

Press Release | Exhibition + Lab Talk

Ursula Schulz-Dornburg, Düsseldorf
Huts, Temples, Castles
Photographs



Ursula Schulz-Dornburg, Image from *Huts, Temples, Castles* (MACK, 2022). Courtesy of the artist and MACK

Exhibition: 1 April – 17 May 2023

Opening: Friday, 31 March 2023, 6.30pm

Venue: Aedes Architecture Forum, Christinenstr. 18-19, 10119 Berlin

Opening hours: Tue-Fri 11am-6.30pm, Sun-Mon 1-5pm, Saturday, 1 April 2023, 1-5pm

Lab Talk accompanying the exhibition: “Come Out and Play!”, Saturday, 1 April 2023, 3pm

Download press pictures:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n5unf5j2astmje2/AAA_0Dt_dV7w2OyRGFhpbIhla?dl=0

In 1969, photographer Ursula Schulz-Dornburg went to Amsterdam to take pictures in *Jongensland*, an adventure ground on a post-war wasteland, to document the freedom, creativity and independence of children and young people, spending their after-school-time there. These wonderful, inspiring images, show how important physical space is to learn how to participate in a community and take responsibility for one another through

group dynamics and risks assessment. Aedes shows for the first time these 80 photographs recently published by Mack Books, London. By mounting the images framelessly directly on the wall, the artist intended to emphasize the lightness and carefree nature with which the “Huts, Temples, Castles” depicted were constructed. The exhibition opens up a more than ever relevant discussion about young people’s need for physical space for interaction and how children’s well-being is the ultimate indicator of an intact habitat and a functioning society. In addition, an installation built by young people from recycled materials provides them with a hangout for the duration of the exhibition.

Jongensland (later on renamed to Youthland), created just after the Second World War, could only be reached by crossing a canal on a boat. There, children were encouraged to build their own space for adventure and hanging out, using scrap building materials to knock together dens and sheds, tending chickens, rabbits and goats, making bonfires etc. This kind of adventure playground was a deliberate attempt by a group of enlightened European planners and child psychologists to undo the authoritarian ideas of child development that were integral to fascism. In their new vision post war waste lands would become places of free play and creativity. In *Jongensland*’s case it was the city’s police department that established it, to give local working-class boys somewhere to play where they wouldn’t cause trouble.

30 years later, in 1996, Unicef launched an initiative called *Child Friendly Cities* with the objective to make cities liveable places for all, while “the wellbeing of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy habitat, a democratic society and of good governance”.

In the spirit of this programme, the exhibition wants to show that the importance of a real-life space with the opportunity to get their hands on, work out solutions for conflicts and take responsibility for their own actions is more important than ever today, as the virtual space, in which kids spend a lot of time, does not provide that. It makes these 80 photos shown in the exhibition more actual than ever.

The space installation will serve as a bridge to the present situation. *JAS Jugend-Architektur-Stadt e.V.* Berlin | Anna Lena Ochsenreither, Ralf Fleckenstein and *raumdialog - gebaute kommunikation* | Hendrik Weiner in collaboration with *WeTeK* Berlin are developing workshops for youths from the vicinity. Together they will create and build the installation during the course of the exhibition, which will set a focus not only on the search for space for youths in general but also on the pressing topic of displaced children and their social integration.

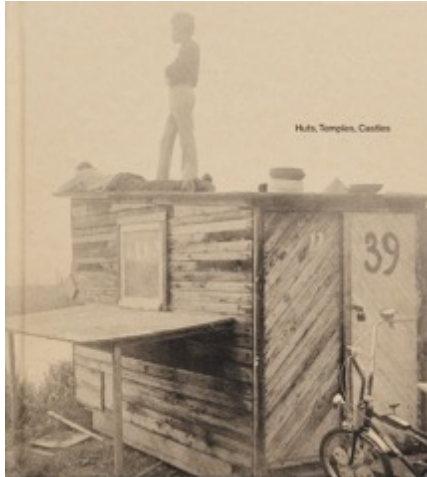
Ursula Schulz-Dornburg

The works of Ursula Schulz-Dornburg are included in the collections of numerous museums, including Tate Modern in London, Musée d’Art Moderne in Paris, Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno, the Ludwig Museum in Cologne, the Ghetty Center in Los Angeles and the K21 Düsseldorf.

Her photographs capture moments of past times, cultures and spaces but at the same time enter into a dialogue with the present. After *Architectures of Waiting* (2004), *Tongkonan, Alang and the House Without Smoke* (2008), *Kurchatov – Architecture of a Nuclear Test Site* (2014) and *Vanished Landscapes* (2021) this is her 5th exhibition at Aedes Architecture Forum.

Publication

The book *Huts, Temples, Castles* published by Mack Books, London, will be available for purchase during the exhibition.



Embossed hardcover 23 x 26 cm,
80 pages, €45
Publication date: September 2022
ISBN 978-1-913620-82-0

Press Reviews

- Case di rifiuti e castelli in aria – [blogautore.repubblica.it](https://smargiassi-michele.blogautore.repubblica.it/2023/02/07/ursula-schulz-dornsborg-vincenzo-pagliuca-architettura-fotografia/)
<https://smargiassi-michele.blogautore.repubblica.it/2023/02/07/ursula-schulz-dornsborg-vincenzo-pagliuca-architettura-fotografia/>
- Remembering Jongensland, a rule-free haven for children – [economist.com](https://www.economist.com/culture/2022/09/09/remembering-jongensland-a-rule-free-haven-for-children)
<https://www.economist.com/culture/2022/09/09/remembering-jongensland-a-rule-free-haven-for-children>
- Ursula Schulz-Dornburg's photographs reveal "junkology" architecture built by children – [dezeen.com](https://www.dezeen.com/2023/01/20/ursula-schulz-dornburg-photography-jongensland-playground-junkology/)
<https://www.dezeen.com/2023/01/20/ursula-schulz-dornburg-photography-jongensland-playground-junkology/>
- Jongensland – [De Standaard](https://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20221103_98071679)
https://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20221103_98071679

Exhibition Opening

Friday, 31 March 2023, 6.30pm

Speaking at the opening

Hans-Jürgen Commerell Aedes, Berlin

Tom Wilkinson Architecture History Lecturer, University of London/Editor The Architectural Review (tbc)

Further information:

www.aedes-arc.de

The exhibition has been generously supported by:
The Obel Award

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Zumtobel, Cemex, Camerich, Erwin Hymer Group

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Lab Talk

COME OUT AND PLAY!

Youth and Placemaking in Public Space

Date: Saturday, 1 April 2023, 3pm

Place: ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory, Christinenstr. 18–19, 10119 Berlin

On the occasion of the Aedes exhibition of Ursula Schulz-Dornburg's photographs from her publication *Huts, Temples, Castles* published by MACK books on the Jongensland Playground Amsterdam in 1969, ANCB will host an international Lab Talk on participatory placemaking and knowledge-sharing with regard to children and youths in public space today.

Programme

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| 3pm | Welcome
ANCB |
| 3.10pm | Introduction
Tom Wilkinson , Architecture History Lecturer, University of London; Editor, The Architectural Review, London |
| 3.25pm | Presentations
Viktoria Walldin , White Arkitekter / Flickrum project, Stockholm
Hannah Wright , Urban Planner, Amsterdam
Anne Müller , Kinderfreundliche Kommunen von UNICEF + Deutschem Kinderhilfswerk e.V., Berlin
Trine Agervig Carstensen , Associate Professor Landscape Architecture + Planning, University of Copenhagen |
| 4.15pm | Panel Discussion
Moderator: Maria Vassilakou , Urban Planner, Consultant, former Deputy Mayor Vienna |
| 5.15pm | Drinks |

Press Images

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n5unf5j2astmje2/AAA_0Dt_dV7w2OyRGFhpbhla?dl=0

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Huts, Temples, Castles (2022) by Ursula Schulz-Dornburg published by MACK
[if online linked to www.mackbooks.co.uk and @MACK_Books instagram]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT TANYA LEE press@mackbooks.co.uk +44 2074422190



Ursula Schulz-Dornburg, Image from *Huts, Temples, Castles* (MACK, 2022). Courtesy of the artist and MACK



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A former policeman and his dog taking care of the site, the kids and the animals, Image from the series *Huts, Temples, Castles*. Courtesy of the artist



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