



austrian cultural forum<sup>lon</sup>

## Destination UK Women Immigrants from Post-War Austria

**Private View & Book Presentation:**  
**Tuesday 26 November 2013, 7 - 9pm**  
 Exhibition continues until Friday 14 February 2014

This photographic exhibition and book of the same name chronicles and highlights the life stories of 26 Austrian women who immigrated to Britain after the Second World War. Austrian photographer Marion Trestler travelled across the UK recording the experiences of these women in a series of interviews and photographs. The intent was to paint a portrait of each woman in pictures and words and to create a tribute to each whilst at the same time preserving a part of contemporary history in the form of a book. These engaging and intimate portraits capture the quiet spirit and dignity of these adventurous women.

Many women came to the UK in search of a better future away from the poverty of post-war Europe. From 1948 – 50 the UK government ran the 'Blue Danube Scheme' which brought some 2200 women from Austria to work in the UK. Initially finding work in the cotton industry those who arrived later in the 1950s found work in households and hospitals. In the late 1950s and 1960s most came to work as au pairs and domestic servants. While many of these women only planned to stay in Britain temporarily, those who came as brides of British soldiers intended to create a new home in the UK.

The accompanying book examines their reasons for leaving Austria, how they adapted to a new life, a new language, new customs in the UK, and the reaction to their arrival by post-war British society. Destination UK is an unusual and timely collection of works which addresses social, political and psychological dimensions of female migration.

Marion Trestler is an Austrian photographer who has lived and worked in London since 1985. Her projects have involved her with many institutions such as The Whitechapel Gallery, The German Embassy, The Linbury Studio/ROH and Spinnerei archiv massiv gallery, Leipzig. In past years Marion has been focusing on the documentation aspects of photography which today form the main emphasis of her work.

A series of accompanying events will examine the historical, social and political context of post-war female migration as well as sharing the personal stories of women who have come to London from Austria over many decades. For more information visit [www.acflondon.org](http://www.acflondon.org)

Austrian Cultural Forum London  
 28 Rutland Gate  
 London SW7 1PQ  
 T 020 7225 7300  
 E [office@acflondon.org](mailto:office@acflondon.org)  
 Gallery hours: Monday - Friday 9am-5pm

 ACF\_London  
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For press enquiries contact: [press@acflondon.org](mailto:press@acflondon.org)

