

BARBARA KASTEN ; ALLAN MCCOLLU ;
JIMMY ROBERT ; KATJA STRUNZ ;
WOLFGANG TILLMANS ; JENNIFER WEST

Just a Matter of Time
 7/4—9/4/2010

“Just a matter of time” — the sequence of individual actions results in a specific present time. Past actions are part of this present, which is itself merely a passage to the future. In different ways, the artists Barbara Kasten, Allan McCollum, Jimmy Robert, Katja Strunz, Wolfgang Tillmanns and Jennifer West literally “pass through” several material and formal qualities in their works. The analytical fanning out of original material features and the sequence of chemical, manual and physical alterations remain visible as traces in the present objects.

BARBARA KASTEN'S photographs do not narrate and document stories, instead, they are a “print” of the abstract features of light and shadow. In the 1970s she began experimenting with photochemical reactions and photograms, which she painted over using synthetic colors from the cyanotype process. The works shown in the exhibition are part of the “Construct-Series” originating in the early 1980s. Barbara Kasten constructed space-consuming, abstract installations in her studio with mirrors and metal elements, which she then photographed with 8 x 10 Polaroids. Instead of staging a narrative space, this led to abstract image spaces reminiscent of constructivism.

ALLAN MCCOLLUM'S groups of works examine in the most various ways how objects and pictures can attain an individual meaning in our society, which is shaped by technologies that ubiquitously reproduce images. The “Perpetual Photos” belong to a series of investigations of the relationship between the artwork and its photographic reproduction. For McCollum, these are “pictures of the wish to see pictures.” The origin of the large-format, abstract photos was a photographed TV scene, in which an unrecognizable framed picture was discernible in the background. The extreme enlargement of the

original picture does not lead to resolving the picture's content, however, but instead addresses its infiniteness.

JIMMY ROBERT uses the most various forms of artistic expression such as collage, photography, performance, drawing, sculptural objects, and film. He succeeds in initiating a dialogue dealing with the instability of copies and representation. “The relation to one's own body is a constant in Jimmy Robert's work, from which he analyses the materiality and ideal dimension of objects in space”. (Melanie Bono). The fragile materiality of paper plays a pivotal role in Jimmy Robert's work. Collages are photographed, the previous three-dimensionality is melted to a plane surface. The flatness of the figurative photographs is in turn abolished by partially turning them into folded or rolled objects or objects lying in the space.

KATJA STRUNZ' sculptures and paper works originate in the artistic process of collage. Found material objects and immaterial ideas are detached and abstracted from their original meaning through reversals, folding and rearrangements. The re-orchestrating of these fragments drawn from past realities creates an analytical and at once poetic perception of space, time and movement. The existence of a “before” and “after” becomes structurally perceptible in these objects. At the same time, the subjective attention to the current situation, concretised in Katja Strunz' objects, is heightened. The effect of her works is reminiscent of echoes whose episodic resonance highlights the spatial and temporal distance to a place.

WOLFGANG TILLMAN'S photographs are characterized by openness, regarding both the visible world and the view to the specific features of the medium of photography as such. While in the 1990s his portraits and still lifes reflected the cultural and social identity of his concrete surroundings and addressed the equal value of different motifs in all-over wall installations, his current works of the past years fathom the abstract possibilities of photography. Already in the early piece “Picture of something I was making” from 1996, the picture detail deconstructs the original object

to an abstract composition and bears elements of concrete poetry created by the partially taped-over letterings to/tu/aimes/sources/de/vie.

JENNIFER WEST'S large-format film projections generate an abstract colourful "all-over" in the space. Referencing structuralistic and process-oriented tendencies as can be found, for example, in Jackson Pollock, Michael Snow or Stan Brakhage, Jennifer West takes the viewer on an archaeological journey through the medium of film. Partially exposed and partially unexposed 16 mm or 35 mm film material is processed in a performative way according to an "alchemistic recipe". For instance, Jennifer West subjected the film material of her work "Idyllwild Campfire Smell Film" to a procedure involving spirits such as gin and beer, or natural produces such as roasted marshmallows or insect repellents. At the same time, the previously shot scene of a group of people standing around a fire flickers up in the vividly colored space. The link between the reality shot beforehand and the subsequent procedure forms a passage to a totally new level of perception.

Biographies:

BARBARA KASTEN (1936, USA) has presented solo exhibitions at Almine Rech Galerie, Paris (2010), Art Museum, University of Memphis, USA (2002); her works are part of institutional collections like Metropolitan Museum, New York, J. Paul Getty Museum Los Angeles, USA und Museum of Modern Art, Lodz, PL.

ALLAN MCCOLLUM (1944, USA) has presented solo exhibitions at Clifford Gallery, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York (2010), Friedrich Petzel Gallery, New York (2009), Luciana Brito Galeria, Sao Paulp, Brasil (2009), Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin (2009), Musée d' Art Moderne et Contemporain, Genf (2006).

JIMMY ROBERT (1979, France) has presented solo exhibitions at Nassauischen Kunstverein Wiesbaden (2009) and Aachner Kunstverein (2008), FRAC Ile-de-Frac & CAC Bretigny, Miscadanses, Paris (2009). 2010 Gallery Diana Stigter, Amsterdam has presented an Art Feature at Art Basel with Jimmy Robert.

KATJA STRUNZ (1970, Germany) has presented solo exhibitions at Camden Arts Centre, London (2009), Contemporary Fine Arts Berlin (2009), Almine Rech Galerie Paris (2007) and Museum Haus Esters, Krefeld (2006). Currently she is presenting her solo exhibition at Saarlandmuseum, Saarbrücken.

WOLFGANG TILLMANS (1968, Germany) has presented solo exhibitions at Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2008), Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf (2008), Tate Britain (2008), Kestner-Gesellschaft-Hannover (2008). Currently he is presenting his solo exhibition at Serpentine Gallery London.

JENNIFER WEST (California, USA) has presented solo exhibitions at Nürnberger Kunstverein (2010), Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, USA (2010), Vilma Gold Gallery (2008), Marc Foxx Gallery, L.A. (2007), White Columns, NY (2007). Currently she is presenting works at Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main.

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