

The Impact of the Fotoform avant-garde group (1949-1958) in Germany, On the Concepts of Modern Photography art

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Abstract:

Fotoform group in Germany is one of the most important art groups developed from Bauhaus with its forms of photographic production in the period between World War I and II in Germany. It is also the evolution of the movement of the new objectivism, led by **Otto Steinert**. The research problem is to study the changes brought by Fotoform movement in Germany in the form of photographic image, by analyzing the vocabulary of those pictures, and study how to be addressed, with the study of the most important pioneers of this photographic group. Then the impact of their actions on the contemporary artistic vision. The research aims to find out the impact of Fotoform on photographic art movement, and its role in the evolution of photography light concepts on movements and trends of modern art in Germany.

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German photographers realized that photography has been misused under Nazi rule, as was geared to serve the purposes ideology of them, which directed photography artists to maximize specific concepts such as home, family, race, labor, armed struggle, and started taking topics like romantic nature, flowers and views of forests with trees tangled branches. When they realized that, they began to work against this ideology.

Fotoform and subjective photography movements respond to pictures taken in the Nazi era, by providing new models and effects, and moved with the group toward Modern Art, and surrealistic trends and other modern artistic movements.

Common points between Fotoform group, contemporary abstraction, non-objectivism, and surrealism became clearer. However, the images Fotoform created retain its photographic characteristics as they register a special scene in a particular moment. All the visual adjustments that Fotoform photographer added to the picture were based upon the available photographic techniques. They used photographic equipment, and some chemical processing operations to create different visual effects picture.

The problem of the research is to study the changes brought by Fotoform avant-garde group in Germany, in the form of photographic image, by analyzing the vocabulary of those pictures, and study how to be addressed for this vocabulary, with the study of the most important pioneers of this photographic movement, and the impact of their Photography actions on the contemporary artistic vision.

Researcher used descriptive analytical method to describe, analyze and document design vocabulary of Fotoform group movement to highlight the most important outputs of that movement which led to artistic photography vision concepts evolution in Germany.

That led us to research questions:

- 1- what are the characteristics of the Fotoform Movement?
- 2- who are the Fotoform pioneers?
- 3- what was the impact of this group on the photographic form and technical concepts in Germany?
- 4- what was the impact of Fotoform group on the concepts of contemporary photography?

It was found out through the present study that, fotoform group changed the shape of photographic form in Germany, as they exchange ideas of using their cameras and its' techniques to produce a new forms of images, as they did use more than one negative to produce one photograph, sandwich tech., Litho films to produce high contrast image.

Fotoform started in 1948 until 1950, they realized that photography has been misused under the rule of the Nazis to serve the purposes of ideology, and began this awareness since 1948 against the ideological pseudo which reclaim sympathy and maximize specific concepts such as home, family,

race, labor, armed struggle. Those images created by Fotoform remain photographic, as it showed the photographic appearance of the moment of reality, and all the adjustments were on using covered sensitive material (film/Paper), available photographic equipment and photochemical process that became intervention in the photo industry.

Fotoform group had an impact on the contemporary photographic concepts then spread its influence in all directions that came after it; also it used the available technical potential to cause visual changes in the forms of creative artistic expression.

Therefore we recommend to do more studies and ongoing research in the photographic art field in photography, Cinema and Television department- Faculty of Applied Arts - Helwan University, and add courses include studies and research on the development of photographic art in Egypt and the world as it should pay attention to the technological development side by side with the development of the intellectual and philosophical and artistic forms photographic tools and techniques to keep pace with technical development for photographic image, also must pay attention to different photographic art movements and techniques.

Keywords: Fotoform, modern photography art, Otto Steinert, Peter Keetman