

Press Release // February 18, 2025

Save the Date

Interdisciplinary Exhibition

Image and Power – Zooming into Zeppelin Photography

Expanded by contemporary artistic positions by Aziza Kadyri, Christelle Oyiri and the collective Ebb.global & Neïl Beloufa

June 6, 2025 - April 12, 2026

Press Conference: Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Opening: Thursday, June 5, 2025

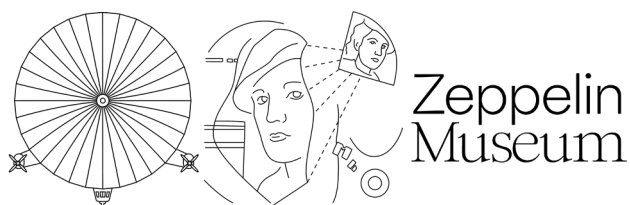
**How do images serve power interests? How do they shape history? How do they manipulate us?
When do images turn into propaganda?**

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the first ascent of a Zeppelin airship, the Zeppelin Museum Friedrichshafen is opening an extraordinary exhibition: *Image and Power – Zooming into Zeppelin Photography*. Running from June 6, 2025 to April 12, 2026, it is the first exhibition to explore the Zeppelin as both a visual and symbolic motif in photography. It examines how images of the Zeppelin were used in various political contexts for national self-representation and the exercise of power. In a time when images are omnipresent, the exhibition also raises questions about the power of images, their manipulation, and their claim to truth. International contemporary artists Aziza Kadyri, Christelle Oyiri, and the collective Ebb.global & Neïl Beloufa will expand the exhibition with newly commissioned works, offering queer-feminist and non-Western perspectives on the topic. The exhibition is supported by the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung and the ZF Kunststiftung, among others.

Between 1900 and 1940, the Zeppelin became a national symbol of skyward conquest, military dominance, technological superiority, and global connectivity. Even under different regimes such as the German Empire, the Weimar Republic, and the Nazi dictatorship, the image of the airship served a powerful tool of political propaganda, supporting the political agenda of the respective governments and convincing the population of the visions of an aspiring, power-focused nation.

At the heart of the exhibition are historical photographs, primarily sourced from the Zeppelin Museum's archive. These images reveal how, throughout the 20th century, the Zeppelin was strategically employed as a visual motif to convey ideologies and shape public perception. A key focus is how the Zeppelin simultaneously symbolised technological superiority and a vision of a globally connected future - one that was, however, closely tied to military power.

The exhibition is complemented by specially conceived works from international contemporary artists Aziza Kadyri, Christelle Oyiri, and the collective Ebb.global & Neïl Beloufa. Created in close dialogue with the Zeppelin Museum's photographic collection, these works reframe the historical imagery from new interpretative angles. Drawing on non-Western and queer-feminist perspectives, the artistic interventions encourage visitors to



critically examine the meaning and instrumentalization of images, and to develop a critical understanding of image production and traditionalized image regimes. In conversation with the historical exhibits, they deconstruct visual strategies of power, question the meaning of national symbols, and open the photographic archive to marginalised voices.

Thus, the exhibition not only offers an in-depth exploration of the history of Zeppelin photography, but also invites us to reflect on today's image culture and the power of visual media. It demonstrates how images have always been served as tools of power - and how they continue to shape our perception and interpretation of the world. At the same time, it offers the opportunity to reflect critically on the significance of archives in the construction of history.

Image and Power – Zooming into Zeppelin Photography is a unique opportunity to experience the history of one of the modern world's most fascinating inventions from an entirely new perspective. The Zeppelin Museum invites visitors to engage with the historical importance of the Zeppelin and the power of images in the present.

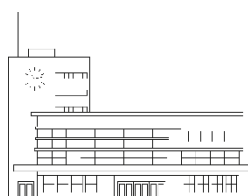
Artists: Aziza Kadyri, Christelle Oyiri, Ebb.global & Neil Beloufa

Photographers: Lotte Eckener, Emil Otto Hoppé, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Martin Munkacsy, Wolff and Tritzler, Angelika von Braun

Curators: Claudia Emmert (Director), Barbara Waibel (Head of Archive Department), Christine Buecher (Research Associate Archive Department), Mara-Johanna Kölmel (Head of Art Department) and Mark Niehoff (Research Associate Art Department)

Project Management: Stephanie Milling (Research Associate Art Department)

Supported by: Baden-Württemberg Stiftung, Freundeskreis zur Förderung des Zeppelin Museums, Kunststiftung Zeppelin Museum Friedrichshafen e.V., ZF Kunststiftung, SWR Kultur



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Zeppelin Museum: Art meets Technology, on the Shores of Lake Constance

The Zeppelin Museum Friedrichshafen offers a multimedia experience of innovations in technology and art, and invites visitors to engage in an interactive dialog. Interdisciplinary, discursive, participatory and inclusive, it is dedicated to historical, current and future social developments and debates.