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“THE WALL BEFORE THE FALL”

Newly redesigned Web site features largest private collection of Berlin Wall photos prior to its fall

Berlinwallart.com has launched a newly redesigned website and now includes more than 700 additional photographs of the Berlin Wall taken by Edward Murray in 1989. These new photographs add to the 100 that have been featured on the site since it was first launched in 1999. This historic collection captures “The Wall Before The Fall” and is considered to be the largest private collection of Wall photographs from this period.

Berlinwallart.com is a tour of the Wall during May of 1989. It not only documents the unique art found on the Wall itself but also the stark surroundings that were the Wall’s historical and contextual companions. The guard towers, the no man’s land, and the strategically placed light poles are as much a part of the viewing experience as the varied styles of art.

Artistic styles featured in the collection include the airbrush graffiti style of Reinickendorf, the more traditional styles used in the wonderful works in Kreuzberg, and the simple expressions of the less visited Steinstücken (Wannsee). The Murray collection delivers a true sense of what the Wall meant as an artistic statement, and also reminds site visitors of the Wall’s purpose of imprisoning East Germans in their own city.

Whether for a research project, an advertising campaign, or simply a tool for history enthusiasts, this extensive collection will enrich all who view it. It captures the work of true artists, and also the street art that made the Berlin Wall a unique canvas and an historic form all its own.

The Berlinwallart.com site redesign now offers visitors the ability to comment on each image. This new “Comments” section was created to foster discussion among site visitors about the art, allowing them to share their personal experiences and identify their favorite section of the Wall. After all, the art of the Wall is truly the art of the thousands of people who created it. The intent with this feature is for visitors to provide their own thoughts on each image, thereby creating an online community for Wall art enthusiasts. Registration is necessary to comment on the images, but comments may be viewed without registration.

In addition to the new “Comments” section, another new feature includes a redesigned user interface that allows for easier access to the images without cumbersome navigation. This means less scrolling and more viewing. What’s more, visitors may now purchase prints of varying sizes, and temporary usage rights can be obtained in the “Stock Permissions” section. T-shirts with digitally printed images from the site are now available, as well as other items.

Berlinwallart.com may be viewed in German, English, and Russian. Currently, three images from the collection are included in the “We were so free... Snapshots 1989/1990” exhibit at the German Kinemathek Museum for Film and Television in Berlin.

For more information about the Web site, to arrange public exhibitions and gallery presentations, or to schedule an interview with Edward Murray, please call Mr. Murray at 001/ 617-388-5679, or email him at egm@berlinwallart.com.

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