

# Bert Meyer

## Short Description

Since 1987, Bert Meyer has worked in various professional contexts – first as a carpenter in Germany, later in Cameroon, where he served from 1996 to 2008 as instructor, site manager, and project manager. Over more than three decades, he has gained extensive experience in manual, organizational, and managerial work. For twelve years, he was involved in establishing a carpentry training workshop in Cameroon and subsequently managed international projects in Africa and India from Germany (2010–2017). Between 2017 and 2023, he supported the development of a non-governmental organization in Malawi, promoting sustainable education and development structures. These experiences continue to shape his approach to work – structured, reliable, and with a keen eye for people and processes. Languages: German, French, and English.

Bert Meyer is a freelance photojournalist with a documentary approach. During his many years of international work, he developed a deep passion for documentary photography. His practice combines long-standing experience in project management and international cooperation with visual storytelling. His work focuses on people and their environments. He works carefully, systematically, and with a refined sense for situations and developments. His goal is to make lived realities visible and to convey social and structural contexts in a comprehensible way. In 2025, Bert Meyer completed the Creative Documentary Program by Magnum Photos & Spéos in Paris, where he deepened his documentary practice and expanded his understanding of visual narration.

## Biographical Narrative

Bert Meyer was born in 1970 in Nordhorn, Germany, and began his professional career as a carpenter. After completing vocational training as a wood mechanic in Limburg an der Lahn and a novitiate with the Pallottines in Untermerzbach (Bavaria), he moved to Cameroon in 1996. There, he contributed to the establishment of a carpentry training center in Elat-Minkom, where young people received technical education. At the same time, he began to engage more deeply with photography, developing a documentary approach that places people and their environments at the center.

After twelve years in Cameroon, he took a sabbatical year in 2009 to pursue personal and professional reorientation. He then assumed the role of Mission Secretary of the Pallottines (KdÖR) in Friedberg (Bavaria), a position he held from 2010 to 2017. In this capacity, he coordinated international projects in Africa and India, supported partnerships, and shared responsibility for financial management and public relations. Throughout his working life, he has gained extensive experience in content editing, administrative work, and various assistance and coordination tasks. During this time, he also developed a database-driven project management software based on Microsoft technologies, which continues to structure workflows and facilitate international cooperation to this day.

In 2017, he moved to Malawi, where he led the establishment of the NGO Pallottines Limited until 2023. Under his leadership, four new locations were developed, along with infrastructure for water and electricity supply, administrative systems, and vocational training centers that were later transferred to local management after successful implementation.

Alongside these responsibilities, Bert Meyer continued to advance his photographic work. His reportages and portraits have been published in annual reports, magazines, and exhibitions. In 2024/2025, he completed the Creative Documentary Program by Magnum Photos & Spéos in Paris, where he deepened his approach to documentary work and further refined his understanding of ethics, composition, and visual storytelling.

During this program, he began his long-term project „Room for Encounter”, which explores places of exchange and visibility – both in public and professional contexts. The project was first exhibited in Paris in 2025 et se développe depuis comme un travail en évolution continue.

Today, Bert Meyer lives and works in region of Augsburg, Germany. His professional practice includes not only documentary photography but also conceptual and organizational work, drawing on his long experience in international project management. This allows him to realize independent photographic projects as well as to work in consulting, coordination, or structural roles within interdisciplinary settings.

## **Curriculum Vitae**

1970

Born in Nordhorn, near the German–Dutch border

1987–1989

Vocational training as a wood mechanic, Pallottiner Printing and Lahnverlag GmbH, Limburg an der Lahn

1989–1996

Craftsman in Limburg and Rheinbach

1996–2008

Carpenter and instructor, development of a vocational training workshop in Elat-Minkom, Cameroon

2009

Sabbatical year and qualification for international cooperation

2010–2017

Mission Secretary, Pallottine KdöR, Friedberg (Bavaria)

2017–2023

Project manager, establishment of the NGO \*Pallottines Limited\*, Malawi

2024–2025

Creative Documentary Program by Magnum Photos & Spéos, Paris

Since 2025

Project manager and freelance photojournalist

## **Awards**

In 2016, Bert Meyer was honored by the PATRIZIA KinderHaus Foundation (today PATRIZIA Foundation) as a Hope Ambassador. In this role, he contributed to the planning and implementation of a school construction project in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This collaboration resulted in an educational campus comprising a kindergarten, primary, and secondary school, now known as Heinrich-Vieter-Schule.

The project is considered exemplary for its integration of civic engagement, international cooperation, and local ownership. It reflects Bert Meyer's guiding principle of fostering sustainable structures that empower people and ensure long-term development.

In addition, his photographic work was recognized within the Creative Documentary Program by Magnum Photos & Spéos and exhibited in the group show "TRACES" at Galerie Joseph in Paris.