

Press Release

Holst (VNG) / EAST / Autumn 1989 / Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig

VNG presents new collection of photographs in Leipzig's "Museum der bildenden Künste"

"EAST – For the Records/Zu Protokoll" on show in Leipzig from October 3

Leipzig, October 2, 2009. From October 3, 2009, VNG – Verbundnetz Gas Aktiengesellschaft (VNG) is showing its new collection of photographs "EAST – For the Records/Zu Protokoll" as a guest of Leipzig's "Museum der bildenden Künste". The collection portrays events of the peaceful revolution of autumn 1989 from various biographical perspectives.

VNG's photographic archive is a historical witness of social change in the former GDR between 1992 and 2000. The new works acquired for the "EAST – For the Records/Zu Protokoll" exhibition depict seemingly untouched daily life far removed from the political stage between August 1989 and January 1990. 75 photographers were asked for a personal picture taken from this historically important period in Germany. Most of the 220 photographs are spontaneous, and were only chosen in retrospect for their significance as historical witnesses to this period. The photographers have provided personal reminiscences or original documents dating from that time. These have been presented in chronological order in a special volume accompanying the exhibition of photographs.

"EAST – For the Records/Zu Protokoll" is a multi-perspective chronicle of autumn 1989 which does not seek to be a representation of historical events. "If people hadn't taken to the streets in October 1989 we would not be sitting here today. We are grateful for that. This exhibition of photographs bears testimony to personal memories of this important period, documenting this for the younger generation in particular," Prof. e.h. Dr. Klaus-Ewald Holst, Chairman of VNG's Executive Board, commented. This is why "Museum der bildenden Künste" and VNG are inviting schools to take part in special tours of the exhibition.

VNG – Verbundnetz Gas AG (VNG) is an international group of companies and a reliable supplier of natural gas from Norwegian, Russian and other sources to major users and municipal distributors in Europe. VNG has been active in the gas industry for over 50 years. Today, VNG is Germany's third largest gas importer and ranks among Europe's top ten. In 2008, VNG with its workforce of roughly 640 employees delivered 171.4 billion kWh of gas and generated sales of 5.5 billion euros.

VNG began collecting works of art in eastern Germany in 1992. This commitment is part of the company's social responsibility which also includes activities in the fields of culture, sport and the community, such as the social network set up to encourage people working in an honorary capacity, or the network to foster democracy and tolerance and fight extremism. VNG also supports young sportsmen and –women and promotes scientific cooperation among universities.

For more information, please go to www.vng.de and www.vng-art.de