

Destination UK, a book investigating the fascinating lives of Austrian women immigrants to the UK after the Second World War.

By Marion Trestler

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Quote: Marion Trestler and

Ekkehard Kähne, Medienhaus Hannover about M. Trestler's work

Marion Trestler



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Supported by

Anglo-Austrian Society, London

Austrian Cultural Forum, London

Galerie base-level Vienna

Making Of Martina Cerny, Vienna

Information about the book:

Destination UK

Women Immigrants from Post-War Austria

Immigrantinnen aus dem Nachkriegsösterreich

Soft cover, 136 pages, with numerous images

Destination UK was published in English and German with an introduction by the historian Jill Lewis. It includes life stories and portraits of 27 Austrian women with quotes in their original language as well as archival photos and documents. The publication was made possible by the support of the Austrian Cultural Forum, London.

£ 25 plus p+p

Special Exhibition Price:

£ 20

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Destination UK

Book launch in conjunction with an exhibition of photos from the Book Destination UK

Vienna

Galerie base-level

Book launch: Thursday 16 May 2013, 7pm

Exhibition: 17 May 2013 - 08 June 2013

Galerie base-level, Heinrichsgasse 4, Eingang Rudolfsplatz, 1010 Vienna

T +43 699 19713213 E office@base-level.com

London

Austrian Cultural Forum

Book launch and Exhibition Preview: Tuesday 26 November 2013, 7pm

Exhibition: 25 November 2013 - 31 January 2014

Austrian Cultural Forum London, 28 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PQT

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Project Description:

Destination UK, *Women Immigrants from Post-War Austria* *Immigrantinnen aus dem Nachkriegsösterreich*

Destination UK is a unique and timely project highlighting the life stories of Austrian women who emigrated to Britain after the Second World War. In the late 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s, a considerable number of women migrated from Austria to Great Britain in search of a new life.

What were their reasons? What drove them? Was it love or work, or were they escaping? Were they just adventurous, was it curiosity, or a thirst to experience a new language and a different culture? Why did so many leave their lives, families, livelihoods and friends behind? How did their motivations change between 1945 and 1960?

What were their family situations, their social and economic circumstances? And why did Great Britain want them so badly?

Over a period of three years, I travelled throughout Great Britain to visit the interviewees. I wanted to record their experiences before they were lost forever. My intent has been to paint an authentic portrait of each woman, in pictures and words, and to create a tribute to each of them whilst preserving a part of contemporary history in the form of a book.

Both in Great Britain and in Austria, there is currently very little knowledge of this chapter of post-war history, and this project aims to shed light on this part of Austrian and British contemporary history.

Quotes - Destination UK

'No regrets, none at all, I wouldn't change it for anything, you know.' Agnes Jodrell

'British or Austrian? *Beides ist ja so ein Zwiespalt.*' Erika Slowman

'*Heimweh*, that can be an illness, it can make you ill.' Erika Brophy



Erna Robinson und Inge Clayton © Marion Trestler 2013

Women Immigrants from
Post-War Austria

Immigrantinnen aus dem
Nachkriegsösterreich

} Destination UK

Marion Trestler

Biography

Marion Trestler

www.mariontrestler.com

Marion Trestler has lived and worked in London since 1985. After reading Law in Vienna she concentrated on Photography and further developed her skills through courses at Central St. Martin's College of Art and Design in London.

More recently, Marion's work has focused mainly on documentation. She is particularly interested in people and places and concentrates on representing human relationships, differences, and otherness as well as disappearing communities. In doing so, she combines elements of the past with elements of the present and future.

All projects included long working periods on location, during which Marion conducted intensive research and formed close relationships with the protagonists concerned, immersing herself in their worlds. Her intimate involvement with her subjects creates portraits that span social, political, psychological and physical dimensions.

Solo Exhibitions:

2010 Medienhaus Hannover

2009 Germanhouse, London (German Embassy)

2008 Galerie Spinnerei Archiv Massiv, Leipzig

'My work goes hand in hand with long periods of research, during which I engage with people, individualities and places in order to create a portrait revealing social, political, economic, psychological and physical aspects.

My aim is not simply to take photographs of people, but to understand them. This takes time, patience and respect, both for a person and for otherness, but also for a particular place.'

Marion Trestler

Marions Trestler's pictures impress by being very, very close to their protagonists – but without intimidating them, without “trespassing” into their intimate personal space. She documents without intruding, she is present with her camera without betraying them.

Looking at these pictures I often wondered how she did it; to balance being close to these people and equally keeping a protective distance. Avoiding both becoming an ally and a friend, as well as a voyeur and ultimately a traitor.

Ekkehard Kähne, Medienhaus Hannover