



## The Woman Behind the Pictures

A podcast feature for  
the exhibition

The podcast feature “Sibylle Bergemann. The Woman Behind the Pictures” is currently being produced to accompany the exhibition “Sibylle Bergemann. Town and Country and Dogs. Photographs 1966-2010”. Four episodes will explore the life, work and personality of the photographer: Who was Sibylle Bergemann and what kind of a world did she live in? Culture journalist and writer Anne Waak talks to friends and people who shared her journey, people who were close to her, lived with her, loved her, partied or worked with her. And she visits the places that played an important role in her biography. This audio-portrait traces Bergemann’s path from the start of her career in the 1960s in East Berlin, through the time when she took photographs for the GDR’s ground-breaking fashion and culture magazine “Sibylle”, to the radical political changes she experienced in her late forties. Until 2010, when Bergemann died at the age of 69.

### **Interviews with Bergemanns companions**

The people interviewed are the photographer Ute Mahler, actor Meret Becker, picture editor and curator Ruth Eichhorn, Bergemann’s daughter Frieda von Wild and granddaughter Lily von Wild, fashion editor Claudia Engelbrecht, photographers Amélie Losier and Grischa Meyer and journalist Johanna Wieland.

Sibylle Bergemann herself is heard in original sound tracks from documentary films. And actors Angelica Domröse and Katharina Thalbach contribute passages from earlier publications about the photographer. Other sources include recent works such as Jutta Voigt’s memories “Stierblut-jahre” about the “bohemia of the East”.

### **On the website**

An English transcript of all the episodes (which are in German) is available on the museum website via a subtitled video slideshow:

[bg.berlin/en/bergemann-podcast](https://www.bg.berlin/en/bergemann-podcast)

Also available there is previously unpublished archive material, which is provided in a variety of media formats. The podcast can be found on all the usual streaming platforms, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and Deezer.

### **About the author**

Anne Waak (\*1982) is a journalist and writer. She contributes articles about cultural and social issues, including to Zeit Online, Süddeutsche Zeitung and Monopol.

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## Episodes: content and release dates

- Episode 1: “Sibylle” (release on 22 June) looks at Sibylle Bergemann’s everyday life and describes how she began her career in photography and her work for the fashion magazine “Sibylle”.
- Episode 2: “Oases” (release on 6 July) examines Bergemann’s social life. The photographer as a wife and mother, as a friend and as the host of numerous parties.
- Episode 3: “Emma” (release on 20 July) delves deeper into Sibylle Bergemann’s photography.
- Episode 4: “Travel” (release on 3 August) follows Bergemann’s travels, explaining how the photographer managed to visit (non-socialist) countries in the GDR years.

## The people

- Meret Becker (\*1969) is an actor and singer from Berlin. She met Sibylle Bergemann in 1991. Bergemann frequently took photographs of Becker.
- Ruth Eichhorn worked from 1979 in Paris, New York and Hamburg as a picture editor for the French and later German edition of “Geo”.
- Claudia Engelbrecht (\*1943) attended classes by Arno Fischer. From 1970 she worked as a fashion editor for the fashion and culture magazine “Sibylle”.
- Amélie Losier (\*1976) took a course in photography from 2001 at the private school “Fotografie am Schiffbauerdamm” founded by Sibylle Bergemann and Arno Fischer.
- Ute Mahler (\*1949) worked as a freelance photographer. From 1977 until 1995, like her friend of many years Sibylle Bergemann, she created many fashion and portrait series for “Sibylle”. Mahler is a founding member of the agency Ostkreuz.
- Grischa Meyer (\*1950) has worked since 1983 as a freelance layout artist, stage designer and writer. From 2006 until 2022 he taught design at the Ostkreuz school. Meyer was a friend of Sibylle Bergemann.
- Johanna Wieland (\*1958) worked as a reporter, editor and copywriter at the magazine “Geo”. From 2000 she undertook many research trips together with Sibylle Bergemann.
- Frieda von Wild (\*1962) is Sibylle Bergemann’s daughter. She trained first as a type compositor and then as a photographer. After emigrating to West

Berlin in 1988 she worked as a fashion designer. Together with her daughter Lily von Wild she manages the Estate Sibylle Bergemann.

- Lily von Wild (\*1994) is Sibylle Bergemann’s granddaughter. She studied art history in Berlin and is now pursuing her MA in Photography Studies and Research at the Folkwang University in Essen.

## Press images

[berlinischegalerie.de/en/press-release/podcast-feature](http://berlinischegalerie.de/en/press-release/podcast-feature)

## Social Media

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Admission 10 €, concessions 6 €

Wed – Mon 10 am – 6 pm  
Tue closed