

# Between light and time

## About photographic storytelling

© Michael Kröger

In some moments it is worthwhile to start from the surface and go deeper. For example, the question of what attitude is actually embodied in the act of taking a photograph.

Photography literally means: to write into a present time with a light that is present at the moment. What then ends as a moment in a photograph begins to appear to the individual viewer as an incomparable image - and in a new way. Every photograph is unique. It cuts a time out of a space, turns a moment into the image of a narrative. Photographing thus means giving time a pictorial form - that is, thinking about the light in the writing and the traces of time.

Photographs do not pretend to pretend something, but rather testify to something, what and how they show something at the same time. No more and no less. But what exactly happens at the moment of taking a photograph? How does a world that is photographed change? And how can we speak of it appropriately?

Since the early 19th century, photography has made conceivable what was previously considered unimaginable. Whoever takes photographs also thinks of death, of life that has become transient, that has become the image. In the course of his or her lifetime, every photographer becomes the author of a biography of images. Is this probably the reason why people photograph so intensively and store them endlessly? If you don't think about death, you don't think about the time you have left and that photographing reminds you of it. To photograph and face death at the same time is normally not possible.

Only a later text makes it conceivable, as here and now, to link the light in an image with the possibilities of the viewer's language. Only a text makes a photograph an image of a second world. The narrated time of photography is a visible, i.e. true fiction; the story of a photograph recounted in this way is an invisibly narrated construction. In this way, a time of the photographic image appears that is open to the future. Photographs are, figuratively speaking, something like deeper secrets - they open up a unique relationship between

people looking at them and the images of (their) world. It is almost as if a world without photographs had never existed. An impossible question: How would we today have perceived the world without the experience of photographs? Perhaps this experience: a visible closeness to something and an invisible distance to the world, which increasingly arises from photographs.

Translated with [www.DeepL.com/Translator](http://www.DeepL.com/Translator) (free version)