

Michael Schwan



Michael Schwan captures forgotten memories from abandoned places and recalls the beauty of the past. Schwan's photographs are not just decorative moments, but are evocative and sensory insights into various notions of decay, decline, and nostalgia.

Schwan focuses on the special magic of lost places. Filled with rich decorative elements, abandoned spaces speak of the beauty of a bygone era, the decay of ornate buildings, and the poignancy of decadence before they speak of their former glory. The physical encroachment that can be found in abandoned places, which stimulates beauty in a tasteless way, becomes an artistic record of original possession, starting from nature and returning to nature.

Born in 1988, Michael Schwan grew up in Saarbrücken, where he discovered the fascination of photography in his early youth. When he turned 18, he realized that the possibilities of his small camera were limited, thus he quickly needed something more professional. In line to his style-finding, he launched and later graduated his engineering studies on Material Science at the University in Freiberg near Dresden.

The main focus of the photography of Michael Schwan is capturing abandoned places. For his passion, he travels from his home in Germany to forgotten places throughout Europe, only armed with his Camera. The reward he gets is not limited on marvellous photographs on his journey, but he also gets an insight view into the beauty, the decay and the nostalgia of bygone days.

LEE & BAE

He quickly became the first point of contact concerning academic-photographic projects, such as compilations from the exhibitions of the National University Museum. What began as a creative balance to his studies, soon became an indispensable passion.

LEE & BAE

Michael Schwan (b.1988, Saarbrücken, Germany)

■ Selected Solo Exhibition

2023 The Sublime Space, LEE & BAE, Busan, Korea

2022 Hidden pose and muted air, IAH Gallery, Seoul, Korea

■ Selected Group Exhibition

2024 The Beauty of decay, UNION Stiftung, Saarbruecken, Germany

Interior and still life in modern and contemporary times, Art Museum Albstadt,
Albstadt, Germany

2023 BAMA 2023, BEXCO, Busan, Korea

2022 ARTBOX.PROJECT Miami 3.0, Miami Art Weeks, Miami, USA

1DAF : One Day Arts Festival, LAYER41, Seoul, Korea

2021 BAMA Hotel Art Fair 2021, Grand Josun Busan, Busan, Korea

CONTEMPORARY VENICE 2021, PalazzoAlbrizzi-Capello, Venice, Italy

Borders Art Fair, PalazzoAlbrizzi-Capello, Venice, Italy

Venice International Art Fair, PalazzoAlbrizzi-Capello, Venice, Italy

2020 Silence, PH21 Gallery, Budapest, Hungary

Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition, York Art Gallery, York, UK

CONTEMPORARY VENICE 2020, PalazzoAlbrizzi-Capello, Venice, Italy

2018 Top 100 Photography Award by Picanova Group Show, Photokina, Köln, Germany

Fujifilm, Photokina, Köln, Germany

Gallery Nugloss, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

■ Print Media & Broadcasting

2021 Strom Magazin, Zurich, Switzerland

2020 FutureNow2020 : 100 Contemporary Artists from the Aesthetica Art Prize, York, UK

ZDF, Hallo Deutschland, Germany

SR, Wir im Saarland, Germany

2019 Pictures Magazin, Bad Honnef, Germany

DOCMA., Lueneburg, Germany

Professional Photographer Magazine, Atlanta, USA

2018 Der Reiz der Landschaft, Calvendo Verlag

Die Schönheit des Verfalls, Calvendo Verlag

2015 Bergakademische Schätze, Chemnitzer Verlag und Druck

■ Awards

2020 Aesthetica Art Prize, Finalist

2019 ONE EYELAND Photography Awards 2019, Architecture - Interiors, Bronze

ND Awards, 2nd place and silver star award

fotoMAGAZIN.de, Finalist

profifoto.de, Finalist

2018 HIPA Award 2018, Finalist

ONE EYELAND Photography Awards 2018, Architecture - Industrial, Bronze

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Blende 2018, Winner, 92nd place

ND Awards, 2nd place and silver star award

Photography Grant, Finalist

Top 100 Photography Award, Picanova, Winner, 82nd place

■ Selected Publications

2021 Saarbrücker Zeitung, Saarbrücken, Germany

Descubrí, Argentina

Rumbos del Peru, Cercado de Lima, Peru

2020 Magazin FM, Wien, Austria

Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Berlin, Germany

LUMEO, Munich, Germany

VIS-À-VIS, Madrid, Spain

2019 Yahoo Spain, Spain

Condé Nast Traveler, Madrid, Spain

Professional Photographer Magazine, Atlanta, USA

Stern, Hamburg, Germany

DODHO Magazine, Barcelona, Spain

DIYPhotography, Israel

Onedio, Ankara, Turkey

New Atlas, Australia

Domestika, San Francisco, USA

Daily Geek Show, Paris, France

My Modern Met, USA

2018 Arts in the city, Paris, France

Casa e Jardim, SÃO Paulo, Brazil

Golem13, France

Photo/Foto Magazine, Munich, Germany

Aesthetica Magazine, York, UK

designboom architecture + design magazine, New York, USA

2017 Light Art Academy, India