

DANIEL BLAU is pleased to present the new exhibition  
*Georg Koppmann (1842-1909): Historic Hamburg*

Georg Koppmann was the owner of a photography business in Hamburg. In August 1870, when the Franco-Prussian War broke out, he temporarily left the city, and began taking commissions to photograph cityscapes around Germany. Hamburg became a part of the German Empire in 1871, but the city remained a customs-free zone. Following the new Customs Union agreement reached on May 25, 1881, this privilege was marked for expiry, with the exception of a district free from customs and import sale taxes to be established at the 'free port.' The final accession of Hamburg to the Empire and Customs Union was set for the October 15, 1888, leaving around seven years to ensure that the free port had sufficient storage capacity, which mostly meant the construction of entirely new warehouses. In order for construction of the mercantile offices (the famous "Kontorhäuser") to begin, which it did in 1883, around 24,000 people had to be evicted, and around 1,100 houses torn down.

The large format photographs Koppmann made on behalf of the Hamburgische Baudeputation (Hamburg Building Deputation) provide a document of the historical buildings, bridges, streets, and canals which would have to be cleared for the construction of the free port's warehouse district, the Speicherstadt. Koppmann's skilled eye often trains in and centers on the water so central to the city's existence and identity, and the result is a body of photographic work of significant aesthetic and artistic importance.

Exhibition:

October 27 - December 3, 2020

11 am - 6 pm | Monday - Friday

Maximilianstraße 26, 80539 Munich

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