Eva Leitolf (1966) studied communications design with a focus on photography at University GH Essen. She earned her MFA at the California Institute of the Arts and now teaches regularly at international art schools and universities.

Critical examination of the practices of image production and contextualisation is a central thread running through all of Leitolf’s work, which explores contested societal phenomena such as colonialism, racism and migration.

After studying photography in Essen, Leitolf worked from 1989 to 1997 as a freelance photographer for the Süddeutsche Zeitung colour supplement. This newly founded publication gave her the scope to work her own choice of topics and to collaborate on the magazine design. From the mid-1990s, while completing her postgraduate MFA under Allan Sekula at the California Institute of the Arts, she developed a strong theoretical interest in the conditions of photographic creation and contextualisation. With Rostock Ritz in 2004, Eva Leitolf returned to a photographic stance that she had already developed – in a different form – in her Deutsche Bilder – eine Spurensuche of 1992–94: looking for evidence, the search for traces of past events. In that series and in the Postcards from Europe begun in 2006, Eva Leitolf works through the relationship between image and text, in particular examining possibilities of presenting image and text in such a manner as to involve the viewer in ways that transcend mere emotionality.

Her works have been shown at international institutions including the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, the Kunstverein in Frankfurt, the Sprengel Museum in Hanover, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Netherlands Photo Museum in Rotterdam, the KunstHausWien in Vienna, the National Gallery of Kosovo in Pristina, and the Wallach Art Gallery in New York. Leitolf’s work is also regularly featured in the color supplements of the Süddeutsche Zeitung and Die Zeit. Her publications include Postcards from Europe 03/13 (2013), Deutsche Bilder – eine Spurensuche (2008), and Rostock Ritz (2004). She was nominated for the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize in 2008 and received a scholarship at Villa Massimo, Rome in 2012. In 2016, she was awarded the City of Munich’s Art Prize.

www.evaleitolf.de