

## Press Release

Press contact

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### In Memory


## THOMAS BILLHARDT

**A condolence book is available for personal expressions of sympathy at CAMERA WORK Gallery.**

**Press requests: [alina.heinze@camerawork.de](mailto:alina.heinze@camerawork.de) or +49 (0)30 310077-73**

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CAMERA WORK · Kantstrasse 149 · 10623 Berlin · Germany · Tuesday to Saturday · 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[www.camerawork.de](http://www.camerawork.de) · [info@camerawork.de](mailto:info@camerawork.de) · +49 (0)30 3100776 ·  [@cameraworkgallery](https://www.instagram.com/cameraworkgallery)

CAMERA WORK Virtual Gallery · <https://camerawork.de/en/virtual-gallery/> · 24/7

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With the death of Thomas Billhardt (May 2, 1937 – January 23, 2025), we have lost one of the most important reportage photographers in the history of the German partition; and as a gallery team, we also lost a friend whom we have represented as a photographer for 26 years and whose photographic life's work is owned by CAMERA WORK AG. Thomas Billhardt's personality and passion for his work have significantly shaped this close collaboration.

At the age of 14, Thomas Billhardt began his training as a photographer under his mother's guidance, and from then on, he devoted himself to the art of photography. This deep attachment to the craft, coupled with an inexhaustible curiosity, drove him on throughout his life. Thomas Billhardt always searched for the moment, the truth and the story behind the pictures. In his reportages and portraits, he not only depicted the world, but also made it tangible and perceptible. His photographic work, which took him to over 50 countries, gave people a voice — especially those who succumbed in the world's crisis regions. He became internationally renowned for his iconic images of the Vietnam War, which became an unforgettable contemporary document for many viewers. Thomas Billhardt was never just a photographer — he was a storyteller and a chronicler of humanity.

As a gallery, we value not only these special talents, but also Thomas Billhardt's warm personality and the friendship we were able to share with him. It is our greatest endeavor to preserve his photographic life's work and to ensure that the significance of his work is preserved for future generations. Thomas Billhardt leaves behind a gap that we cannot close, but which fills us with deep gratitude for the time we spent together.

## **CAMERA WORK**

CAMERA WORK was founded in 1997 in Berlin, and has since then become one of the worldwide leading galleries for photography. With its historically coined gallery name, the gallery has always followed the philosophy to represent, next to world famous classic photographers such as Diane Arbus, Richard Avedon, Patrick Demarchelier, Helmut Newton, Irving Penn, Man Ray, Herb Ritts, and Albert Watson, young and contemporary artists, to manifest the position of photography as an independent genre within visual art and to give room to new positions. CAMERA WORK exclusively represents many prominent contemporary artists in Germany, Europe and around the world such as Jean-Baptiste Huynh, Russell James, Eugenio Recuenco, Martin Schoeller, Christian Tagliavini, Dean West, and David Yarrow. CAMERA WORK regularly participates in major international photography and art fairs, such as Art Central Hong Kong, Zona Maco in Mexico City, Paris Photo, and Photo London.

In 2020, CAMERA WORK established **CAMERA WORK Virtual Gallery** — an innovative, high quality online gallery where art collectors and art lovers can experience exclusive exhibitions: <https://camerawork.de/en/virtual-gallery/>.

**CAMERA WORK AG**, founded in 2001, owns one of the world's most extensive and high-quality private photography collections with numerous vintage works by the most famous photographers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century up to the present. Beyond emphases on fashion, nude, and portrait photography, CAMERA WORK also focuses on the genres architecture and still life. From 2006 to 2019, CAMERA WORK presented THE KENNEDYS museum in Berlin, Germany.