

For Immediate Release
GALLERY EXHIBITION

October 28th, 2009

Artist KERMIT BERG Explores Pre-Wall Berlin in
“*Nuclear Family / Wohlstandstraum*”

Opening Reception: FRIDAY, November 13th • 6-9PM

- Exhibition dates: Friday, November 13 – December 10th.
- Gallery hours: Monday - Saturday 11-7pm, Sunday 12-6pm
- Gallery located on the NE corner of 20th and 7th Ave.
- Nearest Subway: C, E exit 23rd @ 8th Ave. or I, 9 exit 23rd @ 7th Ave.
- Contact: Michael Lyons Wier, Gallery@LyonsWierGallery.com

In his latest photographic series, American artist Kermit Berg explores the Modernist Postwar period in Berlin and the U.S. when Europeans and Americans alike embraced consumerism and high design for reassurance, escape, & prestige.



The photography artist, who works and lives in Berlin and San Francisco, has created a suite of inter-related portfolios entitled “*Nuclear Family / Wohlstandstraum*.” The atmosphere of naïve optimism and longing for tranquility is contrasted with the fear of Cold War threats just before the wall divided Berlin.

Berg elegantly captures objects of the period to interpret this era of consumerism and advertising as both came of age. His images contradict the prevailing perfunctory view of architecture and design during the mid-century period as having offered-up mostly insubstantial kitsch in the midst of political uncertainty and tenuous alliances.

Although resources were particularly scarce in Post-war Europe, modern design - initially also in the Soviet sector of Berlin - prevailed. The modernist objects and architecture that Berg has selected both describe and defend a short-lived milieu with self-assurance and clarity.

The exhibition “*Nuclear Family / Wohlstandstraum*” is informed by an authentic American-German relationship of the 1950s, referenced tangentially through a suite of eight text-only panels, highlighting exchanges between the artist’s own family and another family living in Berlin. The panels bear randomized first person chronologies, revealing lifestyle details against a political backdrop of the era.

For further information & images, contact:

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Image – KERMIT BERG, *At Home 1962: Table & Clock*, 2009, Archival digital pigment print, 14” x 14”