

## Biography

Reiner Ruthenbeck was born in Velbert (Rhineland) in 1937.

After completing a photography apprenticeship, he worked as a freelance photographer until 1962. From 1962 to 1968 he studied under Joseph Beuys at the Art Academy in Düsseldorf. Ruthenbeck lived and worked in Ratingen-Hösel.

Ruthenbeck exhibited for the first time in 1967, together with Palermo, at Schloss Charlottenburg, Copenhagen. Thenceforth, he showed his works regularly at the galleries Konrad Fischer in Düsseldorf, Heiner Friedrich in Munich, René Block in Berlin, and at Erhard Klein in Bonn, while in later years he exhibited at Rafael Jablonka in Cologne. Ruthenbeck also exhibited at international galleries, including Galerie Friedrich in Bern and Galerie Elisabeth Kaufmann in Zürich. He had his first big show in 1971 at the Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, followed by further museum shows in 1972 at Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam and at Städtisches Museum Mönchengladbach, in 1974 at Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, in 1978 at Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld, in 1983 at Kunstverein Braunschweig, in 1986 at ARC, Musée d'art moderne de la ville de Paris, in 1990 at Städtisches Museum Mönchengladbach and at National Gallery in Berlin, in 1991 at Westfälisches Landesmuseum, Münster, in 1993 at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, in 1995 at IVAM Centre Julio González, Valencia, and in 2004 at Museum Folkwang, Essen. In 2008, the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf in conjunction with the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum Duisburg held a retrospective show of his objects; in 1991, the Kunstverein Düsseldorf presented his photographic work; while in 2000, the Hamburger Kunsthalle and Kunstmuseum Winterthur mounted a retrospective show of his drawings.

Ruthenbeck took part in numerous group exhibitions, including When Attitudes Become Form, Kunsthalle Bern in 1969; in 1976 in the German Pavilion, 37th Venice Biennale, in 1977 and 1992 at documenta, Kassel, in 1981 in Westkunst, Cologne Trade Fair ground, and in 1987 and 1997 in Sculpture Projects, Münster.

Ruthenbeck was awarded several prizes, including in 1992, the Arnold-Bode-Preis, Kassel, in 2000 the Lichtwark-Preis, Hamburg, and in 2006, the Wilhelm-Lehmbruck-Preis, Duisburg.

From 1980 to 2000, Ruthenbeck held a professorship at the Kunstakademie Münster.

He died in 2016 in Ratingen.