography is universally comprehensible without any prior knowledge, which has existed since the origins of the medium. She challenges both the objectivity attributed to the medium and the belief that photography transports reliable information requiring no further knowledge about the context in which it was created. Furthermore, her approach questions the widely accepted rules and formalisations of media reporting on the concrete and currently omnipresent subject of the fate of refugees. Leitolf resolutely avoids the shock effect of portrayal of violence and instead pursues a photography that studiously ignores the media’s rulebook. Leitolf’s photographs acquire their significance precisely through their avoidance of moral pathos and instrumentalisation.

Exhaustive research goes into the texts accompanying the photographs, for which Leitolf draws on a wide range of sources: news reports and police files, discussions with migrants, victims, representatives of aid organisations and local people. The texts are formulated as pithy objective descriptions and serve – like the photographs – not to provoke shock and scandal at suffering and inhumanity in the context of war, flight and asylum, but to relate behaviours, structures and processes as cause and condition of the conflict in question.

In 2011, Eva Leitolf participated in the Vevey International Photography Award organised by the Festival Images.

This exhibition is supported by the Bavarian State Chancellery and the Federal Commission on Migration FCM. Courtesy Kehrer Berlin Galerie.

[www.evaleitolf.de](http://www.evaleitolf.de)

**HD pictures are available upon request. Each image comes with a text that should be published next to it.**



---

**Permanent space of the Festival Images, Quai1 is dedicated to contemporary photography and presents monographic exhibitions of photographers who participated to the Vevey International Photography Award.**

**Contact :**

Charlotte Terrapon  
Espace Quai1 / Place de la Gare 3 / 1800 Vevey  
[presse@images.ch](mailto:presse@images.ch) / +41 21 922 48 54